

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

March 25, 2025– 2:00 P.M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027

Virtual

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Benz, P.E.– Texas A&M Trans. Institute
Bruce Mann– Port of Houston
Ugonna Ughanze– TXDOT-Houston
Ken Fickes– Harris County
Meer Jumani– Harris County
Trey Baxter– Montgomery County OEM
Melody Galland– TxDOT
Sgt. Saul Luera– City of Missouri City
Brian Mansfield– City of Friendswood-EMS
Jack Hannigraff– East End District

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Lisa Camp– City of Friendswood-EMS
James Keener– TXDOT-Houston
Rohit Saxena– Port Houston
Darrell Borchardt– TTI
Johana Clark– City of Houston

STAFF PRESENT

Cassandra Marshall – H-GAC
Yetunde Oyewale– H-GAC
Emanuel Andrews– H-GAC
Francis Rodriguez– H-GAC
Ayo Jibowu– H-GAC
Qun Zhao– H-GAC
Keehren Baah– H-GAC
Marcus Tucker– H-GAC
Carlos Lugo– H-GAC
Veronica Waller– H-GAC
Stephen Keen– H-GAC
Susan Jaworski– H-GAC

OTHERS PRESENT

Dominic Mazoch
Darrin Lewis
Suzanna Set

ITEM 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

ITEM 2. Public Comments

- None

ITEM 3. Acceptance of Minutes: January 14, 2025

- Minutes approved.

ITEM 4. Welcome New Members /Orientation:

Susan Jaworski facilitated the introduction of new members to the Transportation Safety Committee, emphasizing the importance of their diverse expertise. Members included professionals from emergency services, traffic engineering, and public works, each sharing their relevant experience. Notable introductions included Dominic Mazoch, and Johanna Clark, the deputy city engineer with Houston Public Works.

Susan Jaworski explained the function of the MPO, which includes representing urban areas and facilitating transportation planning through collaboration with various partners. She detailed the structure of the committees, noting that the Transportation Safety Committee reports to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and plays a crucial role in advising on safety-related initiatives. Active participation from committee members is essential for effective safety planning.

Discussion

ITEM 5. 2025 Safety Performance Measures: Federal and H-GAC

Robert Benz initiated a discussion on federal safety performance measures, highlighting the importance of understanding crash causes and potential metrics for improvement. Keehren Baah presented the five key performance measures, including fatalities and serious injuries, and explained the delay in receiving actual data. Benz emphasized the need to break down data to identify specific areas for reducing fatalities and serious injuries.

ITEM 6. Initial Crash Data Discussion: Behavior vs Infrastructure vs Environmental based (weather)

Robert Benz and Jack Hanagriff discussed the significance of analyzing crash reports to identify root causes and contributing factors. Hanagriff mentioned the use of analytic cameras to collect data on traffic conditions and behaviors, while Benz pointed out the need for clarity in categorizing speeding-related incidents in crash reports. They also acknowledged potential training needs for officers in accurately reporting these factors. Discussion continued with Keehren explaining the purpose of crash data and analyzing contributing factors for the region. As well as James Keener highlighting the insights gained from the CRIS system, particularly regarding drug use and speeding incidents. Robert Benz pointed out the need to differentiate between behavioral and environmental causes of accidents, advocating for long-term education and enforcement strategies. Dominic Mazoch proposed adapting the Operation Lifesaver model to enhance safety messaging for highway users.

ITEM 7. State of Safety Report Discussion: What format should document be delivered?

Keehren Baah highlighted the importance of the "Teens in the Driver's Seat" program and the need for improved data collection and collaboration to enhance safety measures. Robert Benz proposed expanding the state of the safety report to include a comprehensive overview of safety campaigns and their effectiveness, aiming to provide valuable insights to the Transportation Policy Council. He encouraged input on how to better communicate these initiatives.

ITEM 8. Safety Action Plans (SS4A) Update

James Keener highlighted the importance of training more organizations to install car safety seats, which would alleviate workload. Robert Benz proposed checking on the availability of a "Train the Trainer" program as a goal for the committee. Francis Rodriguez introduced herself and her role in leading the TSMO subcommittee, as well as her involvement in incident management training.

Bruce Mann emphasized the importance of targeting specific user groups for transit and pedestrian safety initiatives, suggesting the use of QR codes and separate sub-reports for different audiences. Dominic Mazoch shared observations about unsafe

behaviors, such as cyclists riding on sidewalks despite available bike lanes. Robert Benz acknowledged the difficulty in changing such behaviors and highlighted the need for effective communication strategies.

Jack Hanagriff and Robert Benz highlighted the challenges in making connections for safety initiatives. Susan Jaworski introduced the tracking of their safety program's success, aiming for a comprehensive understanding in the future. Keehren Baah updated the group on regional safety action plans, mentioning the finalization of funding and the upcoming kickoff, inviting committee participation in steering and stakeholder meetings.

Announcements

1. Transportation Policy Council (TPC)-March 28, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. (In person)
2. Transportation Advisory Council (TAC)-April 16, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. (In-person)
3. Transportation Safety Committee (TSC)- May 20, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. (virtual)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Meeting Adjourned at 2:48 p.m.