

MEETING SUMMARY
REGIONAL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, January 26, 2018

The Regional Safety Advisory Committee met at 10 am on January 26, 2018 at NCTCOG offices.

Members in Attendance

Rich Larkins, Chair, City of Grapevine; Matt Hotelling, Vice-Chair, Town of Flower Mound; Nathan Benditz, City of Irving; Chad Davis, Wise County; John Denholm, Lee Engineering; Caryl deVries, City of Grand Prairie; Rama Dhanikonda, City of Plano; Buz Elsom, Rockwall County; Chris Flanigan, City of Allen; Tamara Gart, TxDOT Dallas District; Kirk Houser, City of Dallas; Paul Iwuchukwu, City of Arlington; Brian Jahn, City of Fort Worth; Yang Jin, City of Mesquite; Minh Le, Texas Transportation Institute; Alonzo Linan, City of Keller; Brian McNuelty, City of The Colony; Brian Moen, City of Frisco; Yang Ouyang, North Texas Tollway Authority; Mohammed Quadeer, TxDOT Fort Worth District; Stephen Ratke, FHWA – Texas Division; Randy Skinner, Tarrant County; Anthony Smith, Dallas County; Matthew Tilke, City of McKinney; Mark Titus, City of Richardson.

Non-Members/Guests in Attendance

Ken Benson, Airbag Recall North Texas Coalition; Millie Hayes, FHWA – Texas Division

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Natalie Bettger, Camille Fountain, Sonya Jackson Landrum, Kevin Kroll, Barbara Walsh, Tom Bamonte, Adam Beckom, Kevin Kokes, and Jessica Scott

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Approval of October 27, 2017 Meeting Summary
2. Safety, Innovative Construction, and Emergency Projects Program Funding Opportunity
3. Takata Airbag Recall Update
4. Road to Zero Grant Opportunity and Project Idea
5. Vision Zero and Road to Zero Death Campaign Initiative
6. Funding Multi-Lane Roundabout Study Discussion
7. Update Items
8. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements
9. Other Business
10. Next RSAC Meeting: April 27, 2018

1. Approval of October 27, 2017 Meeting Summary – Rich Larkins, Chair, City of Grapevine

The committee accepted the October meeting summary as written.

2. Safety, Innovative Construction, and Emergency Projects Program Funding Opportunity – Adam Beckom, NCTCOG

Adam Beckom explained the handout of CMAQ/STBG Funding Programs, the status and timeline. The Transportation Project Programming (TPP) team is looking for safety projects that fit into this category before the programs go through the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and Regional Transportation Council approval process. Committee members were asked to contact Adam or Sonya with any projects their cities/agencies may have. The TPP team will work with cities to determine if a project can be funded using the federal CMAQ/STBG Funding Program funds. The handout is available on the [RSAC website](#).

3. Takata Airbag Recall Update – Ken Benson, Airbag Recall North Texas Coalition

Ken Benson returned to RSAC today to provide an update on the Takata Airbag Recall. Since his presentation to RSAC one year ago, NHTSA has added more vehicles to the recall list. Ken provided more information on injuries and fatalities that have since happened, and the additional vehicles affected by the recall. Defective airbags have now been found in 2013 model vehicles. For vehicles that have a defective inflator, the driver and passenger have a greater than 50 percent chance of injury if the vehicle is involved in an accident in which the airbag deploys. This is a preventable safety issue. The public needs to be informed and can check if their vehicle is included on the list of recalls at the website www.airbagrecall.com. Takata gave a significant amount of money to NHTSA to fund the cost of replacing defective airbags.

4. Road to Zero Grant Opportunity and Project Idea – Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Tom Bamonte presented on the Road to Zero Grant NCTCOG was submitting. The USDOT has funded \$1 million a year to the National Safety Council in a three-year grant cycle. Grants are intended to promote roadway safety projects. Tom provided background on technology, the program, and the grant application.

Automated vehicle development is moving very quickly. Companies are buying up artificial intelligence, and driverless vehicle startups experienced \$20 billion in acquisitions in the last year. Deployment of both high speed and low speed driverless vehicles has already begun. From the safety perspective, some features are outward looking sensors, LIDAR, cameras, radar, ultrasound and other sensors that collect information of the surrounding environment in real-time.

The presentation is available on the [RSAC website](#).

5. Vision Zero and Road to Zero Death Campaign Initiative – Stephen Ratke, FHWA

Stephen Ratke provided an update on the regional and national campaigns toward zero deaths. As a public agency and as a provider of public transportation, FHWA's principal goal, as all campaigns' goal, is to prevent deaths.

The Vision Zero Network is a non-profit advocacy organization funded by a health grant from Kaiser Permanente, working primarily with their member cities. Toward Zero Deaths campaign is largely an AASHTO and the State DOTs initiative. Road to Zero is primarily a collaboration between the National Safety Council and USDOT with over 450 partners currently and adding more. The Transportation Research Board has a subcommittee which meets regularly with the Zero Deaths Coalitions, USDOT and other research organizations to discuss how to unify national efforts, how to make best use of resources and time, and to not duplicate efforts or step on each other's toes. Thirty cities have identified as having a vision zero goal, with two in Texas. National safety priorities for 2018 include focusing on speeding; equity and inclusiveness in Vision Zero; institutionalizing the process; and keeping it in everyone's mind.

