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MINUTES
San Antonio Traffic Jam Coalition
Thursday, June 18, 2015

Members and Visitors in attendance:

Robbi Smith	Texas Department of Transportation
Mona Lisa Zertuche	Texas Department of Transportation
Laura Lopez	Texas Department of Transportation
Anthony Flores	Texas Department of Public Safety
Tiffany Harris	AACOG
Allison Blazosky	Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Org.
Lt. Dennis Casillas	Bexar County Sheriff's Office
Sgt. A. Pruneda	Bexar County Sheriff's Office
David Campbell	Citizen
Rudy Lopez	Circles of San Antonio
Ed Cimics	City of Live Oak
Wendell Campbell	City of San Antonio Risk Management
Rebecca Pacini	City of San Antonio TCI
Jillian Harris	City of San Antonio TCI
Mary Lanoue Gers	Cox Media Group
Elba Garcia	CPS Energy
Tyffani Melchur	CPS Energy
Pat Bastidas	Drive Kind Ride Kind
Kalina Sanchez	Drive Kind Ride Kind
Melinda Cox	Johnson High School PTSA
Drew Marshall	Johnson High School PTSA
Jose Goldaracena	Johnson High School PTSA
Dan Pue	Live Oak Police Department
Trina Salazar	MADD
Irma Ledezma	MADD
David Clear	Metro Health
Teresa Stewart	Region 8, Resource Prevention Ctr.
Bryant Soldevila	San Antonio Police Department
Buck Russell	Union Pacific Railroad
Officer Maranda Tupper	UTSA Police Department

Introductions

Robbi Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

Monthly Guest Speaker

Pat Bastidas, Program Manager for Drive Kind Ride Kind (DKRK) presented on safe driving practices for motorists and reminders to share the road with pedestrians and cyclists. The mission of the DKRK is “to educate and inspire all road users toward safe behavioral change and to encourage personal responsibility.” Ms. Bastidas reminded everyone that cyclists have the same rights to the road as a motorist driving a vehicle, however most motorists are not aware of cyclists’ rights. Ms. Bastidas also stated that the cycling population is growing in Texas due to lifestyle changes, health/exercise and commuting to and from work. Ms. Bastidas further stated that most accidents are preventable if motorists would follow the rules of the road found under the Texas Transportation Code Section 551. For more information please visit the website at www.drivekindridekind.org as there are educational materials, driving laws, bicycle safety and videos available at no cost.

Monthly Updates

Robbi updated the coalition on the following:

- 2016 Impaired Driving Mobilization (IDM) funding deadline for applications is July 17, 2015.
 - The main criteria for IDM funding is based on DUI crash data. Currently there are 20 law enforcement agencies that are eligible for funding from San Antonio and surrounding areas. Mona Lisa will be sending letters to those 34 agencies inquiring if they would like to participate.
 - The four IDM enforcement periods are: Christmas/New Year’s, Spring Break, Independence Day and Labor Day.

Round Table Monthly Updates

San Antonio Police Department – Officer Bryant Soldevila announced that San Antonio Police Department SAFFE officers continue to work community events and the unit was recognized by MADD on June 16th at an awards luncheon. SAPD also participated in the Labor Day Click It or Ticket Campaign sponsored by TxDOT.

Texas Department of Transportation – Laura Lopez announced that due to the continual heavy rain the DMS boards remind motorists to “Turn Around/Don’t Drown” if they see high water on the roads and highways. Ms. Lopez also stated that the Fredericksburg/Medical Center grand re-opening will take place with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 29th at 9:00a.m. AND TransGuide will be celebrating their 20th anniversary with a press event on July 24th at 10:00am, located at 3500 NW Loop 410, everyone is invited.

Union Pacific Railroad – Buck Russell stated that UP has experienced 13th incidents this year due to persons trying to take pictures on the railroad tracks on private property with signage clearly stating, “Stay off Train Tracks.”

Cox Media Group – Mary Lanoue Gers continues to offer radio spots on Cox Radio.

City of San Antonio/Capital Improvements – Rebecca Pacini announced that the Vision Zero Campaign focuses on educating the public on how to share the road and the SA Tomorrow focus groups are still working on a transportation plan for safer travel within San Antonio.

Bexar County Sheriff Department – Lt. Dennis Casillas stated the department participated in the Click It or Ticket campaign sponsored by TxDOT over the Labor Day enforcement period and the traffic unit has been working more community events and distributing public information and educational materials.

UTSA Police Department – Officer Miranda Tupper stated that they also participated in the Click It or Ticket campaign last month. Officer Tupper also reported they she will be promoting a new campaign on the UTSA campus called Recognize, Choose and Act. More information on this campaign is forthcoming.

Texas Department of Public Safety – Trooper Anthony Flores reported that on August 28th -30th, 2015 there will be Border to Border patrol on interstates 80 and 35 with special enforcement designated for impaired drivers and drivers that are speeding.

Johnson High School Smart Driving Club – Melinda Cox introduced two new students, Drew Marshall and Jose Goldaracena, from the Smart Driving Club. Ms. Cox also reported that HB80 (use of wireless telephone while driving a motor vehicle as a criminal offense) did not pass on May 31st however she announced that there is still much work to be done.

MADD – Trina Salazar announced that HB2246 passed which allows first time offenders to now have the option of 1) having their license suspended or 2) must have ignition interlock on the vehicles if they are going to drive.

Region 8 Resource Prevention Center – Teresa Stewart reported that on July 9th at the Community Stakeholders meeting they will release the 2015 Regional Needs Assessment from 10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

Closing Remarks:

Next Traffic Jam meeting will be held on August 13, 2015 at TransGuide.