



**TPSC Meeting Agenda
Wednesday April 8, 2020**

10:00 – 10:10: Welcome, Introductions, and Virtual Meeting Overview

10:10 – 10:25: Update on 2020 Texas Pedestrian Safety Forum

10:25 – 10:55: Implications of Railroad Operations on Pedestrian Safety in Texas

- Carolyn Cook, Federal Railroad Administration
- Jessica Devorsky, Texas Operation Lifesaver
- Jeff Warner, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

10:55 – 11:15: Pedestrian Safety Updates from Local, Regional, and State Transportation Agencies

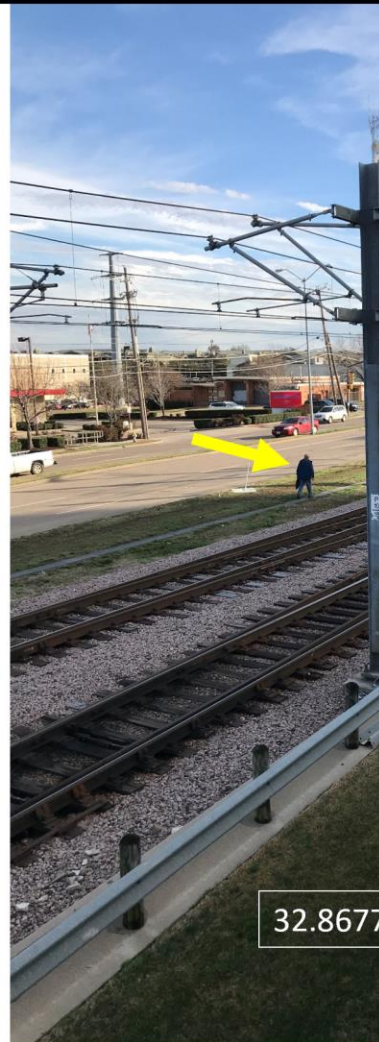
11:15– 11:20: Stakeholder Updates

11:20 – 11:30: Prioritization Exercise for FY20/21 Coalition Activities

11:30: Adjourn

Passenger Rail Overview

- Passenger Rail ranges from Intercity Passenger Rail (Amtrak) to Streetcars
- Passenger rail operations differ in:
 - Operating speeds
 - Frequency of stops
 - Train consists
- Pedestrians interact with passenger rail systems for a variety of reasons
 - Access to stations
 - Grade crossings
 - Shortcuts



from Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

hate webex

from Jaimie Ailshire to everyone:

Someone's line is not muted and they're doing... woodwork, maybe? :)

to Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

I will go through the agenda really quickly after virtual introductions

from Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

ok

from Jaimie Ailshire to everyone:

Bo Knows Webex

from MaryJo.Prince to everyone:

Can you please give the poll link again?

from Laura Higgins (internal) to everyone:

<https://pollev.com/tspsc>

from Michael Manser (internal) to everyone:

Michael Manser, Senior Research Scientist, TTI

from Laura Higgins (internal) to everyone:

Laura Higgins TTI

from Jaimie Ailshire to everyone:

Hi I'm Jaimie Ailshire, with TXDoT

from Greg Reininger to everyone:

Greg Reininger, City of San Antonio

from Jeff Warner (internal) to everyone:

Jeff Warner, TTI

from Ed Burgos to everyone:

Ed Burgos - TX FHWA

from Lauren Grove to everyone:

Lauren Grove, City of Houston

from kkokes@nctcog.org to everyone:

Kevin Kokes, North Central TX Council of Govts

from robert white to everyone:

Robert White, TxDOT

from Taylor Bee to everyone:

Taylor Bee with TxDOT

from Elizabeth Jones to everyone:

Hi! Elizabeth Jones, Dallas Distict TxDOT! :)

from williaje to everyone:

Jeremy Williams, City of Fort Worth Bike/Ped Planner

from Lauren to everyone:

Lauren Simcic, City of SA

from Neal Johnson (internal) to everyone:

Neal with TTI

from Sue Flores to everyone:

Sue Flores from TxDOT - Austin District

from Matt Fall to everyone:

Matt Fall - NCTCOG

from Stephen Ratke to everyone:

Stephen Ratke, FHWA

from Shelley Pridgen to everyone:

Shelley Pridgen, TxDOT Research

from Jimmy Thompson to everyone:

Jimmy Thompson - TxDOT

from maher M. Ghanayem to everyone:

Maher Ghanayem, Dallas District, TxDOT

from MaryJo.Prince to everyone:

Mary Jo Prince, AgriLife/BVIPC

from Gwen Williams to everyone:

Gwen Williams with Sherry Matthews Group

from Noah Heath to everyone:

Noah Heath TxDOT

from jessica devorsky to everyone:

