



TPSC Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 2025
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Ben Ettelman of Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Seventy-four people attended via Microsoft Teams. Micah Leonard asked that participants register for [the 2025 Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum](#).

2025 Texas Pedestrian Safety Coalition Activities

- a) Update on NHTSA Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Assessment Update.
 - a. Six key program areas: emergency response, accessibility, education Enforcement program management, and engineering.
 - b. Big thanks to our subcommittee members!
 - i. Identify the best stakeholders to answer the questions that NHTSA provides.
 - ii. Finalizing subcommittee selection- Meetings will be held in April and May.
 - iii. Jun-July 3rd is the NHTSA answer submission period
 - iv. Onsite assessment will be held in Austin on August 4-7, 2025
 - v. Final report briefing- September 18th, 2025.
- b) 2025 Texas Pedestrian Safety Coalition Forum- New Date and Location: June 17, San Antonio
 - a. Working with PSTF executive committee to Identify key topics
 - b. Agenda will be finalized Late April/Early May
 - c. Call for Presenters/Presentations is open
 - d. Gauging interest in a walking tour the afternoon prior (June 16)

Guest Speakers

1. Farm & City: Impacts of Policy & Developments on the Texas Hill

Jay Blazek Crossley, Executive Director, Farm & City

Jay Blazek Crossley, the Executive Director of Farm & City, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable transportation and equitable urban planning in Texas, delivered an insightful presentation focused on legislative efforts to improve pedestrian safety. Farm & City's mission is to enhance public understanding of proposed bills aimed at creating safer streets, and Jay's discussion centered on several key pieces of legislation that

are currently shaping the landscape of pedestrian safety during the ongoing legislative session.

With only 68 days remaining in the session, Jay outlined several significant bills under consideration, including those addressing Safe Neighborhood Street design, local street railroad crossings, and the establishment of safe driveways in accordance with the Lisa Torry Smith Act. He emphasized the importance of recognizing sidewalk users as a distinct class of road users and discussed the implications of the Safe Passing Law, which aims to protect pedestrians and cyclists. Additionally, Jay highlighted bills that would improve motorist behavior, such as the "Move Over or Slow Down" law for public servants and stranded motorists.

Jay also touched on critical infrastructure and safety initiatives, including the Fix Our Highway Injury Network Map, which seeks to identify the most dangerous roadway segments in need of improvement. He advocated for a consistent hands-free law, accountability for reckless, distracted, and speeding drivers bill, and increased sidewalk funding. Other notable bills included those aimed at enhancing school bus safety with cameras and promoting Texas-themed crosswalks.

Throughout his presentation, Jay provided a detailed analysis of each bill's relevance, potential impact, and likelihood of garnering legislative support. He encouraged thoughtful consideration of these proposals and underscored their collective potential to elevate pedestrian safety as a priority in Texas.

To further support the conversation, Jay shared additional resources, including the Farm & City agenda, which offers more in-depth information on key bills. He welcomed feedback from the audience and concluded the session with a brief Q&A, engaging participants in a constructive discussion on the path forward for pedestrian safety legislation in the state. Gina Torry follows up on the Q&A by highlighting the importance of the Lisa Torry Smith Act and expressing gratitude toward Jay for his pivotal role in ensuring its passage. She emphasizes the need for heightened awareness of pedestrian safety laws. Regarding the Bus Driver Camera Act, she addresses the pressure bus drivers often face to maintain tight schedules, leading to dangerous behaviors such as speeding through school zones. Gina shares an account of an incident where a student narrowly avoided being hit by a reckless driver. She concludes by expressing strong support for the approval of the Bus Camera Act, recognizing its potential to enhance safety.

- [Farm & City- Agenda](#)
- [Bike Texas- Safety Yield](#)

The presentation will be shared with group

1. Enhancing Pedestrian Safety with Traffic Gardens

Ellen Walston Injury Prevention Program Coordinator, Eastern Carolina Injury Prevention Program at ECU Health Medical Center

Ellen Walston, a public health advocate and safety educator, coordinates injury prevention

initiatives in North Carolina. Her work focuses on innovative, community-based approaches to traffic safety, such as traffic gardens, quick builds, and other creative strategies designed to engage and protect pedestrians of all ages.

One of the key initiatives she discussed was the Traffic Garden, a concept that allows youth to build, demonstrate, and role-play in a designated space. This initiative is aimed at teaching younger generations about traffic laws and rules, offering them an opportunity to better understand traffic safety while fostering future improvements in road conditions. Ellen provided an in-depth overview of the concept, its benefits, and its implementation in North Carolina. She also explained why this concept holds great potential for improving traffic safety in Texas.

