
Meeting Notes

- 10:00 AM Welcome Introductions **Larry Krantz**
- TxDOT Update
 - TxDOT has completed scoring proposals. Notifications regarding proposal selections and modifications are expected in April.
 - Letty Von Rossum is retiring from TxDOT.
- 10:15 AM New Business **Christine Adams**
- 2025 Texas Impaired Driving Forum
 - Attendance: 250 attendees (320 registrations).
 - Exhibitor Feedback: Positive feedback received regarding exhibitor engagement and traffic.
 - Venue & Food: Positive feedback on food options provided at the venue.
 - Law Enforcement Track
 - Retain the Phlebotomy Program Panel, as different jurisdictions require unique implementation approaches based on size and resources.
 - Keep the Mental Health Panel, but consider rebranding it as “Moral Injury” to broaden the discussion scope.
 - Exercise caution when inviting out-of-state speakers, as their approaches may not align with Texas protocols.
 - Consider establishing a Law Enforcement Steering Committee to guide the selection of track presentations, ensuring relevance for Texas officers.
 - Explore the possibility of inviting Sherry Matthews for a workshop setting again, as departments benefited from their expertise and guidance.
 - Continue including toxicology and drug trend presentations, as the landscape is constantly evolving.
- 10:30 AM Quarterly Updates
- Legislative Update – [SB3: Derived Cannabis Products Ban](#) **Nicole Holt**
 - The bill is gaining traction to ban hemp-derived THC products.
 - However, a carve-out for THC-infused beverages (off-premise sales) is strongly supported by the liquor industry’s lobbying efforts.
 - Concerns about public awareness and safety:
 - Many sellers of these products lack understanding of the harm and science behind their effects.
 - Impaired driving risks are not emphasized enough, especially

regarding polysubstance use (cannabis combined with other substances).

- The general public remains unaware of these risks.
- There is a need for collaborative efforts to educate the public and advocate for removing these products from Texas shelves.
- Expect another legislative update in April covering other bills.
- Impaired Driving Enforcement Training and Detection **Carlos Champion**
 - SFST (Standardized Field Sobriety Testing) program in Texas.
 - Prior to 2004: Under oversight of a state coordinator (similar to the DRE program now).
 - Instruction and courses regulated and evaluated.
 - Since 2004: Decentralized structure with no centralized oversight.
 - Resulted in declining instruction quality and a lack of accurate data on current instructors and classes.
 - Texas currently has over 215 police academies and 121 contract providers, many of which are not consistently training officers or using up-to-date materials.
 - Suggested Solutions to Improving SFST Program in Texas
 - Designation of State Coordinator to oversee program
 - Standardized instructor selection and training.
 - Strengthen TCOLE requirements for SFST instructors.
 - Current Requirements:
 - 24 completed SFSTs
 - 3 years of SFST practitioner experience
 - Current instructor certification
 - SFST/DRE Instructor Course completion
 - SFST/DRE Instructor Update Course within the last 2 years
 - No clear renewal process
 - Proposed Changes: Mandatory SFST Instructor Refresher Course (2177) for renewal.
 - SFST Instructor Proficiency Certificate valid for 2 years
 - Required for teaching various SFST Instructor courses
 - Renewal requirements would ensure instructors:
 - Stay informed on new updates and best practices
 - Maintain up-to-date knowledge every two years
 - Build stronger statewide instructor relationships
 - Curriculum and delivery consistency
 - Oversight of instructors
 - Management Philosophy
 - State Coordinator Responsibilities:
 - Standardized SFST curriculum development. Same PowerPoint, same manuals, same supplemental

- material. Additional materials must be approved.
 - Course approvals. State Coordinator must be notified of course date, location, and instructor names.
 - SFST Instructor Courses managed and monitored by SFST Program Course Manager. All attendees must apply and be approved.
 - Strategic Goals:
 - Immediate Actions (2025):
 - Appoint State SFST Coordinator and SFST Committee
 - Standardize SFST curricula
 - Partner with TCOLE
 - Serve as a liaison for SFST Instructor certification
 - Develop an SFST Instructor certification database
 - Reevaluate the standard curricula for consistency
 - Strengthen relationships with police academies and contract training providers
 - By January 1, 2026:
 - Develop and conduct SFST Instructor workshops
 - Standardized SFST Curricula
 - Disseminate Texas enhanced IACP SFST Standards
 - Develop SFST Instructor application
 - Attend TCOLE Conference to network and explain changes
 - Submit proposed rule change to formalize State Coordinator position and oversight over SFST Program.
 - First Year Goals (2026):
 - Conduct SFST Instructor workshops
 - Conduct instructor evaluations and mentorship
 - Reevaluate Texas enhanced IACP SFST Standards
 - Work with academies and contract providers to make sure they are compliant
 - 2–3 Year Goals:
 - Update SFST Instructor Workshop curriculum
 - SFST Instructor Workshops Statewide
 - SFST Instructor evaluations and mentorship
 - Reevaluate Texas enhanced IACP SFST Standards
 - Provide specialized SFST Instructor training
 - Establish recognition and awards for SFST instructors
 - Next Steps: Formalize SFST Program under a State Coordinator through IACP with formal support from the TxIDTF Executive Committee
- Research / Language Barriers **Cinthya Fillips**
 - Language Barriers update expected in April
 - Engaging with researchers nationwide through podcasts and blogs
 - Open to topic suggestions—let Cinthya know what interests you