Hello! Jessica Devorsky Executive Director Texas Operation Lifesaver

from michail.grizkewitsch to everyone:

Mike G From FRA

from elizabeth to everyone:

Hello everyone. This is Liz De La Garza with DRSR TMCEC here in Austin

from dimagee to everyone:

Danny Magee, Laredo Traffic Director

from GeleitsmannD to everyone:

Denise Geleitsmann with Austin Public Health

from Heyden Black Walker to everyone:

Hi, Heyden Black Walker from Walk Austin

from Megan Hackworth to everyone:

Hi Megan Hackworth with TX KidSafe Program (BSWH)

from Barbara Russell to everyone:

Barbara Russell With TxDOT - Traffic Safety Division

from Joey Pawlik to everyone:

Joey Pawlik with the Alamo Area MPO

from robbi to everyone:

Good Morning Everyone from Robbi/TxDOT

from Ravonne McCray to everyone:

Ravonne McCray Mature Driver Program

from O-Thomas to everyone:

Olivia Thomas TTI

from Julia to everyone:

Julia Davies, Mature Driver Program, Baylor Scott & White

from TobinG to everyone:

Hi, Gabe Tobin from City of Austin.

from 141632 to everyone:

Timothy Hayes, City of San Antonio

from Cindy.Kovar to everyone:

Cindy Kovar AgriLife Extension BVIPC

from Robert Steigleder (privately):

Robert Steigleder, TxDOT San Antonio

from Joel Meyer to everyone:

Joel Meyer Vision Zero Austin

from Kevin Kroll to everyone:

Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG

from Pete Krause to everyone:

Pete Krause, TxDOT

from John Chen to everyone:

John Chen, Transportation MS student at UT

from James Keener to everyone:

James Keener Houston District

from S-Barkwell to everyone:

Shannon Barkwell TT-YTS

from Sonya Landrum to everyone:

Sonya Landrum w/North Central Texas Council of Governments

from Jessica B to everyone:

Jessica Brunson city of San Antonio

from Katy Oestman to everyone:

Katy Oestman, MD Anderson Cancer Center

from david zane to everyone:

David Zane, Austin Public Health

from Rebecca Byford to everyone:

Becky Byford, Design Division TxDOT

from Tia Olarinde (internal) to everyone:

Tia Olarinde TTI

from Janet Hoelscher to everyone:

Janet Hoelscher Mature Driver Program

from Jay Blazek Crossley to everyone:

Jay Blazek Crossley, Farm&City / Vision Zero Texas

from Michael Manser (internal) to everyone:

b-ettelman@tti.tamu.edu

from Kara Kockelman, UT Austin - Transportation Engineering to everyone:

Kara Kockelman, UT Austin Prof of Transportation Engineering :-) Howdy!

from Michael Manser (internal) to everyone:

Hi Kara

from Michael Manser (internal) to everyone:

pollev.com/tspsc

from Laura Higgins (internal) to everyone:

<https://pollev.com/tspsc>

from david zane to everyone:

covid 19 impact on pedestrian injury patterns

from elizabeth to everyone:

DRSR here at the Municipal Courts Education Center would like to give an hour presentation on DRSR materials and resources.

from James Keener to everyone:

Alternative designs for pedestrian and bikes at major diamond intersections

from Michael Manser (internal) to everyone:

Hi Elizabeth, this sounds wonderful...can you add that to the poll?

from Laura Higgins (internal) to everyone:

I added it, Mike!

from Michael Manser (internal) to everyone:

perfect. thank you

from James Keener to everyone:

on system vs off system/alternative pedestrian options which works best

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

"poll is full, this poll has received the max number of responses allowed"

from Joel Meyer to everyone:

topics: systemic safety, pedestrian lighting

from Joel Meyer to everyone:

speakers: kay fitzpatrick, dongho chang, ben ettelman

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

scopes of projects eligible for 100% federal funding?

from Greg Reininger to everyone:

Unintended pedestrians on highways

from Laura Higgins (internal) to everyone:

I'm copying responses from this chat box that didn't make it into the poll.

from GeleitsmannD (privately):

public transportation and pedestrian safety, specifically surrounding bus riders

from Heyden Black Walker to everyone:

Impact of COVID 19 on TDM and pedestrian fatalities. What we learn from this crisis.

