

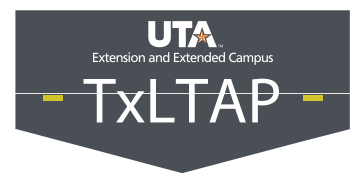
BETTER ROADS SAFER ROADS



MAKING ROADS SAFER FOR BOTH CYCLISTS AND DRIVERS

BETTER ROADS SAFER ROADS

Spring 2025 | TxLTAP.org



01 2025 BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP CALL FOR PROJECT SUBMITTALS

The Build a Better Mousetrap (BABM) national recognition program highlights locally relevant, innovative solutions and provides a platform to share innovations to everyday challenges.

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The Road Safety Champion Program (RSCP) is a nationally recognized certificate program designed to develop a knowledgeable, safety-focused workforce responsible for operating, maintaining, and designing local roads.

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COMMUNITY COLLABORATES FOR CHILD CYCLIST SAFETY

Learning to ride a bike can be scary enough for a child, but factor in learning the rules of the road and that fear can be multiplied.

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TxLTAP TRAINING & SERVICES

Contact TxLTAP for more information or to request training, services, or equipment.

The Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is a nationwide effort financed by the Federal Highway Administration and individual state departments of transportation. Its purpose is to translate into understandable terms the best available technology for roadways, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and public transportation for city and county roadway and transportation personnel. The TxLTAP, operated by the University of Texas at Arlington, is sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about new publications, techniques, and training opportunities that may be helpful to you and your community.



2025 BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP CALL FOR PROJECT SUBMITTALS

The Build a Better Mousetrap (BABM) national recognition program highlights locally relevant, innovative solutions and provides a platform to share innovations to everyday challenges that local and tribal transportation professionals encounter on local roads. These local road solutions range from the development of new project delivery or design processes to the invention of new tools, equipment, or modifications that increase efficiency, enhance safety, reduce cost, and/or improve the quality of transportation on local roads.

If you have a new or existing innovative solution that you would like to share for Build a Better Mousetrap 2025, please contact TxLTAP at txltap@uta.edu with your innovative ideas. You can also visit www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/babm/ for more information on the FHWA's Build a Better Mousetrap national competition.

HOW THE BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP COMPETITION WORKS

TxLTAP will:

- Solicit nominations within the state of Texas.
- Select nominations they would like to move forward. Multiple nominations in multiple categories may be submitted.

- Submit their nominations to the Build a Better Mousetrap competition under one of four categories:

1. **INNOVATIVE PROJECT:** Any solution that addresses any or all phase(s) of the 'project' life cycle – Planning, Design/Engineering, Construction, Operations and Maintenance. This project shall introduce new ideas, is locally relevant, original, and creative in thinking.
2. **BOLD STEPS:** Any locally relevant high-risk project or process showing a break-through solution with demonstrated high-reward.
3. **SMART TRANSFORMATION:** A locally relevant significant change in any transportation activity or process that is SMART "Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound" in nature that results in improved efficiencies.
4. **PIONEER:** A locally relevant product/tool that is among the first to solve a maintenance problem with a home-grown solution.



**MOTORCYCLISTS
DON'T JUST "COME OUT
OF NOWHERE"**

Motorcyclist Brendan Johnson donated his black leather jacket to TxDOT for use in motorcycle safety messages. Tragically, he never saw the campaign because he was killed in a motorcycle crash.

To help prevent tragedies like this, TxDOT is sharing Johnson's story and driver safety tips during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month through the Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles campaign.

"We often hear drivers say they simply 'didn't see' the motorcyclist," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "We want every driver to check and double check for motorcycles and learn how to safely share the road across the streets and highways of Texas."

BRENDAN'S STORY

Months before he was killed, Johnson lent his beloved motorcycle jacket for a TxDOT campaign billboard photo shoot, and he was thrilled to be involved in the safety message. But before he got to see the signs go up, a van turned in front of him on his way home from work and sent him into a ditch.

