



# 2019

## TEXAS STATEWIDE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY FORUM

### 2019 Texas Statewide Pedestrian Safety Forum

**Thursday, August 22, 2019**

Norris Conference Centers

2525 W Anderson Lane #365 | Austin, TX 78757

The 2019 Texas Statewide Pedestrian Safety Forum is hosted by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and is funded through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation Behavioral Traffic Safety Section through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's State Highway Safety Grant Programs.



# 2019 Texas Statewide Pedestrian Safety Forum

Thursday, August 22, 2019 | Austin, TX

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The Texas Statewide Pedestrian Safety Forum is intended to improve pedestrian safety through information sharing, collaboration, and education and outreach to the Texas Statewide Pedestrian Safety Coalition members, to pedestrian safety stakeholders, and to the citizens of Texas.

**8:00 AM–8:30 AM** Registration Open

**8:30 AM–9:00 AM** **OPENING REMARKS** **Red Oak Ballroom**

**Mike Manser**, Senior Research Scientist, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

**Michael Lee**, Director of Engineering and Safety Operations, Texas  
Department of Transportation

**9:00 AM–9:15 AM** Break/Networking

**9:15 AM–10:30 AM** **BREAKOUT SESSION #1 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

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**SESSION #1: TRANSPORTATION EQUITY AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

**Live Oak Room**

Transportation equity is a complex topic and has significant impacts on pedestrian safety. Presenters at this session will discuss how transportation equity impacts pedestrians and their ability to safely navigate the transportation system.

**Alex Karner**, Assistant Professor, The University of Texas at Austin

**Mike Arellano**, Director of Operations, Texas Department of Transportation

**Amber Price**, Community Health Outreach Program, City of Austin

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**SESSION #2: BALANCING TRADEOFFS WHEN IMPLEMENTING SAFE PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES**

**Red Oak Ballroom**

Safe pedestrian facilities are one of the most important aspects of improving pedestrian safety in our transportation system. Often, implementing improved pedestrian facilities requires transportation agencies to make tradeoffs. This session will present a range of perspectives on the important considerations that must be made when considering these tradeoffs, including communication with the public, design considerations, and negotiating outcomes.

**Jared Wall**, Traffic Engineer, City of Austin

**Bonnie Sherman**, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, Texas  
Department of Transportation

**Camille Thomason**, Design Division Director, Texas Department of  
Transportation

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**SESSION #3: CONTEXT SENSITIVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY  
COUNTERMEASURES AND DESIGN**

**Magnolia Room**

There are various approaches to street design as well as countermeasures that improve pedestrian safety—but what are the right approaches for your community? Presenters at this session will discuss context-sensitive solutions to pedestrian safety design and countermeasures from a range of community sizes and types.

**Brooke Struve**, Design Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration  
**Heyden Black-Walker**, Urban Planner, Black + Vernoooy  
**Brad Kwaterski**, Civil Engineer, AECOM/Mobility35

**10:30 AM–10:45 AM** Break/Networking

**10:45 AM–12:00 PM** **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS** **Red Oak Ballroom**

10:45 AM–11:30 AM **Ivan Cheung**, Ph.D., Transportation Research Analyst, National Transportation Safety Board

11:30 AM–12:00 PM **Rep. Celia Israel**, District 50, Texas House of Representatives

12:00 PM–1:00 PM Lunch and Networking **Red Oak Ballroom**

**1:00 PM–2:15 PM** **BREAKOUT SESSION #2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**SESSION #1: TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND PEDESTRIAN  
SAFETY IN TEXAS**

**Red Oak Ballroom**

Transportation policy has a significant impact on pedestrian safety in the state of Texas. This session will feature safety advocates and policy professionals who can speak to the impacts and barriers to developing policy that improves pedestrian safety.

**Jay Blazek Crossley**, Executive Director, Farm&City  
**Jonathan Brooks**, Director of Policy and Planning, LINK Houston  
**Taryn Feigen**, Legislative Director, Texas House Representative Celia Israel

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**SESSION #2: PLANNING FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

**Live Oak Room**

Pedestrian safety plans are crucial components for improving pedestrian safety in Texas communities. Cities, regional planning organizations, and the Texas Department of Transportation are actively engaged in developing plans and plan components that will enhance the safety of pedestrians in our transportation systems. This session will explore what Texas transportation agencies have learned during these processes and what pedestrian safety work is on the horizon.

