

Meeting Summary
Regional Safety Council
HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

Date: April 26, 2016

Time: 1:30 PM

Place: Houston-Galveston Area Council, 3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor Conference Room B,
Houston, Texas 77027

PRESENT

Mary Blitzer (Bike Houston), Carie Fletcher (BACODA), Sean Wright (Seabrook PD), Tim Kelly (METRO), Kevin Barnett (UP), Nina Jo Saint (SafeWay Driving), James Keener (TxDOT), John Hermann (Ft. Bend Constable 4), Robert Benz (TTI), Lisa Minjares-Kyle (TTI), Sarah Schimmer (AAA-Texas), Ellen Schwaller (Harris Co. PHES), Caitlin McNeely (Houston Tomorrow), Isabel Longoria (AARP), Kristen Beckworth (TX Children's Hospital), Alison Baimbridge (Harris Co. DA's Office), Jeff Weatherford (City of Houston), Matthew May (Houston PD), Bennie Boles (La Porte PD), Dr. Rohit Shenoj (Baylor College of Medicine), Keith Dougherty (Baytown PD), Anita Hollmann (City of Houston), Alicia Parmley (MADD), James Hoss (Fort Bend County Transit)

H-GAC Staff: Jeff Kaufman, Francis Rodriguez, Alan Clark, Stephan Gage

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair, Tim Kelly called the Regional Safety Council (RSC) to order at 1:34 p.m.

ITEM 2. INTRODUCTIONS

- Council members and H-GAC staff introduced themselves.

ITEM 3. Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

ITEM 4. Purpose of the Regional Safety Council

- Jeff Kaufman, H-GAC staff, presented the council with the history of the safety council. This council will address traffic safety issues on behalf of the Transportation Policy Council.
- Expectations
 - Produce State of Safety Report
 - Performance Measures on Traffic Safety
 - Develop Regional Safety Plan
 - Develop partnerships to implement projects
 - Recommend safety investments
 - Forum for safety discussions

Item 5. National Requirement – Performance Measures for Safety

- New federal regulation requires MPO's to participate along with states in recording performance measures of traffic safety.
 - Performance measures:
 - Overall number of fatalities
 - Number of fatalities per 100 Million Vehicles Miles Traveled (VMT)
 - Number of serious injuries (incapacitating Type A)
 - Number of serious injuries per 100 Million VMT
 - Number of non-motorized fatalities/serious injuries
- Rate at which incidents happen will also be reviewed for performance measures.
- Four out of the five performance measures listed above must be met by the MPO.

ITEM 6. State of Safety Report

- Data/Report with the following areas
 - Alcohol related
 - Distracted driving
 - Red-light running
 - Speeding
 - Single vehicle accidents
 - Young drivers
 - Elderly drivers
 - Pedestrians
 - Bicyclists
 - Motorcycles
 - Large trucks
 - Work Zones
 - Highways
 - Rail crossing
- The document is meant to serve as an education piece for the general public and policymakers, as well as to fuel the discussion on where to focus efforts.
- It is desired that the document be no more than 30 pages in length (past reports have been 120+ pages) and in both English and Spanish.
- Staff is currently working through data issues – a few agencies failed to submit reports, which is resulting in significant discrepancies.

ITEM 7. Traffic Safety Plan Development

- Jeff discussed the development of a Traffic Safety Plan is the proposed efforts and counter measures for consideration by the Transportation Policy Council and other entities that provide funding sources.
- The new federal performance measure rules state that MPOs will need to plan and program projects so that they contribute toward the accomplishment of the State DOT safety target for that performance measure. This regional Safety Plan effort is to help meet those targets when developed.

ITEM 8. Low-Cost Safety Activities

- Staff is looking at potential low-cost activities that can be developed. Examples are as follow:
 - Distribution of DVD's to high schools, driver's Ed. programs, and substance abuse clinics about the dangers of drunk driving.
 - Cards that describe new booster seat state regulations, these were distributed to students ages four to seven. 350,000 pieces were distributed costing a total of only \$8,000.00.
 - Bicycle helmet usage cards developed with TX Children's and Harris County Sheriff
- Staff will be reaching out to RSC members for ideas for potential funding.

ITEM 9. Next Meeting

- Next meeting we will begin to look at the safety report, plan development and discuss ideas for low-cost safety activities. Council members are encouraged to share any efforts they are involved in regarding traffic safety such as Vision Zero.
- Meeting will be held in June (postponed to July). Francis Rodriguez, H-GAC Staff, will send out a meeting notice once the date is determined.

ITEM 10. Adjourn

- Mr. Kelly adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.