His coworkers were among the first on the scene. They attempted CPR and heard repeated questions from the driver of the van who said, "Where did he come from? I didn't see him."

"We want every driver to check and double check for motorcycles and learn how to safely share the road across the streets and highways of Texas."

THE DATA

In the more than 9,000 motorcycle crashes in Texas last year, 585 motorcyclists were killed. These crashes can be prevented if drivers learn to share the road and watch out for motorcycles.

SAFETY TIPS

- Train yourself to notice motorcycles. They're smaller and lower to the ground than cars. By reminding yourself to keep an eye out for motorcycles, you'll train your eyes and brain to notice them more easily.
- Look twice. Always use your turn signals and check your mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes.
- Use caution when turning. Drivers have trouble judging the speed and distance of motorcycles. Never try to rush a turn ahead of an oncoming motorcycle.

- Don't tailgate. Keep a safe following distance. Motorcycles can slow down by downshifting, which doesn't activate their brake lights.
- Don't crowd. If you need to pass a motorcycle, treat it like a car and give it a full lane of space. Never crowd into the same lane.
- Slow down. Speeding makes every type of crash more deadly. Obey posted speed limits and drive according to conditions.

To spread these messages, TxDOT's campaign will use advertisements and an interactive traveling exhibit that demonstrates how easy it is to lose sight of a motorcycle if you're not paying attention. The exhibit uses virtual reality so participants can experience the perspectives of both driving a car and riding a motorcycle in dangerous situations.

Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at [DriveLikeATexan.com](https://www.txdot.gov/drive-like-a-texan).



TODAY'S TEXAS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS AND WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED

Federal law requires that a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) be designated for each urban area with a population of 50,000 or more. The MPO will provide a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process resulting in plans and programs which consider all transportation modes and supports metropolitan community development and social goals. These plans and programs shall lead to the development and operation of an integrated, intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient, economic movement of people and goods.

There are currently twenty-four MPOs in Texas and each receives federal funding for transportation planning. Many also receive state and local funds as well in order to carry out their mandated planning activities. Included below is the updated listing of the Texas MPOs along with information on the area that each MPO serves.

- **ABILENE MPO**

Address: 209 South Danville, Suite B-212, Abilene, TX 79605
Phone: (325) 437-9999
Website: www.abilenempo.org
Urbanized Areas Served: Abilene, TX
Contact: E'Lisa Smetana, Executive Director
E-mail: elisa.smetana@abilenetx.com

- **ALAMO AREA MPO (AAMPO)**

Address: 825 South St. Mary's, San Antonio, Texas, 78205
Phone: (210) 230-6904
E-mail: aampo@alamoareampo.org
Website: www.alamoareampo.org
Urbanized Areas Served: San Antonio, TX
Contact: Sonia Jimenez, Interim Executive Director
E-mail: jjimenez@alamoareampo.org

- **AMARILLO MPO**

Address: 808 S. Buchanan St., Amarillo, TX 79101
Phone: (806) 378-4219
E-mail: amarillompo@amarillo.gov

Website: www.amarillo.gov/mpo/
Urbanized Areas Served: Amarillo, TX
Contact: Travis Muno, MPO Administrator
E-mail: travis.muno@amarillo.gov

- **BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION MPO (BCSMPO)**

Address: 309 North Washington Street, Suite 14, Bryan, TX 77803
Phone: (979) 260-5298
E-mail: bcsmpo@bcsmpo.org
Website: bcsmpo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: College Station – Bryan, TX
Contact: Daniel Rudge, Executive Director
E-mail: drudge@bcsmpo.org

- **CAPITAL AREA MPO (CAMPO)**

Address: 3300 N. Interstate 35, Suite 630, Austin, TX 78705
Phone: (512) 993-6599
E-mail: campo@campotexas.org
Website: www.campotexas.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: Austin, TX; San Marcos, TX
Contact: Ashby Johnson, Executive Director
E-mail: Ashby.Johnson@campotexas.org