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

facebook event (so it adds to linked calendars)

from Greg Reininger to everyone:

Vision Zero stakeholder groups

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

well, but it also raises the profile from a marketing standpoint - when you can say that you host a sellout event, it draws attention

from michail.grizkewitsch to everyone:

FRA is releasing a report Rails-with-Trails

FRA is releasing a Rails with Trails, Best Practices and Lessons Learned report. A presentation on this maybe helpful

from Shelley Pridgen to everyone:

FHWA Every Day Counts may be able to help get the word out via STEP Innovation (EDC-4)

from Michael Manser (internal) to everyone:

Thank you Shelley

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

do you happen to have that state-by-state comparison as percents?

from Ben Ettelman (internal) to everyone:

Thanks Jaimi, I will ask Carolyn during Q&A

from Jeff Warner (internal) to everyone:

FRA has several great dashboards.

from Jeff Warner (internal) to everyone:

https://explore.dot.gov/t/FRA/views/Highway-RailCrossingCollisions2009-2019/National?iframeSizedToWindow=true&%3Aembed=y&%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=no&%3AshowVizHome=no

from Jeff Warner (internal) to everyone:

Trespassing:

<https://explore.dot.gov/t/FRA/views/TrespassandSuicideDashboard/TrespassOverview?:iid=1&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y>

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

has anyone reached out to Jim Hollis at Crash Data, to see what it would take to include it in the CRIS data?

from Ben Ettelman (internal) to everyone:

Great question, we've had discussions about this, Carolyn or Jeff can address this today

from James Keener to everyone:

What is the distraction rate? Can that be determined?

from Ben Ettelman (internal) to everyone:

Thanks James, will ask during q&a session

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

what training do the bulls have to coordinate with local HOST (homeless outreach) and local law enforcement?

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

ooh, will it show train schedules for those crossings?

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

reduce people trying to beat the signals?

from Jeff Warner (internal) to everyone:

Freight trains are not on a schedule.

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

bother :(

from jessica devorsky to everyone:

I'm here but still muted

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

see if there's a manual mute button on your phone or headset

from Kara Kockelman, UT Austin - Transportation Engineering to everyone:

Does anyone have a guess on what % of ped deaths (& perhaps train-ped deaths) are from transients or homeless persons or those with mental health issues &/or suicide? And those %'s within Texas? And within Austin? THANK YOU for any guesses you have!!

from Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

use teh chat function to walk her through the connection

from Kara Kockelman, UT Austin - Transportation Engineering to everyone:

Note: when I wrote "from", I meant "with" (as victims).

to jessica devorsky (privately):

Jessica, did you call in or enter the meeting through the computer?

from jessica devorsky (privately):

I hung up and called back in and I think I'm good now...

to jessica devorsky (privately):

ok great. thanks !!

from Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

I chatted to Jessica the call in # and passcode #.

to Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

Thanks, she said she was able to rejoin

from Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

good. thank you

to Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

we're running long. should i cut q&a short or should we just roll with it? im not sure we will need a full 25 minutes for stakeholder updates.

from kkokes@nctcog.org to everyone:

is there a more current best practices guide for pedestrian/bike crossings and signals of rail crossings? NCTCOG has been referencing this 2002 document Rails-with-Trails: Lessons Learned, United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, August 2002 (FTA-MA-26-0052-04-1) https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/rwt/page00.cfm

from Robert Benz (internal) to everyone:

Are the crashes shown or compared as a rate? As an example the Houston region has the same population as the entire state of Massachusetts. The denominator could be the number of trains, track miles, number of crossings, number of pedestrians, and not great but population.

from Ben Ettelman (internal) to everyone:

Thanks all for the questions, i will ask our presenters during the q&a... keep them coming!

from Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

in response to your earlier question, let's address a few of the questions...maybe 3 or 4.

to Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

sounds good. I think we have about 5 people who have volunteered for transport agency updates so that should work fine.

to Michael Manser (internal) (privately):

i will tell folks that we will have our presenters answer the questions and send answers out with meeting minutes

from Jay Blazek Crossley to everyone:

In Texas, the main safety problem is a dominant false narrative that personal vehicle driving is safe and normal and preferable, yielding our heavy subsidy of SOV use and our elevated rates of VMT, which directly cause deaths and serious injuries. So when we speak about transit and pedestrian deaths, we have to be very careful not to give the false impression that transit is dangerous or walking is dangerous. pedestrian safety and transit or rail safety pale in comparison to speed and mass of personal vehicles operated by humans is a safety issue in Texas. But there is a media narrative and a general false belief that trains are dangerous. This influences public debates and actual spending decisions at our MPOs and legislature. How can we have an effective safety messaging around pedestrians, transit, and trains that doesn't produce this unfortunate unintended consequence?

from Jaimie Ailshire to everyone:

how would you determine the owner of a given stretch of private property occupied by a track?
another non-profit I'm with has that question :)

from Ed Burgos to everyone:

kkokes, the Highway-Rail Crossing Handbook, Third Edition (FHWA and FRA) was released last year. This new edition does includes additional treatments for pedestrians on rail crossings.

