



Meeting Notes

September 14, 2022

Via Teams | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Ben Ettelman of TTI welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided instructions on participating via the Microsoft Teams chat box. Forty-nine people attended via Microsoft Teams. Attendees who provided their names in the Chat or could be identified on Teams are listed at the end of this summary. The complete transcript of the Teams Chat is also included at the end of this summary.

FY22 Annual Forum Review

Ben went on to provide a review of the 2022 Pedestrian Safety Forum that was held on August 17, 2022 in Austin, Texas at the Norris Center. This was the first in-person event in two years. A total of 232 people registered for the Forum. We had approximately 200 people in attendance from transportation agencies, including the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Texas Department of Transportation, as well as many Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations from across the state. Also in attendance were engineering firms, research institutes (TTI and CTR), law enforcement agencies, non-profit and advocacy groups, as well as public health professionals.

Feedback from Forum attendees indicated that the Forum was extremely useful and that the presentations addressed relevant pedestrian safety issues and solutions. Suggestions for presentation topics at a future Forum included more information on child pedestrian safety, air quality as it relates to pedestrians, updates on the USDOT SS4A grant applications, effective education and outreach programs, and continued updates on changes in the laws regarding pedestrians and connecting with more advocacy groups for vulnerable road users to better understand their needs.

Future Session Topics

- More information on child safety and what we can do to keep them safe.
- Influencing local elected leaders.
- Updates on USDOT SS4A grant applications/decisions and future schedule for additional NOFOs.
- More about jaywalking issues and consequences for the communities.
- I would like to hear more from the law-enforcement community and how the current climate is impacting their abilities to participate in making Texas roads safer.
- More presentations from advocacy groups for vulnerable road users to better understand their needs.
- Ads that work
- Crosswalks
- Connecting with community groups
- Application of DEI into the work; youth pedestrian safety data and initiatives
- Changes in law



- Pedestrian safety in practice
- Pedestrians at innovative intersections

Guest Presenters

Jeff Warner, a research scientist with Texas A&M Transportation Institute, presented on pedestrian safety and rail rights-of-way. Jeff reviewed pedestrian statistics around rail rights-of-way and how the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Transit Administration are working to improve pedestrian safety in these areas and the improvement that's been seen. He shared two recently completed Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) reports:

- TCRP Report 175: [Guidebook on Pedestrian Crossings of Public Transit Rail Services](#), and
- TCRP Report 233: [Strategies for Deterring Trespassing on Rail Transit and Commuter Rail Rights-of-Way](#).

His slides, along with speaker notes, can be found on our meeting page [here](#).

Becky Walker, regional program manager with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shared an overview of pedestrian statistics along with resources available in the public domain for use by anyone who wishes to use and share them. A variety of materials are available, including fact sheets, videos, and social media graphics. Those resources can be found [here](#), and communications planning calendars can be found [here](#).

October – Pedestrian Safety Month

Elizabeth Jones, program area manager, pedestrian/bike with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), reported on activities that will be happening as a part of Pedestrian Safety Month. Elizabeth noted that October is recognized by NHTSA as Pedestrian Safety Month. A summary of TxDOT activities for Pedestrian Safety Month includes:

- TxDOT will deploy Walking Billboards around the state again in October as our Pedestrian Safety Campaign brings awareness during Pedestrian Safety Month,
- National Walk / Bike to School Day is the 1st Wednesday in October (October 5th),
- TxDOT has limited Safe Routes to School educational items and incentives available.

Please contact Elizabeth Jones via email at Elizabeth.Jones@txdot.gov or by phone at 214-478-0354 if you have any questions or would like some items for your Walk/Bike to School events.



Upcoming Grant Year

Ben shared a brief update on the upcoming grant year and that we'll be setting our first meeting will be held in November, so look out for that meeting date. Activities will include:

- Coordinate and provide support to the Texas Pedestrian Safety Coalition
- Conduct three (3) coalition meetings
- Conduct three (3) (webinars)
- Conduct FY23 Pedestrian Safety Forum
- New task: Texas Pedestrian Safety Task Force

Stakeholder Updates

Stakeholder updates were provided by Odie Dancer of Pathway Partners, Inc. He shared a survey to collect information on thoughts regarding Texas pedestrian safety, custom license plates, among other feedback requested regarding pedestrian safety in Texas. The survey can be found on the Pathway Partners website [here](#).