- **CORPUS CHRISTI MPO (CCMPO)**

Address: 602 N. Staples Street, Suite 300, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
Phone: (361) 884-0687
E-mail: ccmpo@cctxmpo.us
Website: www.corpuschristi-mpo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: Corpus Christi, TX
Contact: Robert F. MacDonald, MPA, PE, Transportation Planning Director
E-mail: rmacdonald@cctxmpo.us

- **EAGLE PASS MPO**

Address: 3295 Bob Rogers Dr., Eagle Pass, TX 78852
Phone: (830) 773-7578
Website: www.eaglepasstx.gov/362/
Metropolitan-Planning-Organization

Urbanized Areas Served: El Paso, TX-NM
Contact: Placido Madera, AICP, MPO Director
E-mail: placido.madera@eaglepasstx.gov

- **EL PASO MPO**

Address: 211 N. Florence, Suite 202, El Paso, TX 79901
Phone: (915) 212-0258 (Office)
Website: www.elpasompo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: El Paso, TX-NM
Contact: Eduardo Calvo, AICP, Executive Director
E-mail: executivedirector@elpasompo.org

- **GRAYSON COUNTY MPO**

Address: 1800 Teague Dr., Sherman, TX 75090
Phone: (903) 328-2090
Website: www.gcmpo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: Grayson County; Sherman, TX; Denison, TX
Contact: Clay Barnett, P.E., Director
E-mail: barnettc@co.grayson.tx.us

- **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (HGAC)**

Address: 3555 Timmons, Suite 120, Houston, TX 77027
Phone: (713) 627-3200
E-mail: PublicComments@h-gac.com
Website: www.h-gac.com
Urbanized Areas Served: Houston, TX; Conroe – The Woodlands, TX; Lake Jackson – Angleton, TX; Texas City, TX
Contact: Chuck Wemple, Executive Director

- **KILLEEN-TEMPLE MPO (KTMPO)**

Address: 2180 North Main Street, Belton, Texas 76513
Phone: (254) 770-2200
Website: www.ktmpo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: Killeen, TX; Temple, TX
Contact: Uryan Nelson, MPO Director
E-mail: Uryan.nelson@ctcog.org

- **LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY AREA MPO (LW-CAMPO)**
Address: 1413 Houston St, Laredo, TX 78040
Phone: (956) 794-1605
Website: www.laredompo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: Laredo, TX; Webb County
Contact: Juan S. Mendive, MPO Director
E-mail: jmendive@ci.laredo.tx.us

- **LONGVIEW MPO**
Address: 933 Mobile Dr., Longview, TX 75604
Phone: (903) 237-1062
E-mail: longviewtexas.gov/FormCenter/Contact-Us-5/Metropolitan-Planning-Organization-MPO-39
Website: longviewtexas.gov/2173/Longview-MPO
Urbanized Areas Served: Longview, TX
Contact: Bryan McBride, Longview MPO Director
E-mail: bmcbride@longviewtexas.gov

- **LUBBOCK MPO**
Address: 916 Main Street, Suite 445, Lubbock, TX 79401
Phone: (806) 775-1671
Website: ci.lubbock.tx.us/pages/lubbock-metropolitan-planning-organization
Urbanized Areas Served: Lubbock, TX
Contact: David Jones, Director
E-mail: djones@mylubbock.us

- **NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS Council of Governments (NCTCOG)**
Address: 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011
Phone: (817) 695-9240
E-mail: transinfo@nctcog.org
Website: www.nctcog.org/trans
Urbanized Areas Served: Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX; Denton-Lewisville, TX; McKinney, TX
Contact: Michael Morris, PE, Director
E-mail: mmorris@nctcog.org

- **PERMIAN BASIN MPO**
Address: 9601 Wright Dr., Ste. 1, Midland, TX 79711
Phone: (432) 617-0129 x1006
E-mail: info@permianbasinmpo.com
Website: www.permianbasinmpo.com/
Urbanized Areas Served: Midland, TX; Odessa, TX
Contact: Cameron Walker, Executive Director
E-mail: cwalker@permianbasinmpo.com

