
Meeting Notes

10:00 AM

Welcome Introductions

Christine Adams

Thanked Task Force members for their support and contributions, particularly for the Impaired Driving Assessment and the Impaired Driving Strategic Plan.

The TxIDTF Membership welcomed new members and guests in attendance:

- Erica Blanco - Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) – DL Division
- Replacing Joseph Thompson
- Natalie Paulus – Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
- Replacing Debra Marable
- Noelle Delgado – Association of Substance Abuse Programs
- Guest: Captain Christopher Mulch – DPS – Criminal Investigation Division

- **TxDOT Update**

Tracie Mendez

- David Palmer was unable to attend the meeting due to participation in the ATSIP Traffic Records Forum in New Orleans.
- Thanked task force members for their work in completing the FY 2026 Impaired Driving Strategic Plan.
- Recognized the Executive Committee for its timely review and approval of the Strategic Plan.
- Noted that additional review and signature time will be provided during the FY 2027 planning cycle.
- Reported that the FY 2027 Triennial Highway Safety Plan and Annual Grant Application were submitted to NHTSA ahead of schedule, positioning funding for release prior to September 1.
- Encouraged increased collaboration among task force projects in FY 2027 to maximize impact on impaired driving fatalities and serious injuries.
- Reminded members that Strategic Operational Plan final reports are due by the end of September.
- Advised grantees to work closely with BTS project managers to promptly address Request for Reimbursement (RFR) corrections and avoid payment delays.
- Reported that the FY 2027 social media match requirement remains capped at 25%; FY 2028 requirements are still under review.
- Thanked members for their contributions to the Impaired Driving Assessment and highlighted positive feedback received regarding the professionalism and thoroughness of the effort.
- Noted that the assessment findings directly informed development of the FY 2026 Impaired Driving Strategic Plan.

- Reported that the [2026 Traffic Safety Conference](#) was successful, including the inaugural integration of Child Passenger Safety programming.
- Announced plans to incorporate the Impaired Driving Forum into the 2027 Texas Traffic Safety Summit and explore inclusion of distracted driving and pedestrian/bicycle safety topics.
- Highlighted FY 2026 accomplishments, including strengthened grant management, project oversight, planning, accountability processes, and enhanced collaboration across traffic safety programs.
- Expressed appreciation for members' dedication and continued commitment to reducing roadway deaths and serious injuries, caused by impaired driving, in Texas.

10:15 AM

Quarterly Updates

- Impaired Driving Enforcement **Carlos Champion**
 - TxDOT has consolidated SFST & DRE programs into a single unit to improve coordination, staffing, and training delivery.
 - SFST instructor requirements have been strengthened; instructors must demonstrate proficiency in conducting and teaching SFST curriculum.
 - Advanced DWI Investigation classes are being rebuilt and are expected to remain on hold until at least 2027.
 - DRE Program
 - Current statewide resources: 428 DREs, 60 DRE instructors, and 157 agencies with at least one DRE
 - [Be A Blake Foundation](#) travel scholarships continue supporting agencies that cannot afford DRE training; six candidates have accepted scholarships.
 - San Antonio DRE School (Sept. 2026) will certify 24 officers following recent turnover
 - FY27 DRE schools planned for:
 - Cedar Park (Oct. 2026)
 - Jersey Village (Oct. 2026)
 - Odessa (Apr. 2027)
 - Southlake (Jun. 2027)
 - Additional schools may be added if budget permits.
 - Technical Assessment Recommendations
 - SFST: "Requiring a SFST update or recertification after academy graduation and the completion of the Field Training Officer program for all officers. Require an SFST update course every three years" - *Supports offering refresher training every three years over mandating*
 - DRE: "Expand the DRE officer's geographic area they are allowed to cover in order to provide service to smaller agencies that lack a DRE" – *exploring an on-call DRE program to support agencies without DRE resources, with grant funding to compensate responding DREs*
 - MADD, LEADRS, and the Texas DRE Program continue collaborating on training, roundtables, and sharing impaired driving

best practices

- Cannabis-Impaired Driving
 - Cannabis use continues to increase and presents unique impairment detection challenges.
 - Officers were encouraged to complete the full SFST battery, as cannabis impairment may not appear during HGN but can be identified through divided-attention tests.
 - Concerns were raised that some cannabis-impaired driving cases are not fully pursued as DWI investigations.
- THC & Alcohol Subcommittee Recommendations **Christine Adams**
 - Update
 - Revised, roadway-focused recommendations for Task Force developed by the subcommittee were presented
 - Members supported prohibiting co-mingling THC and alcohol at on-premises consumption establishments
 - Discussion focused on improving data collection for impaired driving crashes and offenses involving THC and other drugs
 - Members discussed concerns with toxicology "stop testing" policies and the need for greater awareness of their impact on impaired driving cases
 - Support expressed for improving stop testing policies and increasing comprehensive drug testing, while recognizing current resource and funding limitations
 - Data collection was viewed as beneficial for training, policy development, and legislative decision-making
 - Recommendations will be updated based on meeting discussion and distributed to the full membership for feedback before finalization
 - DPS Enforcement [GA-56 Hemp](#) **Captain Mulch**
 - Provided an overview of DPS enforcement efforts related to Governor Abbott's GA-56, which focuses on protecting children from hemp and hemp-derived products and strengthening enforcement of existing laws
 - DPS is focused on disrupting organized criminal activity associated with unlawful hemp product sales by targeting ownership networks and revenue sources
 - DPS is coordinating with law enforcement and regulatory partners, including the Comptroller's Office, to support statewide enforcement
 - Civil enforcement actions were identified as an effective tool for addressing violations
 - Hemp products transported through Texas must meet specific documentation requirements; products may be seized if documentation is not compliant
 - Enforcement efforts include reviewing paperwork, collecting samples for testing, and verifying compliance with state law
 - DPS recently updated laboratory testing guidance to address evolving hemp regulations and testing challenges
 - DPS continues working with local partners to identify connected businesses and support enforcement actions

