

Texas Statewide Pedestrian Safety Coalition
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.
Meeting conducted via WebEx

Welcome and Introductions

Ben Ettelman of TTI welcomed everyone to the meeting. Approximately 42 people attended via WebEx.

Activities for FY20

Due to a cutback in federal funding to TxDOT's Traffic Safety Grants program this fiscal year, this year's Pedestrian Coalition project will be focusing primarily on the Pedestrian Coalition meetings and the Statewide Pedestrian Forum. The upcoming Coalition meetings will be held on February 7, May 28, and August 27, 2020.

Forum Date and Location

The Forum will be held on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at the Norris Center in Austin again this year. TTI staff will look to hold future forums in other locations in the state, however, given limited funding for this fiscal year, the Norris Center in Austin is the most economical choice that still allows the team to meet the goal of increasing attendance to this year's forum. For the 2020 forum, we will have more of the rooms available, which will allow for better breakout and networking options. Ben will send out an email to the Coalition in early January with a save-the-date and an invitation for Coalition members to join the forum planning committee.

Coalition Website

A website for the Statewide Pedestrian Coalition is being developed and should be public in a couple of weeks. Ben asked for input about the types of information that would be good to include on this website. Please send any suggestions to Ben (b-ettelman@tti.tamu.edu).

Improving Meeting Engagement

With the Coalition's transition to fully virtual meetings, it can be a challenge to keep the meetings engaging and interesting. As part of the effort to make the Pedestrian Coalition meetings as productive as possible, the team will be making use of tools like Poll Everywhere to maximize participant engagement. Ben asked participants for ideas about other ways to improve meeting engagement; suggestions included the use of Microsoft Team for long-term group conversations.

Ben summarized the functionality of the Poll Everywhere software. People can participate through a smartphone app, by text message, through a web browser, or through the WebEx chat button. He then invited attendees to use one of those methods to submit suggestions for upcoming meetings.

Suggestions included:

- Tutorial on how to find and use chat in WebEx. (Ben demonstrated the Chat function for attendees.)
- More presentations by members on what they're doing.
- Maybe have a few people facilitate, not just one person? So there are already more speakers.
- Let us know the topics in advance, so we can organize our thoughts.
- Code of Conduct for these meetings; muting phones, being present, etc.

- Structured discussions (e.g., presentation followed by Q&A)
- Presentations by members/guests on topics of interest
- “Mute all” option under participant tab
- I know it’s tough to have high engagement in virtual meetings, but I’ll keep thinking about it.... I do think the chat feature and polls like this are good tools.

Texas Ped Safety Database

TTI is developing this resource during FY20. It will be a thoughtfully curated, resource-heavy database, and the Coalition will help to guide the selection and curation of resources to be included. Ben Ettelman asked for some brainstorming about types of resources to be included on the site – action plans, existing projects, examples of best practices, links to publications such as Countermeasures that Work?

Suggestions received during the meeting included:

- Case studies or stories that have worked or not worked in Texas cities.
- Crash data (or a guide to help figuring out how to access and pull our own data) that is broken down by a variety of factors, including age.
- Consider 6th E (equity). Would like to see Texas based applications/case studies/resources.
- Resources for locals who aren’t in the Coalition – best practices, countermeasures, case studies, crash data, training opportunities
- Standards in crash data analysis
- Grant opportunities, even small ones
- Tied to SHSP and 402 projects
- State/local Safe Routes to School resources
- Organizations for the blind
- Shareable stats
- Model ordinances or code to promote pedestrian safety or walkability – e.g. sidewalk requirements in land development code; preferred crossing or bus stop
- Advocacy opportunities
- Infographics that can be used by agencies
- Funding and technical assistance opportunities
- Links to research-based curriculum for variety of audiences
- Model language on scooter/ped interactions, yielding laws, etc
- Safety index for routes for pedestrians; a web-based GIS map for better database visualization
- Bike/ped stats for past 5 years
- List of annual conferences/trainings related to ped safety
- NHTSA bike/ped links
- Texas ped/bike laws
- PowerPoint presentations and videos
- 8-80 information. Copenhagen example of bike/ped
- Bike/ped videos past 5 years
- Contacts for bike/ped outreach
- PI&E links

Prioritize Action Items

The action items identified during the September 2019 Coalition meeting will be incorporated into TTI’s application for the FY20 grant for the Statewide Pedestrian Coalition. Ben has created a poll via Qualtrics

for Coalition members to prioritize their top five action items for inclusion in the proposal for next year's grant. Please complete the poll by December 6, 2019. The link to the poll is: <https://bit.ly/2s18zSN>.

Stakeholder Updates

Stephen Ratke: FHWA is looking for success stories about how Focused Approach to Safety (five Focus cities) has benefitted your agency. Email is Stephen.ratke@dot.gov

Carlee McConnell: Safe Kids Worldwide is hosting their annual contest to recognize local crossing guards. Two crossing guards are nominated from Texas - from Austin and The Woodlands. You can still nominate others and then voting will start and we encourage everyone to help get a lot of votes for our local crossing guards to thank them for keeping kids safe: <https://www.safekids.org/crossing-guard>

Planning and Implementing for Equity

Julia Ryan, City of Ft. Worth presented on "Planning and Implementing for Equity." Transportation equity addresses fairness in distribution of transportation costs and benefits. She mentioned "The Color of Law" by Richard Rothstein as an informative resource for understanding equity issues. Fort Worth appointed a task force in 2017 to examine issues related to race and culture in the city. Some of the equity issues the task found included older infrastructure and poorer maintenance in majority-minority areas; higher incidences of disability, ages younger than 18 and older than 64 among residents; and higher crash rates. The city's Active Transportation plan was one of the approaches to addressing these transportation disparities, with equity as one of the primary prioritization factors for sidewalk, bikeway, and trail improvements. Next steps include adopting a Vision Zero Resolution, developing a Transportation Equity Policy and Action Plan, forming a fatality review board, and including equity in prioritization criteria of all future transportation projects.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.