- **RIO GRANDE VALLEY MPO (RGVMPO)**
Address: 617 W. University Dr., Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: (956) 682-3481
E-mail: info@rgvmpo.org
Website: www.rgvmpo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: Brownsville, Harlingen-San-Benito, and Hidalgo County, TX

- **SAN ANGELO MPO (SA-MPO)**
Address: 510 N. Chadbourne, San Angelo, TX 76903
Phone: (325) 481-2800
E-mail: info@sanangelompo.org
Website: www.sanangelompo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: San Angelo, TX
Contact: Major Hofheins, Director
E-mail: Major.hofheins@sanangelotexas.us

- **SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (SETRPC)**
Address: 2210 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77703
Phone: (409) 899-8444
Website: www.setrpc.org/ter/
Urbanized Areas Served: Beaumont, TX; Port Arthur, TX
Contact: Bob Dickinson, Transportation Director
E-mail: bdickinson@setrpc.org

- **TEXARKANA MPO**
Address: 220 Texas Blvd., 1st floor, Texarkana, TX 75501
Phone: (903) 798-3927
E-mail: Txkmpo@txkusa.org
Website: www.texarkanampo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: Texarkana, TX – Texarkana, AR
Contact: Rea Donna Jones
E-mail: ReaDonna.Jones@txkusa.org

- **TYLER AREA MPO (TAMPO)**
Address: 423 W. Ferguson, Tyler, TX 75702
Phone: (903) 531-1039
E-mail: mpo@tylertexas.com
Website: www.tylerareampo.org/
Urbanized Areas Served: Tyler, TX
Contact: Michael Howell, Director

- **VICTORIA MPO (VMPO)**
Address: 700 Main Center, Suite 129, Victoria, TX 77901
Phone: (361) 485-3360
Website: www.victoriatx.gov/305/Metropolitan-Planning-Organization
Urbanized Areas Served: Victoria, TX
Contact: Maggie Bergeron, MPO Administrator
E-mail: mbergeron@victoriatx.gov

- **WACO MPO**
Address: 401 Franklin Ave., Waco, TX 76701
Phone: (254) 750-5650
E-mail: mpo@wacotx.gov
Website: www.waco-texas.com/cms-mpo/
Urbanized Areas Served: Waco, TX
Contact: Mukesh Kumar, Director
E-mail: Mukeshk@wacotx.gov

- **WICHITA FALLS MPO (WFMPO)**
Address: 2100 Seymour Highway, Wichita Falls, TX 76301
Phone: (940) 761-7450
Website: www.wfmpo.com/
Urbanized Areas Served: Wichita Falls, TX
Contact: Irvan “Lin” Barnett, Director
E-mail: Lin.Barnett@wichitafallstx.gov



WHAT IS THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

The Texas Department of Transportation is governed by the five-member Texas Transportation Commission and an Executive Director selected by the commission. Commission members serve overlapping six-year terms and are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Texas Senate. The current members of the Commission include J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., Alvin New, Robert Vaughn, Alejandro "Alex" G. Meade III, and Steven Alvis.

THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- planning and making policies for the location, construction and maintenance of state highways,
- overseeing the design, construction, maintenance and operation of the state highway system,
- developing a statewide transportation plan that contains highways and turnpikes, aviation, mass transportation, railroads, high-speed railroads and water traffic,
- awarding contracts for the improvement of the state highway system,
- fostering and assisting in the development of public and mass transportation in the state, and
- adopting rules for the operation of the department.

A majority of the state's transportation program is determined locally. Most projects involving local roads or improvements to existing highways are selected by TxDOT's districts and divisions. Major projects that improve mobility or safety are selected by the commission as part of the Unified Transportation Program, a 10-year statewide plan for transportation project development. These high-cost projects must compete with similar jobs from all over the state to receive funding. Each must follow three authorization stages: planning, development, and construction. Due to complex planning and development requirements, the commission selects projects up to four years in advance based on anticipated funding.