Ellen credited Marry Jo Gellenbeck with starting the conversation around traffic gardens and inspiring her to introduce the concept in North Carolina. Through this, Ellen emphasized the importance of enhancing protections for vulnerable road users. She also shared valuable resources, such as Traffic Gardens.com, where individuals can access free materials and tools to implement traffic safety gardens, as well as insights from Marry Jo Gellenbeck and Fionnula Quinn to aid in outreach and communication efforts.

The Winterville community in North Carolina actively implemented the traffic garden, and Ellen walked the audience through the process, discussing the steps taken and the associated costs. A discussion followed, during which questions were raised about how data is collected for traffic gardens. While evaluation methods vary due to the organic nature of the concept, Ellen emphasized the growing recognition of its value in promoting traffic safety and engaging local communities.

Through her presentation, Ellen encouraged greater efforts to protect vulnerable road users and underscored the potential of traffic gardens to make a meaningful impact on road safety.

Stakeholder Updates

Stakeholder Updates: Micah Leonard opened the floor to anyone on the call that wanted to provide updates.

Gina Torry provided an update for the upcoming Fort Bend County Citizens for Road Safety Forum, which will be supported by a grant from TxDOT. The forum is scheduled to take place on September 19th in Fort Bend County.

Adjourn

Adjourn – 12:00 pm

Resources shared

- Registration and Call for Presentation for the 2025 Texas Pedestrian Safety forum

<https://www.texaspedsafty.org/2025-texas-pedestrian-safety-forum/>

- Farm&City agenda

<https://farmandcity.org/2025/03/27/farmcitys-2025-texas-legislative-agenda/>

- Texas Safety Yield Benefits

<https://www.biketexas.org/safetyyield/>

- Jay Crossley with Farm&City <mailto:jay@farmandcity.org>

- Play for All Abilities Park in Round Rock TX- Traffic Garden

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/cExQYhfMzEDfsWE69>

- Texas Pedestrian Safety Coalition resource library

<https://resources.texaspedssafety.org/>

Meeting Chat

Raquel Garza (Unverified) 10:12 AM: I am sorry my computer has no mic.

Leonard, Micah 10:30 AM: Welcome all! We will get started in a few min. Thank you for being here today.

Gignac, Soleil 10:31 AM: Good Morning, this meeting is being recorded and transcribed!

VanJames Mayfield (Unverified) 10:32 AM: Good morning

Elizabeth De La Garza (External) 10:34 AM: Liz De La Garza, TxDOT Grant Manager, Texas Municipal Courts Education Center

Karrie Lawson - Medical City Denton (Unverified) 10:35 AM: Karrie Lawson, Injury Prevention at Medical City Denton.

Raquel Garza (Unverified) 10:35 AM: Raquel Garza w/Pearland Fire Department

Hudson, Joan 10:35 AM: Joan Hudson, TTI, South Lake Tahoe is my fav

Salvador Carmona - HPD (External) 10:35 AM: Sal Carmona from Harlingen PD. Favorite city is Point Loma, CA

Katrina Miller (Unverified) 10:35 AM: Katrina Miller, Farm&City. Walking around in Viterbo, Italy is one of my favorite things!

Gina Torry Citizens Road Safety Texas (Unverified) 10:35 AM: Minneapolis!

Parker, Holly 10:35 AM: Howdy from Holly Parker - brand new to TTI with a career-long background in bike/ped planning, policy, and programming!

Southside Driving (External) 10:35 AM: Alisa Allen Southside Driving Centre

Walker, Rebecca (NHTSA) (External) 10:35 AM: Becky Walker, NHTSA, I love to walk in the woods in Bayfield, CO.

Parker, Holly 10:35 AM: Vienna, Austria

Leonard, Micah 10:35 AM: Micah Leonard TTI - Bueno Aires/ Munich / Washington DC / Boston / Madison, WI

Perez-Bravo, Dante (External) 10:35 AM: Dante Perez-Bravo, AtkinsRéalis, Favorite city: Chicago

Howe, Rebecca (Engineering) (External) 10:35 AM Edited: Rebecca Howe, Harris County. San Luis Obispo, CA!

Jeanne Tarrants (External) 10:35 AM: Jeanne Tarrants, Legacy Engineering in San Antonio, Nashville was a fun place to walk.

Ko, Myunghoon 10:35 AM: Myung Ko, TTI, Paris

Abilene MPO (Unverified) 10:36 AM: Abilene MPO, E'Lisa Smetana, Cory Harris, Rita Ryan, Freedom Trail Boston Ma., Freemont Street LV

Islam, Rubaïet (FHWA) (External) 10:36 AM: Rubaïet Islam, Safety Engineer FHWA. Favorite City to walk -NYC Lower Manhattan.