Neal Johnson, associate transportation researcher with Texas A&M University shared two recently completed projects that provide resources to the Coalition. They are:

- Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Webinar (15-minute pre-recorded presentation):
 - Key findings from surveys and interviews and recommendations for improving pedestrian and bicycle safety and increasing knowledge of laws. It can be viewed [here](#).
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Crash Analysis Summary (5-minute video):
 - Summary video of Texas statewide pedestrian and bicycle crash analysis examining all fatal, suspected serious injury and suspected minor injury crashes (KAB) for calendar years 2016 through 2020. The crash analysis video can be found [here](#).
- Walk Bike Safe Texas links:
 - <https://www.walkbikesafetexas.org/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/WalkBikeSafeTexas>
 - <https://twitter.com/walkbikesafetx>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/walkbikesafetx/>
 - <https://www.walkbikesafetexas.org/new-laws/>

Al Alonzi, the Texas division administrator with Federal Highway Administration, shared a new guide via email, Improving Safety for Pedestrians and Bicyclists Accessing Transit. The new guide, [Improving Safety for Pedestrians and Bicyclists Accessing Transit](#), provides agencies with a thorough look at pedestrian and bicyclist safety considerations in accessing and using transit. The guide can help transit agencies, state and local roadway owners, and regional organizations by providing a comprehensive understanding of how to address pedestrian and bicyclist safety concerns related to accessing transit.

Additional resources and information on FHWA efforts to improve safety for all road users can be found [here](#).



Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30AM.

Attendance (49)

Aguinaga, Cynthia	Josh Smith
Alonzi, Al (FHWA)	Katie Mueller
Ambar Perez, AAMPO (Guest)	Kimberly Fields
Armendariz, Bernadette	Lee, Deidra (DSHS)
Benz, Robert	Manser, Michael
Burgos-Gomez, Ed (FHWA)	Maria Torres
Canton, Michelle	Matthew Ridgway
Chris Pettit	Matthew Volkmann
Chris Tabb	Melissa McKnight
Cook, Carolyn (FRA)	Nicole Alonzo
Craig Wuensche	Octavio Salazar
Dannell Thomas	Odie Dancer-Pathways to Right-of-Ways (Guest)
DeAnn Crane	Ortiz, Dina
Elizabeth De La Garza DRSR/TMCEC	Parikh, Ami
Elizabeth Jones	Perez-Bravo, Dante
Emejulu, Anaya	Rebecca Byford
Ettelman, Ben	Robbi Smith
Font, Sofia - PD	Schultze, Aimee (PHS)
George Thiel - SICK (Guest)	Scott White
Higgins, Laura	Shamburger, Brian
Ivonne De La Rosa	Sue Beatty (Guest)
Jamie Godwin	Virginia Lopez (Guest)
Jay Blazek Crossley	Walker, Rebecca (NHTSA)
John Tyler @PD	Warner, Jeff
Johnson, Neal	

Chat Transcript

[9:49 AM]

9:49 AM Meeting started

[10:04 AM] odie Dancer-Pathways to Right-of-Ways (Guest)

Odie Dancer-Founder of Pathways to Right-of-Ways

[10:05 AM] Kimberly Fields

Hello, I am Kimberly from TxDOT's Traffic Safety Division. I have an upcoming trip to Bali next year!



[10:05 AM] Warner, Jeff
Jeff Warner, TTI - European cities

[10:05 AM] Elizabeth De La Garza DRSR/TMCEC
Elizabeth DeLaGarza - DRSR/TMCEC and long hiking vacation in Sedona Arizona.