Here's what the Texas Transportation Commission discussed and approved at its April 2025 meeting in Austin.

CONSTRUCTION AND CONTRACTS

Chairman Bruce Bugg announced TxDOT now has more than \$60 billion in active construction projects across the state, setting an all-time record. He noted that as the population of Texas continues to grow by an average of 1,500 people each day, TxDOT continues to build and maintain infrastructure to support this growth.

The commissioners awarded low-bid value amounts of \$330 million for 54 highway improvement projects and \$18 million for 12 routine maintenance projects.

The Commission also authorized TxDOT to issue a request for proposals for the SH 99 Grand Parkway Segment B-1 Design-Build Project. The project in Brazoria and Galveston counties is 15 miles long and will include two tolled lanes in each direction, plus about six miles of non-tolled operational improvements. It will also include two direct connectors to I-35 and will be an additional emergency evacuation route when completed.

Its estimated design-build cost is \$1.94 billion. The Commission is expected to award the project in the spring of 2026.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

The Commission highlighted several developments at TxDOT Districts:

The HERO (Highway Emergency Response Operator) program launched in the Odessa District in March 2025. The program, which was made possible in part by the Permian Strategic Partnership and Midland County, will help keep motorists in Odessa and Midland safe by either getting vehicles back on the road, or off the road to prevent secondary incidents.

- A portion of I-27 expansion was unveiled in the Lubbock District earlier this month, adding 4.2 miles to the interstate system.
- Commissioner Alvin New highlighted the efforts and expansion of the Esperanza Community in the Austin District, which helps people experiencing homelessness transition off the streets into more stable housing. The land is owned by TxDOT and leased to The Other Ones Foundation.
- Jeremy Dearing was appointed as the new Abilene District Engineer.
- David Rohmer was appointed as the new Wichita Falls District Engineer.

STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams noted the department has reached a long-anticipated goal: 90% of TxDOT's lane miles have a pavement condition score of "good" or better for the first time, as determined by Pavement Management Information Systems. Williams credited the innovative research and design of Texas roadways and the hard work of maintenance employees across the state.

Williams also noted the meeting occurred during National Work Zone Awareness Week, emphasizing the importance of all drivers making safe decisions and taking extra caution while driving through work zones.

AVIATION

The Commission awarded just under \$15 million in state and federal grant funding for capital improvement projects and to assist airports in Edinburg, Galveston and Temple.

*Excerpts written by Laura Butterbrodt,
Inside Scoop: Texas Transportation Commission April 2025*

AAA TEXAS REMINDS DRIVERS OF DEADLY CONSEQUENCES OF INATTENTION BEHIND THE WHEEL

by Daniel Armbruster & Doug Shupe

In observance of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the need to eliminate distracted driving every day, AAA Texas recently launched the #ActionAgainstDistraction campaign to urge the public to recognize the deadly consequences of inattention behind the wheel. Our goal is to remind all drivers of the potentially fatal risks from distractions like texting, talking on the phone, or using other mobile apps can cause.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), distracted driving contributes to 29% of roadway crashes. In 2022, distracted driving claimed 3,308 lives and caused nearly 290,000 injuries — an average of nine fatalities daily. In Texas alone, the latest state records show there were 20,700 injuries and 403 deaths in 2023 due to distracted driving.

"Distracted driving is a serious problem, and it's claiming lives every day," said Doug Shupe, Corporate Communications Manager for AAA Texas. "It's never safe to text, check emails, or use your phone while on the road. These actions take your focus away from what matters most — safely getting to your destination."

If you take your eyes off the road for just five seconds while driving at 55 miles per hour, you'll drive the length of a football field blindfolded. AAA Texas is committed to reinforcing distracted driving laws and promoting safer driving habits.