**Julia Ryan**, Senior Transportation Planner, City of Fort Worth  
**Karla Weaver**, Senior Program Manager, North Texas Council of Governments  
**Pete Kraus**, Director of Landscape and Design Division, Texas Department of Transportation

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**SESSION #3: HOW CITIES AND AGENCIES ARE USING DATA TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

**Magnolia Room**

Cities and agencies across the state are utilizing data in innovative ways to improve pedestrian safety. This session will highlight case studies of how this data is being used to improve decision making regarding pedestrian safety.

**Clint McManus**, Senior Pedestrian and Bicycle Planner, Houston Galveston Area Council

**Josh Smith**, Project Manager, Lee Engineering

**Minh Le**, Associate Research Engineer, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

**2:15 PM–2:30 PM**

Break/Networking

**2:30 PM–3:45 PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSION #3: CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

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**SESSION #1: IMPLICATIONS OF ZERO-DEATH INITIATIVES ON PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

**Live Oak Room**

Four cities within the state of Texas (Houston, San Antonio, Austin, and Laredo), as well as the Texas Department of Transportation, have adopted zero-death initiatives to guide transportation safety into the future. This session will provide an overview of how zero-death initiatives intend to shift the culture around transportation safety, and presenters will discuss how they impact pedestrian safety.

**Greg Reininger**, Principal Transportation Planner, City of San Antonio

**Michael Lee**, Director of Engineering and Safety Operations, Texas Department of Transportation

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**SESSION #2: PERCEPTIONS AND REALITY: BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP AROUND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

**Red Oak Ballroom**

This session will focus on how the pedestrian safety community communicates about key issues related to transportation safety. Presenters will discuss communication gaps that exist in pedestrian safety and lead a structured discussion about how the pedestrian safety community can create common understanding among transportation professionals and advocates.

**Joel Meyer**, Transportation Planner, City of Austin

**Joan Hudson**, Research Engineer, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

**Dug Begley**, Reporter, *Houston Chronicle*

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**SESSION #3: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND LAW  
ENFORCEMENT**

**Magnolia Room**

Enforcing the laws that protect vulnerable roadway users is a crucial aspect of pedestrian safety. This session will provide a preview of law enforcement training on pedestrian safety laws in the state of Texas that researchers at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute are conducting. Presenters will share their experiences and perspectives from the trainings that they have held and elicit input from transportation professionals on the enforcement of pedestrian safety laws.

**Neal Johnson**, Assistant Transportation Researcher, Texas A&M  
Transportation Institute

**Jon Graber**, Assistant Research Scientist, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

**3:45 PM–4:00 PM**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**Red Oak Ballroom**

**Robert Wunderlich**, Director, Texas A&M Transportation Institute’s Center for  
Transportation Safety

**Evaluations – help us improve future forums!**

- **Breakout Sessions Evaluation:** Please complete a two-question session evaluation form after each breakout session you attend. You can fill out a paper form and leave it on your chair as you exit the room **OR** scan the QR code on your handout and complete the form on your phone/tablet.
- **Overall Forum Evaluation:** You will also receive an evaluation form at the closing session to provide overall feedback of your experience at the forum. Please drop this form in the designated box on the registration table in the lobby **OR** scan the QR code on your handout and complete the form on your phone/tablet.

We hope you’ve enjoyed your time at the forum!

## Speaker Bios

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### **Mike Arellano**

Mike Arellano serves as the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) director of operations for the Austin District. He has 25 years of experience in transportation engineering. Mike received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from The University of Texas at Austin in 1997. He started working for TxDOT as a contract employee through the Center for Transportation Research during his undergraduate years. Upon graduation, he started his TxDOT career with the Materials and Pavement section of the Construction Division in the Geotechnical, Soils and Aggregate branch. In 2006, he had the opportunity to serve as the materials and pavement engineer for the Austin District. In 2014, Mike then became the district maintenance engineer, and two year later he became the director of maintenance for the Austin District. In March 2018, Mike became the director of operations for the Austin District.

### **Dug Begley**

Dug Begley is the transportation reporter for the *Houston Chronicle*. Previously, he has covered various government and legal beats for newspapers in six states and freelanced for more than a dozen regional, national, and international publications on topics ranging from fried chicken to artificial hearts. The two extremes are not related by time or publication.