[10:05 AM] Dannell Thomas
Dannell Thomas Region 6 Education Service Center - Anything Tropical!! 😊

[10:05 AM] Lee, Deidra (DSHS)
Good morning! Deidra Lee - DSHS Office of EMS/Trauma Systems. Exploring islands in the Bahamas.

[10:05 AM] Cook, Carolyn (FRA)
Santa Fe, NM via the RailRunner train from Albuquerque

[10:05 AM] George Thiel - SICK, Inc
George Thiel - SICK, Inc. Leaving for Barcelona and Paris tomorrow.

[10:05 AM] Perez-Bravo, Dante
good morning. Dante Perez-Bravo. Senior Traffic Engineer with Atkins (Austin)

[10:06 AM] Manser, Michael
Walking tour between cities in Ireland.

[10:06 AM] Perez-Bravo, Dante
going to Peru in Christmas

[10:06 AM] Matthew Ridgway
Matthew Ridgway, Fehr & Peers (new to Dallas). Dream trip - Cirque Terre

[10:06 AM] Katie Mueller
Mackinac Island Michigan

[10:06 AM] Rebecca Byford
Rebecca Byford, TxDOT Design Division
Lake Tahoe

[10:06 AM] Scott White
Scott White - Farm&City and Velo Paso Bicycle-Pedestrian Coalition - I'd just like to be able to walk across El Paso, safely

[10:06 AM] Burgos-Gomez, Ed (FHWA)
Ed Burgos - FHWA -
Safety & Traffic Operations Specialist - Anywhere with hiking and biking

[10:06 AM] Katie Mueller
Katie Mueller, National Safety Council



[10:07 AM] DeAnn Crane
DeAnn Crane, National Safety Council

[10:07 AM] odie Dancer-Pathways to Right-of-Ways (Guest)
Walking on any trail without cars with pedestrian and bike trails

[10:51 AM] Josh Smith
USDOT did a webinar earlier this year on "Rails with Trails." They said in all the cases where they were involved with separating trails from the tracks with appropriate fencing within rail ROW in areas with pedestrian short-cut or recreational demand, they've never had a pedestrian crash!

[10:52 AM] Warner, Jeff
Very good resource on Rails with Trails
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/rwt2021/

[10:52 AM] Warner, Jeff
Has a lot of treatments and strategies

[10:58 AM] Jay Blazek Crossley
Any chance someone can paste a link for the event in the chat (instead of qr, because I'm on the Teams on my phone). Thanks.

[10:59 AM] Higgins, Laura



[10:59 AM] Ettelman, Ben
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5vue0yGhSoyxDKJRiK0zBQ
like 1

Welcome! You are invited to join a webinar: Strategies for a Safer Texas: A Call to Action, Part 3. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the webinar. Fatality crashes are on the rise on Texas roadways. Please join the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as we work to develop s...

[11:01 AM] Warner, Jeff
Operation Lifesaver Rail Safety Week <https://oli.org/about-us/public-awareness-campaigns/rail-safety-week#:~:text=SAVE%20THE%20DATE%20FOR%20THIS,need%20for%20rail%20safety%20education.>



Rail Safety Week | Operation Lifesaver

[11:05 AM] Schultze, Aimee (PHS)
WTSD events in Baytown, TX
October 5th: Ashbel Smith and William B Travis elementary
October 7th: Bowie Elementary
like 1 heart 2

[11:05 AM] Canton, Michelle
Thank you, Aimee!

[11:06 AM] Warner, Jeff
Schultze, Aimee (PHS) (External)
WTSD events in Baytown, TX October 5th: Ashbel Smith and William B Travis elementary October 7th:
Bowie Elementary
I went to Travis Elementary (long time ago)
[11:09 AM] odie Dancer-Pathways to Right-of-Ways (Guest)
How would a task force impact small organizations trying to build?

[11:10 AM] Manser, Michael
We would look to gain direction from those groups.

[11:10 AM] Manser, Michael
Feedback from them.

