

#TxPedSafety2021



## AGENDA

Thursday, August 12, 2021 | 9 AM – 12:30 PM Central

### 9:00 – 10:00 INTRODUCTION AND OPENING KEYNOTE

#### Speakers:

- Michael Manser, Senior Research Scientist, Texas A&M Transportation Institute
- Michael Chacon, Director, Traffic Safety Division, Texas Department of Transportation
- Jeff Paniati, Executive Director & CEO, Institute of Transportation Engineers

### 10:00 – 10:15 BREAK

### 10:15 – 11:00 BREAKOUT SESSION #1 CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

#### Session #1A: Finding and Treating Texas' Pedestrian-Crash Hot Spots

This presentation uses 10 years of Texas' pedestrian-crash data to identify the most injurious corridors and intersections, predict what factors have practically significant impacts on crash counts and their severities, and produce cost-effective treatments to save lives and property across the State in the years to come. Alongside state-wide results, UT Austin researchers will show specific hot spots and benefit-cost ratios for recommended improvements.

#### Speakers:

- Ken Perrine, University of Texas Center for Transportation Research
- Natalia Zuniga, University of Texas Center for Transportation Research

#### Session #1B: The Lisa Torrey Smith Act: How Will We Educate and Enforce New Pedestrian Safety Laws?

On June 18, 2021, The Lisa Torrey Act was signed into Texas law. The new law states that a person commits a criminal offense if he or she is operating a motor vehicle in a crosswalk and causes bodily injury to a pedestrian, cyclist or someone using an electric scooter or car. Join our presenters as they discuss this and other pedestrian safety initiatives that came out of Texas' 2021 Legislative Session and talk about the challenges that lay ahead with educating the public and enforcing these laws.

#### Speakers:

- Jay-Blazek Crossley, Farm and City
- Michael Munson, Texas Municipal Police Association

### **Session #1C: A Safe Systems Approach to Pedestrian Safety**

A Safe Systems approach to traffic safety aims to reduce fatal and serious injuries for all road users through proactive identification of risks and system design and operating decisions that minimize the consequences of human error. Join our presenters for a discussion of how the Safe Systems approach can be used to improve pedestrian safety.

#### **Speakers:**

- Stephen Ratke, Federal Highway Administration
- Robert Wunderlich, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

### **Session #1D: Every Trip Starts and Ends as a Pedestrian**

Every trip starts and ends with walking, even as an employee. Transportation-related incidents are the leading cause of occupational fatalities in Texas. Pedestrians now make up about 1 in 5 of all traffic fatalities, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. In 2020, pedestrians were involved in 4,844 crashes across the state. Pedestrian fatalities totaled 717, an 6.8% increase over 2019. Another 1,157 pedestrians were suspected of suffering serious injuries. In this session, Cindy Leonard, senior program manager with the National Safety Council and Berry Bairrington, safety coordinator with The City of Waco will discuss pedestrian safety in the workplace. They will focus on employees as pedestrians, drivers sharing the road with pedestrians and how your educational efforts can cascade from the workplace into communities and touch employee family members and friends.

During this session, participants will learn:

- What can pedestrians do to stay safe
- What drivers can do to keep pedestrians safe
- How employers can incorporate pedestrian safety into their transportation safety program to address the employee as a pedestrian and how drivers share an equal responsibility for pedestrian safety

#### **Speakers:**

- Cindy Leonard, National Safety Council
- Berry Bairrington, The City of Waco

**11:00 – 11:15 BREAK**

**11:15 – 12:00 BREAKOUT SESSION #2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS:**

**Session #2A: Mythbusters: What's holding you back in ped safety?**

This interactive session will ask some of the hard questions about the real and perceived challenges of advancing pedestrian safety in your community. Join our speakers and get involved in the Q&A!

**Speakers:**

- Peter Eun, Federal Highway Administration
- Becky Crowe, Federal Highway Administration

**Session #2B: FHWA Focus Cities: What's working?**

Since 2004, FHWA has focused additional resources in states and cities with high pedestrian fatalities. Join this session to hear some success stories from FHWA Pedestrian and Bicycle Focus Cities.

**Speakers:**

- Millie Hayes, Federal Highway Administration
- Kevin Kokes, North Central Texas Council of Governments

**Session #2C: NHTSA Region 6 Pedestrian Safety Updates**

There are many pedestrian safety activities occurring in Texas and in the surrounding States. This session will provide an overview of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's activities in pedestrian safety within Region 6 which includes Texas, Oklahoma, Indian Nations, Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Mexico.

**Speakers:**

- Maggi Gunnels, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Becky Walker, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**Session #2D: Countermeasures for Infrastructure and Persons with Visual Disabilities**

Research examining countermeasures to improve pedestrian safety is used to inform the implementation of countermeasures on local, state, and national levels. This session will provide a view into two different areas of pedestrian safety research. Presenters will provide an overview of research conducted in a large urban area examining the use of a traffic calming technique on pedestrian vehicle conflicts and will provide an overview of novel technologies to support pedestrians with visual impairments at intersections.

**Speakers:**

- Wen Hu, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
- Chen-Fu Liao, University of Minnesota

**12:00 – 12:30 CLOSING REMARKS**

**Closing Remarks** | Ben Ettelman, Texas A&M Transportation Institute