Berry, Jerri L (Unverified) 10:36 AM: Jerri Berry, UTHHealth, School of Public Health. Walking favorite city = Madrid

Whaley, Christopher (External) 10:36 AM: Chris Whaley - Houston - Galveston Area Council (Houston MPO). Agree w/Ben on London.

Schultze, Aimee (Office of County Administration) (External) 10:36 AM: Aimee Schultze, Harris County. Anywhere in Europe!

George Thiel - SICK, Inc. (Unverified) 10:36 AM: George Thiel, SICK, Inc., beaches and town of Cape May, NJ

Serrano, John (External) 10:36 AM: Good morning. John Serrano, Sr. Planner with Harris County Precinct 4.

Heyden Black Walker (Unverified) 10:36 AM: Heyden Black Walker, Reconnect Austin. I agree with anywhere in Europe!

Serrano, John (External) 10:37 AM: Bayou Greenways!

Beth Ochoa (External) 10:37 AM: Beth Ochoa, GDC Marketing, Little Rock, Arkansas

Darron Jurajda (External) 10:37 AM: Sorry I'm late, Darron Jurajda from Active Transportation Advocates of Cedar Park

Dexter Handy/Citizens Transportation Coalition (Unverified) 10:38 AM: Dexter Handy, Citizens Transportation Coalition. My favorite walkable city is Colorado Springs

Urias, Monica M (DSHS) (Unverified) 10:38 AM: Monica Urias from DSHS PHR 9/10 in Presidio

Shixin Gao (Unverified) 10:38 AM: Shixin "David" Gao, Senior Transportation Planner, TxDOT Houston District, District Planning.

Carolina Lopez-Herrera (Unverified) 10:39 AM: Carolina Lopez-Herrera, Planner, TXDOT Beaumont District

Robyn Root (External) 10:39 AM: Robyn Root, Traffic Engineer with City of McKinney. Charleston, SC best place to walk.

Stephanie Christina (Unverified) 10:39 AM: Stephanie Christina, TxDOT Corpus Christi ADA coordinator
A. Sandoval (Unverified) 10:40 AM: A.sandoval, s.a favorite-walkable place

Bolick, Rhonda (Unverified) 10:42 AM: Rhonda Bolick and Leticia Richardson City of Austin Safe Routes To School

Thompson, L'Tania - HHD (External) 10:45 AM: L'Tania Thompson, Sr. Health Planner with the Houston Health Department. Favorite city to walk is downtown Seattle, Washington.

Leonard, Micah 10:47 AM: We are always open to receiving speaker/topic suggestions or nomination.

Registration for the forum:

[2025 Pedestrian Safety Forum Registration - Texas Pedestrian Safety Coalition](#)

Please reach out to Ben or I - at anytime if you have ideas, questions or comments:

m-leonard@tti.tamu.edu

b-ettelman@tti.tamu.edu

Dexter Handy/Citizens Transportation Coalition (Unverified) 10:50 AM: Would you like a presentation on Walk Audits again?

[10 likes]

Leonard, Micah 10:51 AM: CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS:

[2025 Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum - Texas Pedestrian Safety Coalition](#)

Darron Jurajda (External) 10:51 AM: Not sure if I will make it this year but I always enjoy presentation on implementations, how it went, what works, what didn't, etc.

Serrano, John (External) 10:51 AM: Can vouch for this! Was so informative and fun.

Darron Jurajda (External) 10:54 AM: Yes, I'm hear for the Traffic Gardens too! It has been on a to do list for my org.

VanJames Mayfield (Unverified) 10:54 AM: BRB Ben

Jay Blazek Crossley (Unverified) 10:57 AM: Hi all, I'll be presenting soon, but wanted to paste in this link to the Farm&City lege agenda first. I'll discuss other bills too, but here's more info on our key bills:
<https://farmandcity.org/2025/03/27/farmcitys-2025-texas-legislative-agenda/>

Parker, Holly 11:00 AM: Sorry I have to leave - will follow up!

Darron Jurajda (External) 11:01 AM: This is great, my city still has a 30mph minimum speed in neighborhoods, but the MUDs next door and the city of Austin has 20-25mph.

what about heeilies? just kidding.

This is a good common sense solution for passing.

Dexter Handy/Citizens Transportation Coalition (Unverified) 11:11 AM: Does HB5300 cover just 10 dangerous segments statewide, or 10 segments region by region?

Serrano, John (External) 11:12 AM: Reply: Does HB5300 cover just 10 dangerous segments statewide, or 10 segments region by region?

Thats a good question

Jay Blazek Crossley (Unverified) 11:18 AM: Reply: Does HB5300 cover just 10 dangerous segments statewide, or 10 segments region by region?