### **Jonathan Brooks**

Jonathan Brooks is the director of policy and planning for LINK Houston. He uses his transportation expertise to lead technical aspects of the organization's programs and engages in coalition building around multimodal transportation, affordable mobility, and strategic infrastructure modifications and capital projects. He strives to use the best available information to advocate for data-driven, people-focused innovation in equitable multimodal, safe, and affordable transportation in the Houston region. Mr. Brooks has a bachelor's degree in geography: urban, rural, and environmental planning from Brigham Young University and a master's of urban planning and graduate certificate in transportation planning from Texas A&M University. He is a member of the American Planning Association and co-founded the Houston Chapter of Young Professionals in Transportation. He is an active volunteer with the Transportation Research Board, part of the National Academies of Science, and presently co-chairs the Standing Committee for Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation.

### **Ivan Cheung**

Ivan Cheung, Ph.D., is a transportation research analyst at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). At the NTSB, he co-managed many transportation safety studies, with topics ranging from speeding, pedestrian safety, bicyclist safety, single-unit truck, curbside bus operation, and integrity management of gas transmission pipelines. Before joining the NTSB, he was a research scientist with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). At IIHS, his research focused on aging drivers, speed, and the effects of red light cameras. He also has extensive experience in using geographic information systems, remote sensing technology, and spatial analysis in applied research in public health, demography, environmental assessment, and climatology. He received a Ph.D. in geography, specializing in climatology, from UCLA and a master's in environmental sciences from Washington State University. He also identifies himself as a frequent vulnerable road user, as he runs and bikes all the time.

### **Jay Blazek Crossley**

Jay Blazek Crossley is executive director of Farm&City (FarmAndCity.org), a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to maintaining high-quality urban and rural human habitats in Texas in perpetuity. One of four major projects of Farm&City is Vision Zero Texas, working with every city, county, and MPO in Texas to adopt goals and plans to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on our streets and roads. Crossley grew up in Houston, has a master's in public affairs from the LBJ School at The University of Texas at Austin, and has 15 years of experience changing Texas public policy to provide all Texans with affordable access to healthy, safe, walkable neighborhoods connected by high-quality transit. He serves as chair of Austin's Pedestrian Advisory Council, on the Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan Stakeholder group, on Capital Metro's Project Connect Advisory Network, and on the TxDOT Council on System Safety—external stakeholder group.

### **Taryn Feigen**

Taryn Feigen is the legislative director for State Representative Celia Israel with a focus on key policy priorities of transportation, technology, and public safety. Previously, Taryn worked for State Representative Nicole Collier and at the Texas Department of Insurance as a government relations and stakeholder engagement coordinator for the agency. Taryn is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and has been a leader in a number of local organizations promoting female professional development. She is also a graduate of the City of Austin's government leadership program, CityWorks Academy.

### **Jon Graber**

Jon Graber holds a master's degree from the George Bush School of Government at Texas A&M University and has worked at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) for seven years. Mr. Graber has worked on a variety of projects related to researching traffic safety issues and training law enforcement. He has trained over 100 law enforcement agencies (LEA) on submitting crash reports electronically through TxDOT's Crash Reporting and Analysis for Safer Highways website and over 30 LEAs on Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety. He has also presented at the Lifesavers Conference on the topic of pedestrian and bicycle safety enforcement.

### **Joan Hudson**

Joan Hudson is a research engineer with TTI working in the Austin office. She has 29 years of experience in traffic engineering with the past 15 years focused on bicycle, pedestrian, and transit planning and safety. She has led many projects in the Austin area for TxDOT, Capital Metro, and others. She holds civil engineering degrees from both Texas A&M University and The University of Texas and is a registered professional engineer in Texas. Before joining TTI in 2001, Ms. Hudson was employed by the City of Austin's Transportation Department for 11 years.

### **Rep. Celia Israel**

Elected in January 2014, Celia Israel represents House District 50 in the Texas Legislature. She serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety and the House Committee on Elections, focusing on public safety and making voting easier for all Texans.

Representative Israel serves as vice chair of the Texas House Democratic Caucus, overseeing the Steering and Policy Committee. She is a member of the Legislative Study Group, the Women’s Health Caucus, the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, and is a founding member of the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus.

Raised in El Paso, Texas, Representative Israel moved to the Austin area in 1982 to attend The University of Texas at Austin. After graduating with a degree in government, she served in Gov. Ann Richards’s administration, tasked with recruiting the best and brightest to public service.

