

FY21 - Statewide Pedestrian Safety Coalition Meeting #1 - Minutes

November 12, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – Meeting conducted via Microsoft Teams

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 Microsoft Teams chat box and PollEverywhere. Approximately 84 people attended via Microsoft Teams. Attendees who provided their names in the Chat are listed at the end of this summary.

Overview of 2020-2021 Coalition Activities

Mike Manser reviewed plans for Coalition activities in FY21, including proposed meeting dates (March 4, 2021; June 10, 2021; and September 9, 2021) and potential dates for the Statewide Pedestrian Forum, which will again be virtual (August 12, August 5, or August 19, 2021).

Ben Ettelman proposed an idea for the Coalition's consideration: a short, educational video series highlighting the pedestrian safety work being done by Coalition members. Additional ideas and comments from attendees included the following:

- It would be good to do regular videos but each with a corresponding TikTok or similar format
- Would this be for adults or for children? Both would be awesome.
- Aren't there a lot of important countermeasures included in the Pedestrian Safety focus of the Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan that have essentially seen no action? Could this coalition have a goal of moving each one of these countermeasures forward next year?
- Short educational videos are a great idea! They will allow for a broader spread of innovative projects which can be replicated
- Motor vs pedestrian collisions are on the increase in my facility. Any educational modules for me to take to the community would be great for me.
- How about teaching drivers a proper stop at a light or semaphore?
- Our Safe Routes To School, non-infrastructure program will be addressing Pedestrian Safety in FY 2021.
- How about videos teaching communities how to conduct walk audits and safe streets initiatives?
- I want to put in a caution/plea that we are VERY cautious about not ped-blaming in whatever materials we put out. There has been a spate of poorly done ones lately October's safety month
- Videos could be created to help those who work in the injury prevention field to better understand the countermeasures and ways to take action, like walk audits, advocacy, road design, etc.
- Also, TXDOT is investing \$60 million over two years into the Road to Zero pedestrian safety focus area. Could our group help with the continuous improvement of that use of funds? Maybe just starting with asking TXDOT to give us a report and we give feedback?

City of El Paso Joint Review of Traffic-Related Fatalities

Kate Murdoch introduced Hannah Williams and Alfredo Austin from the City of El Paso and Lt. Schmidt and Lt. Shields from the El Paso Police Department, who presented a joint review of El Paso's traffic-related fatalities from 2015 through the third quarter of 2020, and the policies, programs, and initiatives being used to reduce those fatalities. These initiatives include targeted enforcement of traffic safety

laws, an annual “Safety Town” training event focusing on child pedestrians, a Safe Communities outreach program, data mapping efforts to identify traffic safety hot spots, and planning and infrastructure improvements. As part of the presentation, the group shared the “Shattered Dreams” outreach video produced by the students of Jefferson High School; the video is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/lyM6fwOoMeE>

Questions:

- Pedestrian fatalities in El Paso look to be significantly down this year (while other modes are about the same) -- do you have any initial thoughts on why?
 - May be partly due to COVID in 2020, with fewer people out walking; but there has been a large coordinated push from multiple city agencies to raise awareness, so that may also have had some effect.

Pedestrian Safety Updates from Local, Regional, and State Agencies

- Stephen Ratke mentioned that FHWA is here to help with any Vision Zero Initiatives.

Stakeholder Updates

- Joel Meyer – City of Austin had two bond proposals passed last week, one for light rail and Bus rapid transit work and an Active Transportation Bond for sidewalks and bike trails. Vision Zero also received some funding to continue that work.
- Major Hofheins – San Angelo is getting some sidewalks put in, connecting some previously unconnected ADA “ramps to nowhere”. A new sidewalk ordinance is being worked on as well, to improve safety on many San Angelo streets that currently lack safe pedestrian facilities.
- Jay Blazek Crossley provided some links for the World Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Traffic Violence:
 - Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/3La8jFMng>
 - Main Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8Wbl6liSS3Kkp2AeXg9FTw
 - Farm & City email: <https://mailchi.mp/ccf965215b76/join-us-for-the-wdor-vigil-virtual-5k-and-txlege-preview>

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Attendees who introduced themselves on Teams:

Michael Manser

Ben Ettelman

Major Hofheins

Amy Divin

Juan S. Mendive

Elizabeth De La Garza

Perez, Marqel

Blanca Trevino-Castro

Jeffcoat, Timothy

Jessica Devorsky TXOpLife

Laura Higgins

Kate Murdoch

Patty Donaldson

Calderon, Alejandro

Elizabeth DeLaGarza, Driving on the Right Side of the Road - Texas Municipal Courts

Education Center

Ana Acosta UMC El Paso

Jiann-Shing Yang

Michael Sharp

Ratke, Stephen (FHWA)

Steven W. Schmidt
Burgos-Gomez, Ed (FHWA)
Carlos Garcia
Monica Yates
Hoffman, Alex P.
Stephen Copley
Monika Thompson
Kay Fitzpatrick
Tara Goddard
Carlee McConnell - Dell Children's
Phillip Hays
Craig Wuensche
Jay Blazek Crossley
Joey Pawlik
Josh Smith
Joel Meyer
Katherine Oestman
Olivia Montalvo
Shelly Williams
Lauren Simcic (PWD)
Robert Benz
Cathy Glenn
Joan Hudson
Shelley Pridgen
Aaron Bartlett (NHTSA)
Karrie Lawson Medical City Dallas/Children's
Hosp
Alfredo J. Austin
Karen Beard (CBRAC BOARD)
Araceli Torres
Sandra Saenz
Amber Streatly

David Zane
Robert Steigleder, TxDOT SAT Traffic
Engineering
Jessica Devorsky TXOpLife
Juan S. Mendive
Rebecca Walker, NHTSA
Rebecca Byford
Noah Heath
Sal Alonzo
Lydia Bryan Valdez
Sergio Reyes
Dexter Handy
Gabe Tobin
Jessica Wilkerson
Brett Reichart
Elizabeth Jones
Raul Leal
Jeanne Tarrants
Neal Johnson
Steven Lopez
Adam McCreary
Steven W. Schmidt
Ismael Segovia
Bianca Trevino-Castro
Tracie Mendez
Casey Dusza
Adriana Rodriguez
Sanny Elisa Rivera
Stephen Ratke
Hannah Williams
Marques Allen