"Staying focused and alert while driving is one of the easiest ways to prevent crashes," said Shupe. "A single moment of distraction can lead to a lifetime of regret. Each of us has a role in prioritizing safety through the choices we make every day. By choosing to remain attentive behind the wheel, you can help save lives."

According to the latest AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's annual Traffic Safety Culture Index, most drivers (93%) recognize the dangers of texting, emailing and reading while driving. However, many drivers reported sending a text/email (27%) reading a text/email (37%) or holding and talking on a phone (36%) while driving in the past 30 days.

To prevent distracted driving crashes and preventable tragedies, AAA Texas launched its #ActionAgainstDistraction pledge campaign on Instagram on April 1st. This initiative aims to encourage responsible driving and reduce the dangerous effects of distractions on the road by asking the public to make a commitment to driving distraction-free

To stay focused behind the wheel and help prevent tragedies, AAA Texas recommends drivers:

- **Use the Driving Focus features on your smartphone to limit distractions.**
- **Pull over safely if you must call or text someone.**
- **Speak up if the driver of your vehicle is distracted.**
- **Put your phone out of sight to reduce temptation.**
- **Program your GPS before starting your trip, not while driving.**
- **Ask passengers for help with navigation, calls, or texts.**
- **Don't be a distraction—avoid calling or texting others while they're driving.**

Let's work together to end distracted driving and make our roads safer for everyone.

For more information about the AAA Texas #ActionAgainstDistraction pledge campaign, read stories of lives impacted by distracted driving, and watch PSA's and a distracted driving documentary called "Sidetracked," visit AAA.com/DontDriveDistracted.





TTI RESEARCHERS PUBLISH NATIONAL GUIDE TO SAFER BIKEWAY DESIGN

A multidisciplinary team led by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) has published a new national guide focused on improving the safety of on-street bicycle facilities. National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Research Report 1136: On-Street Bicycle Facility Design Features—A Guide was developed by TTI in collaboration with Toole Design Group, Portland State University and Safe Streets Research & Consulting.

The TTI team was led by Bahar Dadashova, Research Scientist and Assistant Program Manager of TTI's Roadway Safety Program. Co-authors from TTI included Karen Dixon, Okan Gurbuz, Richard Dzinyela, Boya Dai and Shawn Turner.

The report addresses a critical gap in current roadway safety practices: how to design safer bikeways at midblock locations. According to a 2019 report by the National Transportation Safety Board, 59 percent of fatal bicycle crashes occur at midblock locations — far more than at intersections, which often receive the most attention and funding.

"We hope this work supports transportation agencies in their efforts to build safer networks for people biking," Dadashova said. "Understanding midblock crash patterns and incorporating Safe System principles into everyday design decisions can help save lives."

The guide synthesizes crash data from across six U.S. cities and one county, pairs it with visual assessments of high-crash sites, and outlines key contextual design factors — like driveway placement and curbside access — that influence bicyclist safety but often fall



A separated bike lane with flexible posts provides dedicated space for cyclists on in Austin, Texas—an example of midblock bikeway design aimed at improving safety and comfort for riders.

outside traditional design manuals. The project also developed new crash modification factors for bikeways, helping agencies better quantify safety benefits across different facility types.

The report was recently featured in an [NCHRP Impacts on Practice news article](#), which underscores both the study's findings and the increased national interest in separated bicycle facilities.

NCHRP Research Report 1136: On-Street Bicycle Facility Design Features—A Guide and its [companion Web-Only Document 414: Safety Evaluation of On-Street Bicycle Facility Design Features](#) are available through the National Academies Press.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy recently announced a new opportunity for cities, towns, counties, Tribal governments, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to apply for funding available through the updated Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program.

The SS4A program supports communities in both planning and carrying out projects that help reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our highways, streets, and roads. Over \$982 million is made available by this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and a similar amount is expected to be available next year in a future funding round.

BACKGROUND: SS4A funds will support communities in the development of road safety action plans and improve unsafe roadway corridors by implementing effective interventions. Additionally, these funds can be utilized to test, or demonstrate,

safety features to study their effectiveness.