Representative Israel has served on numerous boards and committees focused on multimodal transportation, food scarcity, and empowering the next generation of female leaders. During her first term in the legislature, she was named Freshman of the Year by the Legislative Study Group, a Champion of Equality by Equality Texas, and a Progressive Champion by Progress Texas. In 2018, Representative Israel was inducted into the Austin Women’s Hall of Fame.

### **Neal Johnson**

Neal Johnson is an assistant transportation researcher at TTI’s Center for Transportation Safety. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in urban studies from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Mr. Johnson has led and worked on a variety of traffic safety projects including several that specifically address the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists through behavioral data collection, outreach and education, and analysis of crashes and laws.

### **Alex Karner**

Alex Karner, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the graduate program in Community and Regional Planning at The University of Texas at Austin. He is interested in achieving progress toward transportation equity and justice via three avenues: 1) improving quantitative equity analysis methods, 2) identifying novel avenues for legal and regulatory challenges, and 3) understanding how social movements that address transportation-related issues can be successful. He uses mixed methods, draws from multiple scholarly traditions, and regularly partners with non-academics to identify research questions and seek out solutions. He holds a Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from the University of California, Davis, and a BAsC in civil engineering from the University of Toronto.

### **Pete Krause**

Pete Krause is a registered landscape architect in the state of Texas. He currently works at TxDOT as director of the Landscape Section of the Design Division. He leads a team of landscape architects involved in landscape design, transportation aesthetic design, and accessible pedestrian facility design. Pete has been involved with accessible design and project development for over 25 years. He has served as ADA coordinator in a TxDOT district office, and for the last 15 years has served in the Design Division of TxDOT, developing accessible designs and standard drawings and managing the department’s Statewide Curb Ramp Program. The focus of the Curb Ramp Program is to maintain a database of information and to systematically eliminate barriers in support of the department’s ADA Transition Plan.

### **Minh Le**

Minh Le joined TTI in 2008 as an associate research engineer with the Research and Implementation Division. He is the Dallas program manager and has 20 years of experience in transportation engineering



and planning. He has led the Understanding Dallas District Pedestrian Safety Issues study. His primary research and professional interests include roadway safety, traffic operations, performance measures, integrated corridor management, transportation management systems, intelligent transportation systems, and GIS.

### **Michael Lee**

Michael Lee is a 1988 graduate of Texas A&M University and holds a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering. He was appointed director of Engineering and Safety Operations at TxDOT in 2017. Michael joined TxDOT in 1997 as an engineering assistant in the Atlanta District but he rose through the ranks in the northeast portion of the state including the Lufkin and Paris Districts. He was appointed director of the Maintenance Division in 2014 where he later oversaw TxDOT's statewide emergency response to Hurricane Harvey in 2017. In his latest role, Michael oversees and coordinates TxDOT's engineering operations for the Materials and Tests, Bridge, Construction, Design, Maintenance, and Traffic Safety Divisions.

### **Clint McManus**

Clint McManus is a senior pedestrian bicycle planner at the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). In that role, he oversees local active transportation plans, the organization's ped/bike counter program, the creation of the 2045 Active Transportation Plan, and management of the Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee. Clint also sits on the City of Houston Bicycle Advisory Committee. Prior to working at H-GAC, Clint served as the knowledge management officer for the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Foundation Communities in Austin, TX. Clint has a master's of regional planning from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

### **Mike Manser**

Dr. Michael Manser is a senior research scientist and human factors program manager in TTI's Center for Transportation Safety. His research, education, and outreach activities focus on understanding the behavioral, cognitive, and perceptual driver-related factors that contribute to transportation safety, mobility, and efficiency. He currently serves as the principal investigator for two large-scale TxDOT-sponsored projects intended to improve safety for pedestrians and motorcyclists. Both projects conduct extensive education and outreach activities, increase communications among stakeholders, and disseminate critical safety information.

### **Joel Meyer**

Joel Meyer is a transportation planner with Austin Transportation Department's (ATD's) Vision Zero Program. Previously, Joel served as ATD's pedestrian coordinator, where he led the development of Austin's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and Crossing Program.

### **Amber Price**

Amber Price has been with the City of Austin for 15 years serving as a paramedic with ATCEMS. For the last three years, she has been a community health paramedic and a member of the Downtown HOST. Amber works directly with those experiencing homelessness to remove barriers and connect with frontline services that will improve their social and medical equality. While in this role, she has been

afforded the ability to assist in creating positive change in the systemic navigation for this demographic as well.

