

Statewide Pedestrian Safety Coalition Meeting #4 - Minutes

September 10, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – Meeting conducted via WebEx

Welcome, Introductions and Virtual Meeting Overview

Ben Ettelman and Mike Manser of TTI welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided instructions on participating via the WebEx chat box and PollEverywhere. Approximately 92 people attended via WebEx. Attendees who provided their names in the Chat are listed at the end of this summary.

Recap 2020 Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum

Laura Higgins provided a recap of the 2020 Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum attendance and attendee feedback. The Forum, which was held virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, had 581 registered participants, with online attendance ranging from 222 to 418 during the day. The fourteen speaker sessions and the Forum overall were rated highly by attendees, with the lack of in-person networking being the most frequently mentioned negative aspect. Suggestions for future Forum topics from the evaluations included innovative engineering solutions, pedestrian safety approaches from other countries, and pedestrian safety in work zones and along highways and rural arterials. Additional comments and suggestions received during the meeting included the following:

- Positive Aspects of Forum: Variety of speakers, broad range of topics
- Potential Improvements for 2021:
 - I was a presenter but had problems getting into other presentations.
 - Try to keep speakers from reciting statistics without providing countermeasures
 - Have PDF presentations available for download and video recordings available the same day
 - Platform that's more conducive to conversation
 - Networking opportunities via online chat times using Slack
 - Hear from disability community on how best practices and safety topics are affecting their lives
 - Another conference I attended allowed attendees to message each other and request time in 15-minute blocks for one on one meetings
- Additional topics:
 - Street lighting 101
 - E-scooters and ped interaction
 - Technical tour of a pedestrian safety improvement via video
 - Relationship between walking and systemic racism
 - Behavioral health and protective factors
 - Older pedestrians
 - Implementing bike/ped facilities within highway ROW
 - Funding for projects
 - Complete streets
 - Pedestrian access to transit facilities
 - Vision Zero progress in Texas cities
 - Lowering speed limits
 - Methods for obtaining community support for walking projects

- Traffic calming

Introduction to Texas Pedestrian Safety Resource Library

Kate Murdoch introduced the Texas Pedestrian safety Resource Library

(<https://www.txpedsafetyresources.org/>), an online resource sponsored by the Center for Transportation Safety at TTI. The library's topic areas include engineering, policy and planning, funding, pedestrian safety laws, outreach and education, and pedestrian safety data. Within each of the topic areas are links to research publications, reference information, case studies, and other resources. The Library is a work in progress and additional resources will be continue to be added. The Library website includes an option for visitors to submit a resource to be included; please feel free to submit a resource any time!

- Comment: Might be cool to have a dashboard of ped safety trends across Texas.

Pedestrian Safety Updates from Local, Regional, and State Agencies

- Joel Meyer, City of Austin, provided an update on the speed limit work in the city. All of downtown is now 25 mph. Now working on lowering speed limits on other parts of network to 45 mph. Street calming efforts are underway, with locations identified by crash data. Texas Highway Safety Improvement Program deadline is October 1; this year Austin District is planning to focus on street lighting.
- Matt Fall reported on a research project that is underway at UTEP – coded 5 years of crash data from CRIS and used FHWA's PBCAT to analyze. Total number of coded crashes was just over 10000. Identified high-crash corridors and developed a Crash Data Analysis Visualization online interactive tool that – finalized study will be an appendix to this year's regional action plan. "North Texas Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Analysis, Project 0-6983
- MaryJo Prince announced that BVIPC grant has gone statewide for FY21. Their focus will remain on ped/bike safety, impaired driving, seatbelt safety, and older driver safety through Car Fit, and their outreach efforts will be ramping up to expand to the rest of the state.

Stakeholder Updates

- John Habermann of TTI shared pictures of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations that are being put in place in work zones along I-35, providing separated ROW and specialized signage to guide pedestrians and cyclists to safe paths. Sidewalk stencils include QR codes that link to online information about safe bike/ped routes around work zones. An intercept survey of pedestrians is planned for this Fall to get feedback on these accommodations.
- Gabrielle Medina mentioned the following in the chat: Although not primarily focused on pedestrian and bicycle safety, TTI's Youth Transportation Safety Program is holding the U in the Driver Seat Symposium. The event is for college students, advisors, transportation safety professionals, injury prevention experts, and more. It's free to attend and exhibit. Tentative program is on our website. Hope to see you there! <https://www.u-driver.com/events-and-contests/uds-symposium/>
- Hannah Williams, Traffic Engineer Associate at the City of El Paso Streets and Maintenance, reported on crash analysis approaches being conducted by the Quarterly Fatality Cross-

Functional Team. The team analyzes collisions to see what can be done to improve the safety of all users.

- Stephen Ratke reported that FHWA training for local agency personnel has slowed somewhat due to COVID, but virtual training opportunities are available – contact Stephen or Millie at FHWA for training needs.
- Elizabeth DeLaGarza DRSR TMCEC: Although the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center is going virtual this fall, we ARE going to offer exhibits in a virtual form. I know that several of you count on exhibiting with us to meet objectives, just to let you know that these exhibits will still be available to you albeit virtually. Contact me or Ned Minevitz for more information at elizabeth@tmcec.com or ned@tmcec.com.
- Mike Manser reported on the FY21 Pedestrian Safety Coalition grant, which will begin October 1, 2020. In the coming year, we plan to host another virtual Forum, and to continue to expand the scope of topics and speakers. There will be four Coalition meetings in FY21, and we count on the input from Coalition members to guide the grant's activities, so keep that input coming!

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Attendees who introduced themselves on WebEx:

Michael Manser
Ben Ettelman
Laura Higgins
Stephen Ratke
Becky Walker
Heather Murphy
Zack Lofton
Jay Blazek Crossley
Elizabeth DeLaGarza DRSR TMCEC
Cynthia Aguinaga
Michael Burns
Mike Kram
John Habermann Darcie Schipull
Lydia Bryan Valdez, TxDOT BTS Traffic Safety Program Manager
Zack Lofton
Jessica Devorsky
Emiliano Villarreal
William R. McLane SJT Traffic
Amy Rosepiller
Maher M. Ghanayem, Dallas
Gabriella Medina
Dhruva Lahon with Kimley-Horn and Associates
Joan Hudson
Juan Mendive

Michael Awa
Matt Fall (NCTCOG)
Carolyn Cook
Lee Engineering
Gwen Williams, Sherry Matthews Group
LaViza Matthews
Mary Jo Prince, TAMU/AgriLife/BVIPC
Mark Patterson
Dexter Handy - Chair Houston Complete Streets Coalition, Chair Houston Citizens' Transportation Coalition
Mitzi Davis
Jay Blazek Crossley
Joel Meyer
Tracie Mendez - TxDOT Traffic Safety Branch Manager
Freddie Summer
Rebecca Byford - TxDOT Design Division
Alfredo Austin. City of El Paso Bicycle Program Coordinator
Aimee Schultze - Harris County Public Health - Safe Routes to Schoola and Parks
Hannah Williams - City of El Paso Streets & Maintenance Department
Phillip Hays