against larger ownership networks

○ TxDOT Campaigns

Liz Wilde

- Update provided on TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. impaired driving campaign, which runs year-round with targeted enforcement and holiday pushes
- Summer campaign launched in June with updated messaging that includes drug-impaired driving
- Campaign messaging targets Texans ages 18-44 and promotes choosing a sober ride after consuming alcohol or drugs, without endorsing or discouraging substance use
- New "Any High is a DWI" creative includes TV, radio, billboard, and digital content, with a Labor Day media push planned
- Members were encouraged to use resources available through SoberRides.org, including print materials, social media content, and customizable community presentations (found in Media Center tab at the top right-hand side of the website)
- Digital Campaign Toolkit will be updated for the fall/Labor Day campaign on August 17
- TxDOT's outreach "Spokes Truck" continues to support community events with impaired-driving educational activities, games, and a DWI simulator

12:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM

Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Christine Adams

- Planning for the next SHSP cycle is underway as the current plan expires in 2026
- Assessors recommended increased Task Force involvement in the SHSP Impaired Driving Emphasis Area, consistent with an NHTSA recommendation to strengthen systemwide impaired driving coordination
- The Task Force identified representatives to participate in SHSP Emphasis Area meetings and provide updates back to the Task Force:
 - Data & Planning
 - Education & Prevention
 - Enforcement
 - Forensic Testing
 - Prosecution
 - Judicial Bond
 - Substance Use Treatment
 - Probation
- Members were encouraged to engage through existing Task Force subcommittees, including Prevention, Legislative, and THC & Alcohol

Rideshare Drivers Update

- The Task Force continued a discussion raised during the March meeting regarding concerns about impaired driving among rideshare and delivery drivers
- Members reviewed current Transportation Network Company (TNC) policies and noted that California and Arizona apply a 0.04 BAC standard while transporting passengers

- Concerns raised by law enforcement were described as largely anecdotal, with limited data available to determine the prevalence of impaired driving among rideshare drivers
- Members discussed challenges in collecting data, noting that Texas crash and offense reporting systems do not consistently identify rideshare or delivery drivers
- Suggestions included exploring a pilot data collection effort through LEADRS and evaluating opportunities to gather information from prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and rideshare companies
- The Task Force agreed to continue evaluating the issue, gather additional information, and revisit the discussion at a future meeting
- The Oklahoma Impaired Driving Task Force is also discussing this topic; additional information will be provided at the next meeting

School Resource Officer Conference Update

- Provided an update on the [Texas School Resource Officer Conference](#) held in Corpus Christi
- The conference provided an opportunity to increase awareness of Task Force initiatives and strengthen partnerships with School Resource Officers and school-based organizations
- Task Force educational materials and impaired driving resources were distributed to attendees
- An impaired driving infographic, about the new state jail felony for DWI in an active school zone, was shared with School Resource Officers, included in the TASRO newsletter, and [posted on the Task Force website](#)
- Members noted that building relationships with School Resource Officers may help expand impaired driving education efforts within schools

2:00 PM

[24/7 Sobriety Monitoring Program](#)

- Update provided on the 24/7 Sobriety Monitoring Program, which is included in recent transportation reauthorization discussions alongside ignition interlock devices
- Two Texas counties are actively exploring implementation of the program
- Program requires abstinence from alcohol and drugs through twice-daily alcohol testing and random drug testing and may be used pretrial or post-conviction
- Benefits discussed included increased accountability, enhanced public safety, offender supervision, and alternatives to incarceration
- Immediate sanctions for noncompliance are a key component, while treatment referrals may be used for participants who need additional support
- Local jurisdictions determine participant eligibility, testing protocols, and program operations with stakeholder input
- Members emphasized the importance of stakeholder collaboration, clear program guidelines, and data-driven implementation
- Fact sheets, toolkits, FAQ, and training resources are available for jurisdictions interested in implementing the program

2:30 PM

Association of Substance Abuse Programs (ASAP) Introduction **Noelle Delgado**

- Overview provided of [ASAP](#), which represents substance use treatment, prevention, and recovery service providers across Texas

- ASAP works to connect stakeholders across behavioral health, criminal justice, healthcare, law enforcement, and community treatment systems
- Members discussed Homeward Bound's Dallas Deflects program as an example of coordinated collaboration among law enforcement, behavioral health providers, hospitals, and treatment professionals through an operational handoff process
- ASAP expressed interest in partnering and collaborating with the Task Force
- Discussion highlighted ongoing challenges in accessing treatment services, including reduced detoxification funding, limited connections to public health systems, and a gap between identifying individuals in need and connecting them with care
- Members also noted continuing declines in youth, women, and children's treatment services due to provider and funding shortages
- State-funded treatment options remain available for individuals who cannot afford services

3:00 PM

Conclusion and Adjournment