### **Julia Ryan**

Julia Ryan is a senior planner for the City of Fort Worth. She has a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in political science and environmental studies and a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University in urban and regional planning. Julia has been with the city for over 12 years and has worked extensively on transportation policy issues such as Complete Streets, Master Thoroughfare Plan, Active Transportation, pedestrian access and safety, and planning, design, and implementation of bicycle facilities.

### **Bonnie Sherman**

Bonnie Sherman is TxDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, working to promote collaborative development of safer, more connected walking and bicycling infrastructure throughout Texas. She plays a key role in the development of a number of statewide efforts, including a bicycle and pedestrian count initiative, assessing safety and efficiency of active transportation design, bicycle tourism trails, and economic evaluation of bicycling. She has 18 years of experience in active transportation, multimodal, and environmental planning at the local, regional, and state levels, including 6 years in private consulting. She holds a master's degree in community regional planning and in public affairs as well as a bachelor's degree in biology from The University of Texas at Austin.

### **Josh Smith**

Josh Smith is a project manager in Lee Engineering's Dallas office. He has 19 years of traffic engineering and transportation planning experience including multimodal design and analysis, traffic studies, transportation simulation modeling, work zone traffic control, traffic signal design, signing and pavement marking design, and traffic signal timing. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering from Brigham Young University. He has managed or contributed to many projects with significant bicycle, pedestrian, and transit components. Prior to joining Lee Engineering, Josh worked for 13 years as a traffic consultant in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C., market, where he worked on projects such as the Pennsylvania Avenue cycle track between the White House and the U.S. Capitol.

### **Camille Thomason**

Camille Thomason is the director of the TxDOT Design Division. Camille assumed this position in August 2017. Camille has 33 years of transportation engineering experience, including 9 years in the private sector with two nationally recognized transportation engineering firms, as well as 24 years with TxDOT, including several years with the Austin District and the remainder at the division level. Camille has a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University and a master of science in transportation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

### **Heyden Black Walker**

Heyden Black Walker, CNU-A, is an urban planner with Black + Vernooy, former teacher, and mother of two young adults in Austin, Texas. She co-founded Reconnect Austin, a community-based call to lower and cover the main lanes of I-35, creating a vision for a multimodal corridor that reconnects

communities. Heyden holds a master's in community in regional planning from The University of Texas at Austin and serves on the City of Austin Pedestrian Advisory Council, Multimodal Community Advisory Committee, Bond Corridor Focus Group; the Congress for the New Urbanism; VisionZeroATX; and Walk Austin. Heyden is a member of the Statewide Pedestrian Safety Coalition and is a 2016 fellow of the national Walking College.

### **Jared Wall**

Jared Wall is a traffic signal engineer for the City of Austin Transportation Department. He is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Texas and has over 6 years of experience in transportation design and traffic operations working in both the private and public sectors. He has received an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's degree in transportation engineering from The University of Texas at Austin. Since joining the city, he has been instrumental in the implementation of many traffic signal phasing strategies and solutions that improve safety and efficiency for all modes of transportation.

### **Karla Weaver**

Karla Weaver, AICP, is a senior program manager with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the metropolitan planning organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth region. She holds a master's degree in public administration from Florida State University, as well as a master's in urban and regional planning. Karla joined NCTCOG in 2006 and is currently managing the Sustainable Development Program and is responsible for areas that include: transit-oriented development, bicycle and pedestrian programs, including the Transportation Enhancements, sustainable school siting and planning, and oversight of the NCTCOG \$160M+ sustainable development funding program, which includes infrastructure construction, planning studies, and land-banking acquisitions.

### **Robert Wunderlich**

Robert Wunderlich is the director of TTI's Center for Transportation Safety. He leads the center's efforts in traffic safety research, policy analysis, education, and outreach. His work is focused on understanding the factors associated with traffic fatalities and injuries at the state and national levels and finding ways to lower them. He was a researcher on NCHRP 17-67: Identification of Factors Contributing to the Decline of Traffic Fatalities in the United States and led an analysis of the lives saved and return-on-investment for safety projects and programs in Texas. He most recently led TTI's work in assisting TxDOT with developing the Texas Strategic Highway Safety plan and is the principal investigator on a pilot project to incorporate data-driven safety analyses into decision-making in a TxDOT district. Robert Wunderlich received the NHTSA Public Service Award in April of this year for his dedication to saving lives on U.S. highways by championing data-driven traffic safety initiatives.