It sets up the system for identifying all dangerous roadway segments, but requires TxDOT develop 10 plans each year for some of the most dangerous roadway segment.

Ricky Cardenas (External) 11:21 AM: If we can put pressure on bus drivers with cameras inside the bus, we should be able to do the same drivers of cars and trucks.

Darron Jurajda (External) 11:22 AM: Unfortunately, camera systems cost money and I know my district is having trouble with budget deficits due to recapture. Is there any mechanisms for school districts to get state or fed grants for cameras?

Hudson, Joan 11:23 AM: what was the slide we missed?

Elizabeth De La Garza (External) 11:24 AM: Many of these camera companies use a percentage of captured funds to help pay for installation and use of these cameras.

Ettelman, Ben 11:24 AM: Thank you Jay!!

Darron Jurajda (External) 11:24 AM: No problem, I know how to get a hold of Jay.

Thanks Jay!

Elizabeth De La Garza (External) 11:24 AM: Awesome Jay!

Darron Jurajda (External) 11:24 AM: Idaho stops

Hudson, Joan 11:25 AM: Thank you!

Jay Blazek Crossley (Unverified) 11:25 AM: Aha. I think we missed Texas Safety Yield, SB 864 (Alvarado) ^[1]_{SEP} HB 4868 (Martinez).

David Baroi (Unverified) 11:25 AM: What is panel's thought on using RRFB to facilitate pedestrian crossing at roundabouts?

Jay Blazek Crossley (Unverified) 11:25 AM: <https://www.biketexas.org/safetyyield/>

Reply: Unfortunately, camera systems cost money and I know my district is having trouble with budget deficits due to recapture. Is there any mechanisms for school districts to get state or fed grants for cameras?

Totally hear that, but my understanding is that this bill simply legalizes this crucial safety tool for school districts to be able to use them (if they can find the funding to do it). However, I think the idea is that the tickets from the cameras can pay for the cameras.

Whaley, Christopher (External) 11:30 AM Edited: Harris County Precinct 1 has at least one of these in Houston.

https://www.google.com/maps/place/29%C2%B046'06.0%22N+95%C2%B019'11.9%22W/@29.7692015,-95.3204585,284m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d29.768333!4d-95.319962?entry=tту&_ep=EgoyMDI1MDMyNC4wKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D

Jay Blazek Crossley (Unverified) 11:34 AM: Hi all, I uploaded my slides here to share with Micah earlier, so you can also see them here if you want to check out all these bills further:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1p2AXh6UvhcSMZ1k4Cde4sWMMvprxrmoL?usp=sharing>

And feel free to reach out to me at jay@farmandcity.org with any questions.

Darron Jurajda (External) 11:35 AM: The All Abilities Park in Round Rock TX has a super charged version of a traffic garden.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/cExQYhfMzEDfsWE69>

Southside Driving (External) 11:43 AM: As a driver's ed instructor i love this! Driver's Ed for kindergartens 🥰!

Elaine Olmos (Guest) (Unverified) 11:44 AM: thank you

Segura,Amanda (DSHS) (Unverified) 11:47 AM: Reply: The All Abilities Park in Round Rock TX has a super charged version of a traffic garden.

This is absolutely amazing!!

Ettelman, Ben 11:49 AM: As promised here are three examples of final reports from other state's NHTSA Bicycle and Pedestrian Assessments:

- <https://zerodeathsmid.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MD-PedBike-FINAL-Assessment-Report.pdf>
- <https://transportation.ky.gov/BikeWalk/Documents/KY%20Pedestrian%20and%20Bicyclist%20Safety%20Program%20Assessment.pdf>

•<https://wisconsindot.gov/Documents/safety/education/pedestrian/ped-bike-prog.pdf>

Registration Link for 2025 Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum:

<https://www.texaspedsafty.org/registration-for-the-2025-texas-statewide-pedestrian-safety-forum-is-open/>

Elizabeth De La Garza (External) 11:51 AM: this was a great session! Thanks for hosting! Learned tons this morning!

Jay Blazek Crossley (Unverified) 11:51 AM: Thanks everybody for all you do to make Texas streets and roads safe for everybody.

Catherine Richardson (External) 11:51 AM: thank you!

A. Sandoval (Unverified) 11:51 AM: Thank you, great!

Lydia Bryan Valdez (Unverified) 11:51 AM: Thank you!

Lopez, Ruben (Unverified) 11:52 AM: thanks

Bolick, Rhonda (Unverified) 11:52 AM: Thank you! a lot of good information

Parker, Holly 11:52 AM: [Experience the Newport Traffic Garden! – Bike Newport](#)