[11:11 AM] Manser, Michael
One goal is to help amplify the critical needs of groups like his.
[11:13 AM] odie Dancer-Pathways to Right-of-Ways (Guest)
<https://www.pathwaypartners.org/texas-pedestrian-safety-license-plate-survey/>
like 1
Texas Pedestrian Safety License Plate Survey – Pathway's to Right-of-Way's

[11:18 AM] Johnson, Neal
Crash analysis summary video: <https://youtu.be/1gWRvW4Wgpc>
Crash analysis infographic: https://www.walkbikesafetexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/WBS_KAB_facts_5-2.pdf
Pre-recorded webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUCAQrdN83U>
Full reports and other educational/outreach materials: <https://www.walkbikesafetexas.org/educational-materials/>
Neal Johnson – TTI – neal-johnson@tti.tamu.edu

[11:18 AM] Canton, Michelle
From Al Alonzi: In an effort to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists accessing transit, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have released a new guide, which includes a variety of approaches to address common safety issues that are likely to arise near transit stations, bus stops and other places where transit (bus or rail) is operated.



The new guide, [Improving Safety for Pedestrians and Bicyclists Accessing Transit](#), provides agencies with a thorough look at pedestrian and bicyclist safety considerations in accessing and using transit. The guide can help transit agencies, state and local roadway owners, and regional organizations by providing a comprehensive understanding of how to address pedestrian and bicyclist safety concerns related to accessing transit. Additional resources and information on FHWA efforts to improve safety for all road users can be found [here](#).

Pedestrians and Transit - Safety | Federal Highway Administration
Safety Eligibility

[11:21 AM] Ettelman, Ben

<https://railroads.dot.gov/grants-loans/grants-loans>

Grants & Loans

To develop safety improvements and encourage the expansion and upgrade of passenger and freight rail infrastructure and services, FRA supports the nation's rail network through a variety of competi...

[11:21 AM] Canton, Michelle

Sept 27th Webinar: <https://www.texaspedfsafety.org/webinars/impairment-and-pedestrian-safety/>

Webinar on Impairment and Pedestrian Safety - Texas Pedestrian Safety Coalition

When: September 27th, 2022 at 2:00 PM Examining alcohol/drug impairment among pedestrians and bicyclists on college campuses This presentation will highlight an education-awareness project focused...

[11:21 AM] Chris Tabb

Angie Schmitt, author of Right of Way: Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic of Deaths in America will be presenting at SWOMA in Round Rock on November 7th,

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08BTPLNSR/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_hsch_vapi_tkin_p1_i0 he SWOMA Conference Information is at <http://swoma.org/conference.html>

like 1

Right of Way: Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America - Kindle edition by Schmitt, Angie, Brown, Charles T.. Arts & Photography Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.

Right of Way: Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America - Kindle edition by Schmitt, Angie, Brown, Charles T.. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, pho...

[11:23 AM] Chris Tabb

In person

[11:23 AM] Elizabeth De La Garza DRSR/TMCEC

What does SWOMA stand for?

[11:24 AM] Chris Tabb

SWOMA (Southwest Orientation and Mobility Association)

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[11:24 AM] Elizabeth De La Garza DRSR/TMCEC

Thanks!

like 1



[11:26 AM] Manser, Michael
Great info. Thank you!!!

[11:26 AM] Jay Blazek Crossley
Dylan Matthews in the House:

Dylan.Matthews_HC@house.texas.gov
like 1

[11:26 AM] Elizabeth De La Garza DRSR/TMCEC
Awesome information! Thanks!
like 1

[11:26 AM] Aguinaga, Cynthia
Thank you for all the great info!
like 1

[11:26 AM] Chris Tabb
Thank you for all the learning today!
like 1

[11:26 AM] Jay Blazek Crossley
Jonathan Sierra Ortega in the Senat: jonathan.sierra-ortega_sc@senate.texas.gov
like 1

[11:27 AM] Elizabeth Jones
Great meeting. Looking forward to continuing the great work in the new grant year!
like 1 heart 1

[11:27 AM] Font, Sofia - PD
Great meeting and speakers. Thank you! 😊
like 1

[11:27 AM] Canton, Michelle
Thanks everyone!