from Ed Burgos to everyone:

https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/xings/com_roaduser/fhwasa18040/

from Jay Blazek Crossley to everyone:

my impression was that the City of Houston was working actively to secure Federal Quiet Zone funding to actually fix the design issues with railroad crossings back in Mayor Bill White's administration and that this was effectively done. But it seems like they aren't doing that anymore and when I brought this up with city of austin, they seemed not pursuing this funding at all. The overall idea is that we know how to make train lines safer for pedestrians and peopel in vehicles in dense urban areas, but we don't have the private or political will to invest in it. Is that Federal funding bucket less than it used to be? Could it be ramped up (perhaps in a recovery package)?

from Jaimi e Ailshire to everyone:

okay, cool. Larbi works for Jim.

from Jeff Warner (internal) to everyone:

I do not believe the federal grade crossing money can be used to develop quiet zones.

from maher M. Ghanayem to everyone:

for safety reason, has the RR considered a fence to prevent pedestrians

from Jeff Warner (internal) to everyone:

Railroads and transit agencies do use fencing where can.

from Lee Engineering to everyone:

Is anyone aware of railroads that have successfully allowed for pedestrian easements in the right of way to allow sidewalks separated from the tracks by fencing to allow safe passage of pedestrians who are already there for shortcutting reasons? This would reduce the temptation to walk on or too close to the tracks. DART has allowed some trails in their ROW, but I'm unaware of other agencies.

from Jeff Warner (internal) to everyone:

FRA is finalizing an updated Rails-with-Trails report and will have examples and best practices

from Jeff Warner (internal) to everyone:

Quiet zones are a community enhancement project not a safety enhancement project.

from Stephen Ratke to everyone:

FHWA web based training is still available at <https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/home.aspx>

from Stephen Ratke to everyone:

and recorded webinars from the pedestrian bicycle information center <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/>

from S-Barkwell to everyone:

We're excited to inform the group that Teens in the Driver Seat will be hosting a Twitter Chat this Thursday, April 9th from 3-4 p.m. CST. The hashtag for the Twitter Chat is #CallingAllRoadUsers.

from MaryJo.Prince to everyone:

iThis was a Skype interview we did with KBTX TV3(local CBS affiliate). Anchor Kathleen Witte specifically asked that we address Pedestrian Safety issues during COVID crisis because of more people (children & mature citizens) being at home more and doing more playing outside & walking, respectively.

<https://www.kbtx.com/content/news/The-traffic-risks-that-arise-from-empty-roads-and-many-pedestrians-569356111.html>

from Michael Manser (internal) to everyone:

Thank you MaryJo

from Jay Blazek Crossley to everyone:

Joel Meyer didn't mention that City of Austin Vision Zero program is hiring a communications person:

<https://www.austincityjobs.org/postings/83303>

from Jay Blazek Crossley to everyone:

We need somebody awesome to take that job.

from Barbara Russell to everyone:

on mute?

from elizabeth to everyone:

Will we be getting the PPTs from this workshop? I am very interested in getting the data from the railway part of the presentations.

from Michael Manser (internal) to everyone:

Yes, Ben will send out the PPTs

from Cindy.Kovar to everyone:

I really like the best practice idea

from Cindy.Kovar to everyone:

Best practice, yearly meeting, quarterly meetings, then distribute at public events

from Ben Ettelman (internal) to everyone:

thanks Cindy

from Heyden Black Walker to everyone:

Filled out poll. IMO, with TxDOT's massive budget they should be prioritizing pedestrian safety MORE and not cutting funding for good programs like this. My 2 cents...

from Barbara Russell to everyone:

thank you for the meeting!

from Jay Blazek Crossley to everyone:

Thanks. Bye everybody.

from maher M. Ghanayem to everyone:

Annual Forum

from vt05246 to everyone:

Annual, Quarterly, Best Practices, Distribution

from Jaimie Ailshire to everyone:

I'd be happy to provide some comments re: HSIP

from Shelley Pridgen to everyone:

Thank you for this well organized meeting!

from Ravonne McCray to everyone:

Great meeting! Thanks!

from Elizabeth Jones to everyone:

Thanks for the information. Great meeting. well organized!

from cmcco031 to everyone:

Thank you all for putting the meeting together!

from Heyden Black Walker to everyone:

Thanks for a well run meeting. Always appreciate the great leadership!

from MaryJo.Prince to everyone:

Thank you, Ben & Laura! All stay safe & well!

from Brad K to everyone:

1) Ped Safety Forum, 2) Development of best practices, 3) Distribution of materials, 4) Quarterly meetings Thanks for the great meeting!

from carolyn.cook to everyone:

No. 1 annual forum

No 2 best practices

No 1 annual forum No 3 qtrly webinars

No 4. print material distribution