FHWA is working on safety performance requirements. MPOs are having to report on safety performance measures and are taking more interest in regional safety plans. Having a regional safety plan is a good way for MPOs to say what their safety priorities are for their region. This is a good way to express how the MPO is meeting federal requirements, and not just reporting the numbers. Stephen listed the larger cities that have implemented a vision zero campaign, including New York City, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

For further information on any of the zero death campaigns, contact Stephen Ratke directly.

6. Funding Multi-lane Roundabout Study Discussion – Brian Moen and Mark Lenters, City of Frisco

At the August 2015 RSAC meeting, Mark Lenters gave a presentation about multi-lane roundabouts and some of the path conflicts starting to emerge and what may be causing them. Since then, working with FHWA, Mark has been able to get support for research on a national level. FHWA has created a pooled fund proposal, a solicitation for funding to indicate interest in going forward with the national research. If the required \$1.3 million cannot be committed to by July 2018, the solicitation proposal will be shelved. Brian Moen and Mark Lenters brought this topic back to the RSAC today to solicit interest from NCTCOG and regional partners.

FHWA suggests a minimum \$50,000 contribution for the duration of the study. Several agencies could individually commit a few thousand dollars each for each year of the study, and reach the minimum amount collectively. Contributors would also be able to appoint a panel member. Mark suggested NCTCOG take a leadership role in this, and through RSAC appoint a champion to collect funding interest.

Natalie Bettger explained NCTCOG's point of view. As far as sources available to fund participation in a research study, only RTC Local funds would be eligible. There is a mechanism in place to collect money if there is interest from member cities. Natalie would like to gauge the interest from the partner agencies before pursuing a request for RTC Local funds.

Brian Moen asked for any members who may be interested to reach out to him. Cities would have to work out the funding mechanisms at their home cities before being able to commit to participation in the solicitation.

RSAC members asked for an update on the funding level at the April meeting. The handout and link to the Pool Fund Solicitation can be found on the [RSAC website](#).

7. Update Items

- a) Safety Performance Targets – Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG
The Safety Performance Targets were brought to this committee in October, and then taken to STTC and RTC as Information in October and November; and November and December for Approval. The Targets remain the same based on what was brought to this committee, which was two percent by 2022, consistent with adopted State targets.
- b) RTC Request for Aspirational Safety Goal – Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG
When the Safety Performance Targets were taken to STTC and RTC, RTC requested we come up with an aspirational goal as part of the realistic goals set based on data TxDOT supplied. With approval of RTC, the aspirational goal was 'Even one death on transportation system is unacceptable.' Staff will work with partner agencies to develop projects, programs, and policies to assist in eliminating serious injuries and fatalities across all modes of travel. The RTC did adopt the aspirational goal as part of safety targets in terms of monitoring project, program and policies. NCTCOG staff must now identify any projects taken to STTC and RTC that have a safety component.
- c) CVE Data Exchange System Update – Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG
Kevin Kroll reported that the system for CVE officers to receive up-to-date driver history while on the side of the road is now available across the state.
- d) CRIS Data Request Timeframe – Camille Fountain, NCTCOG
Camille Fountain informed RSAC of the timeframe to request TxDOT's CRIS data. In January, NCTCOG requests information used for internal data and requests from partner agencies. In April, a second request is made for the information which is used in the annual reports and published.
- e) Introduction of New FHWA Safety and Traffic Operations Specialist – Millie Hayes, FHWA
Amelia "Millie" Hayes has recently moved back to FHWA – Texas Division. She works with traffic operations, TSMO, MUTCD and other areas. She will work closely with Stephen Ratke, but acts as the regional FHWA representative.
- f) Older Drivers Set Record for Second Year – Update – Millie Hayes, FHWA
Millie reported on a recent TxDOT press release on "*Older Drivers Set Record for Second Year*", based on FHWA published data. The US had a record high of 222.7 million licensed drivers in 2016. Of that, 41.7 million are 65 years or older, or almost one in five. The single largest increase in drivers by subgroup was age 75 – 79; the second largest demographic subgroup was age 85+. That has been the trend last two years.

Along with the press release, FHWA has a "[Handbook for Designing Roadways for the Aging Population](#)" available online, compiled from other information already available. There are low cost treatments like signing and striping. In July the Strategic Highway Safety Plan was adopted for State of Texas, within which is an emphasis area for older users.

8. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements

- a) Traffic Incident Management First Responder and Manager Course 2018 Schedule
 - i. January 25 – 26, NCTCOG
 - ii. February 28 – March 1, Fire Service Training Center, TCC Northwest Campus, Fort Worth
 - iii. May 30-31, NCTCOG
 - iv. July 18-19, NCTCOG
 - v. September 12 – 13, NCTCOG
 - vi. October 17 – 18, NCTCOG
- b) NCTCOG Photogrammetry Training 2018 Schedule
 - i. Basic: February 12 – 16
 - ii. Advanced: February 19 – 20
- c) LifeSavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities – April 22-24, 2018, San Antonio, TX
- d) Texas Traffic Safety Conference, August 8 – 10, 2018, Sugarland TX

9. Other Business (Old or New)

There was none.

10. The next meeting of the RSAC is April 27, 2018.

Chair Larkin concluded the meeting.