The Department encourages all interested communities to apply, especially communities that have not applied previously. The application process for SS4A is designed to be as easy as possible and has been developed to increase accessibility for smaller communities, Tribal governments, and recipients new to Federal funding. Applications may come from individual communities or groups of communities and may include MPOs, counties, cities, towns, other special districts that are subdivisions of a state, certain transit agencies, federally recognized Tribal governments, and multijurisdictional groups of eligible applicants.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A. Applications are due by June 26, 2025 at 4 pm CDT.

ROAD SAFETY CHAMPION PROGRAM

UTA
Extension and Extended Campus

TxLTAP

The Road Safety Champion Program (RSCP) is a nationally recognized certificate program designed to develop a knowledgeable, safety-focused workforce responsible for operating, maintaining, and designing local roads. The RSCP prioritizes safety and aims to implement improvements that reduce fatalities and serious injuries. The program consists of seven core modules and two career-focused pathways. All participants must complete the core modules to establish a strong foundation in roadway safety. Upon finishing the seven core modules and one pathway, individuals will earn the Road Safety Champion Program Certificate from the National Center for Rural Road Safety, along with a digital badge from TxLTAP.

Core Module + One Pathway = Road Safety Champion Certificate

CORE MODULES

- ✓ Introduction to Road Safety
- ✓ Understanding Human Factors
- ✓ Introduction to Traffic Safety Culture
- ✓ Overview of the MUTCD
- ✓ Intersection of Transportation with Public Health and Law Enforcement
- ✓ Reading the Roadway
- ✓ Safety Analysis Process

MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION PATHWAY

Maintaining a Safer Roadway
Work Zones
Worker Safety
Traffic Incident Management
Take Action Now - Maintaining Safety
Work Zone Construction
Site Safety (OSHA 10)
Flagger Certification

PLANNING & ENGINEERING PATHWAY

Countermeasures for Road Safety
Work Zones
Overview of Local Road Safety
Overview of Data and Tools for Safety
Crash Reporting
Systemic Safety Project Selection Tool

Road Safety
Champion
Certificate

Earn a Road Safety Champion Certificate through TxLTAP!



COMMUNITY COLLABORATES FOR CHILD CYCLIST SAFETY

By Lauren Macias-Cervantes

EL PASO — Learning to ride a bike can be scary enough for a child, but factor in learning the rules of the road and that fear can be multiplied. Several of El Paso County's youngest riders had a helping hand recently on that tough task.

TxDOT partnered with Justice of the Peace Lucilla Najera, Border Bicycle, and El Paso police and fire departments for a free community bike rodeo.

"It is important for everyone to know the rules of the road when we are out on the road, whether we are a driver or a cyclist because we share the road," said TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialist Stephanie Carbajal-Atilano.

For this year's bike rodeo, the loading zone at a local grocery store turned into an obstacle course. Bike patrol officers taught the young riders the rules of the road when it comes to bike safety and provided them coaching and guidance.

"We are trying to educate the young kids on bike safety as well as what type of safety equipment they need to be wearing while riding," said Javier Reyes, El Paso Police Department sergeant.

Before heading to the track, experts assisted young riders with their safety gear, which included helmets that had to be fitted and secure. The safety experts also checked tire pressure and chain condition on the bikes.

Border Bicycle shop owner Adrian Yanez also helped to provide inspections.



El Paso Bike Rodeo

"Obviously if you have a bike that has something wrong with it can be dangerous, it can be a hazard, and can cause a crash," Yanez said.

Once the bikes were in tip-top shape, it was time to hit the track. Tasks on the route included braking, stopping on red, watching for others on the road and safety around railroad tracks.

Judge Najera said she was happy to see the community come together in an effort to improve safety.

"I'm extremely humbled because I wouldn't have done it by myself," Najera said. "I'm humbled that we as a community are out here (because of) the importance of teaching our kids."

For more information, visit TxLTAP.org

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