

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 – 1:35 P.M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government Offices
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, Texas 77027
Second Floor, Conference Room 2-B/C

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Inge Ford – Bike Houston
Robert Benz, P.E. – Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Kevin Thompson – Fort Bend County Public Transportation
Kevin Barnett – Union Pacific
Ken Fickes – Harris County Transit Services
Bruce Mann – Port Houston
Sean Wright – Seabrook Police Department
Jeff McKinney – Jetco Delivery

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Anne O’Ryan – AAA-Texas
Sean Cagan – METRO
Dr. Rohit Sheno – Texas Children’s Hospital
Charles Krachala – Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 4
Jeff Kaufman – Texas A&M Transportation Institute

STAFF PRESENT

Stephan Gage - Houston-Galveston Area Council
Laurie Chandler - Houston-Galveston Area Council

ITEM 1. Call to Order

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

ITEM 2. Introductions

Members and H-GAC Staff introduced themselves.

ITEM 3. Public Comments

No public comments.

ITEM 4. Approval of Minutes for May 28, 2019 Meeting

Approval of minutes and action items held for quorum.

ITEM 5. Issue Updates (Stephan Gage)

H-GAC Staff updated members on the following items from the previous meeting:

1. Subcommittee Meetings & Chairs
 - Established three subcommittees (Subcommittees held inaugural meetings and set goals.)
 - Freight – Jeff McKinney, Chair (meets every other month, opposite of committee)
 - Policy and Regulations – Ken Fickes, Chair (meets monthly)
 - Traffic Operations – Stuart Corder, Chair (meets monthly)
2. Joint Resolution with Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee was approved at the last Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee meeting.
3. Regional Safety Campaign – consultant is narrowing ideas and close to presenting a campaign.

WORK ITEMS

ITEM 8. Bike-Ped Implementation Action Plan (Stephan Gage)

Committee continued developing the implementation plan for Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety. Staff requested validation on draft action plan and goals. Bike-Ped Implementation Action Plan includes recommendations such as regional feasibility study laying out suggested areas for bike-ped trails. Staff stressed the importance of building a bike-ped network of connected trails to create true multi-modal mobility. Another recommendation was to implement all applicable elements of State Safety Plan. Discussion ensued with a suggestion to form a smaller group to review the action plans, especially the State Safety Action Plan, in detail. Bruce Mann proposed calling the action plan Ped-Bike

Safety Action Plan noting there are ten times more pedestrian fatalities than bicyclist fatalities. The committee continued discussion on the topic of pedestrian crashes on highway facilities. Staff provided general statistics on pedestrian and bicyclist crashes. Dr. Inge Ford expressed concern about not hearing enforcement and motorized vehicle user responsibility components within the plan which she believes are two important components. Another member described the “three E’s”- education, enforcement, and engineering. Of the three, he stressed education is the long-term piece which is typically most effective. *The committee created an ad-hoc Ped-Bike Implementation Action Plan Review subcommittee to review Ped-Bike Safety Action Plans. Subcommittee members include: Robert Benz, Dr. Inge Ford, Bruce Mann, Chief Sean Wright, and Anne O’Ryan.*

ITEM 9. Impaired Implementation Action Plan (Stephan Gage)

Members continued discussions on the impaired implementation action plan. Impaired driving is not limited to drunk driving; however, available statistics are primarily related to drunk driving. Staff introduced State Impaired Implementation Action Plan Safety Strategies (five). Staff informed committee that the Regional Safety Campaign will address impaired driving. Staff is compiling 2019 STEP Grant information and overlaying the demographics on “hot spots” maps. Committee discussed enforcement and prevention/education for drunk driving. Impaired driving leads to half of crash fatalities. Staff is working on additional impaired driving patterns analyses.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 10. Other Matters/Member Updates (Stephan Gage)

- *2018 State of Safety Report* – H-GAC Communications Department is finishing final version. The Executive Summary is included in the meeting material for review. Staff clarified that crashes can be included in more than one category, so the figures are not additive. Staff will be presenting on the *2018 State of Safety Report* at upcoming TPC meeting. A discussion of lag time between project implementation and resulting safety data.
- Bruce Mann recommended TSC piggyback on the TxDOT campaign--November 7th marks the 19th year that a person dies on a Texas roadway every day-- as part of the implementation action plans dialogue.
- CMP Exemptions – Definitions proposed for “safety issue” and “bottleneck” are generalized because there are no measures selected for the region and, once selected, the measures may change over time. If the definition is specific to the measures and the measures change, the definitions will have to change, too.

Next meeting: December 10, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.