- **Retailer Enforcement – Major Enforcement Operations** **David Doggett**
 - Back to School Operations (August/September)
 - Minor Sting Investigations (MSI)
 - Fake out operations
 - State Fair of Texas Operations (September/October)
 - MSI Operations
 - Pisano Operations (January)
 - Minor-related offenses (MIP)
 - Importation regulation enforcement
 - Houston Livestock/Rodeo (February/March)
 - MSI Operations
 - Source Transaction Investigations (STI)
 - Spring Break Operations (March)
 - Open Inspections
 - Local Patrols (S. Padre/Port Aransas)
 - MSI Operations
 - STI Operations
 - SXSW (March)
 - Open Inspections
 - MSI Operations
 - STI Operations
 - Fiesta (April)
 - MSI Operations
 - STI Operations
 - Holiday enforcement (Labor Day, New Years Eve, Independence Day, Memorial Day)
 - Current Obstacles/Barriers: Vacancy Rate is 20% (47 vacant LEO positions)
 - Most vacancies are in major metropolitan areas (Arlington/Houston/Austin)
 - High case load for those areas
 - Recruitment/Retention
 - Cannot compete with local agencies salaries
 - Losing current LEOs to other agencies
 - Solution: Legislative Appropriations Request to hire at Agent II pay for peace officers with 4 or more years of investigative experience.

- **Impaired Driving Data** **Jim Markham**
 - Introduced AASHTOWare Safety software, a powerful tool available to state and local governments, as well as law enforcement, to help identify and address traffic safety challenges within their communities
 - Utilizes heat maps for crash visualization to identify high-risk areas
 - Reviewed a Crash Data 101 flowchart to serve as an introductory guide for building a comprehensive DWI database

12:00 PM

LUNCH

- Project led by Eva Shipp & Emily Martin, who are part of the Road User Safety Program at TTI. Funded to work alongside TxDOT, TxIDTF, TRCC and other stakeholders to develop the Texas Impaired Driving Database
 - Aligned with recommendations from the 2022 Texas Impaired Driving Assessment
- Long term goal is to create a comprehensive DWI tracking system that:
 - Follows each DWI case from citation to completion of compliance/treatment
 - Uses data from core traffic records databases (crash, citation/adjudication, driver, injury surveillance, roadway, and vehicle) + LEADRS
 - Provides accurate and timely aggregate data for education, enforcement, and engineering
 - Identifies repeat offenders across Texas
- Process:
 - Review documentation – Examine federal and state documents for database guidelines
 - Develop a subcommittee – form a subcommittee with representatives from various impaired driving stakeholder groups
 - Engage other stakeholders – collaborate with TxIDTF, TRCC, and other stakeholders
 - Identify database components – list database components and responsible agencies
 - Multi-year implementation plan – prioritize components and specify timeless and implementation plans
- Key databases:
 - Crash – Traffic crashes (TxDOT)
 - Driver – Driver history (TxDPS)
 - Roadway – Roadway infrastructure (TxDOT)
 - Criminal History – Criminal records (TxDPS)
 - The TCIC can provide this data as well
 - Citation and Adjudication – Traffic violations and court actions (TxDPS)
 - Task Force membership recommended reaching out to Office of Court Administrators (OCA) for more complete records at county/district level
 - Task Force recommendation: Add information on bail conditions
 - Injury Surveillance – Traffic-related injuries (TxDSHS)
 - Vehicle – Vehicle registration and compliance (TxDMV)
 - Task Force recommendation: Add information on ignition interlock orders
 - LEADRS – System for law enforcement to report DWIs
- Reviewed the generic Impaired Driving Critical Pathway. Task Force will continue to help answer these questions.
 - Are there categories or actions missing?
 - Are the arrows pointed to the correct locations?
 - Are there important details like timeframes that should be noted?
 - Are there special cases or issues we need to know about?

2:00 PM

Breakout Groups: 2025 Texas Impaired Driving Plan

- Membership worked in stakeholder groups to update the Plan
- Send all revisions to Christine or Emmy by April 4

3:00 PM

Conclusion and Adjournment

- Next meeting on April 17th at the Norris Conference Center