

Texas State Transportation Innovation Council (TxSTIC)

TxSTIC Meeting Summary

May 4, 2023- 10:00 AM – 12:30 pm CST

[Recorded Meeting](#)

MEETING NOTES

Highlights:

- Set-up & Pre-Tech Test performed from 8:30 AM- 9:30 AM- Tech Test was successful.
- Hybrid: In Person & Virtual via Zoom.

Announcements & Reminders:

- Welcome and updates from TxDOT and FHWA

Overview:

- Introspective Safety Minute-Emergency Preparedness and TxDOT Research Portfolio updates presented by Phillip Hempel, TxDOT, Director of Project Management.
- EDC-7 Texas Caucus Survey Results & Texas Homegrown Innovations presented by Shelley Pridgen, TxDOT Research Project, Manager, TxSTIC/EDC Coordinator.

EDC-7 Texas Caucus-Poll Audience for innovation preferences for implementation:

- Nighttime Visibility for Safety,
- Next Gen TIM: Technology for Saving Lives
- Strategic Workforce Development
- Enhancing Performance with Internally Cured Concrete (EPIC2)
- Integrating GHG Assessment and Reduction Targets in Transportation Planning
- EPDs for Sustainable Project Delivery
- Rethinking DBE for Design Build

Texas submitted the following Homegrown Innovations:

- Creating a Resilient Port System in Texas: Assessing and Mitigating Extreme Weather Events (TxDOT & CTR)
 - Houston TranStar Roadway Flood Warning System Expansion (TxDOT)
 - Using Crowdsourced Data to Improve Emergency Response to Roadway Incidents (NCTCOG)
 - Freight Optimization in Dallas-Fort Worth (NCTCOG)
 - Assessing Efficacy of Amphibian and Reptile Exclusion Fence (TxDOT, Tx Ag Ext., and TTI).
 - Perform Feasibility Study on Use of Innovative Tools and Techniques (TxDOT & TTI).
- Updates-Kirk Fauver-FHWA Texas Division, Planning & Research Engineer.
 - EDC-6 final report has been published-For more information, please visit [EDC-6 Final Report](#).
 - The 2023 STIC Excellent Award will be announced soon.
 - Currently, no news to share on the Accelerating Innovation Deployment Demonstration Program. For more information, please visit [AID Demonstration Program](#)

- Deadline to apply for the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program is August 18, 2023. For more information, please visit [PROTECT](#) .
 - Deadline to apply for The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI Program) is June 13, 2023. For more information, please visit [CFI Grant](#)
 - Deadline to apply for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program is July 10, 2023. For more information, please visit [Safe Streets and Roads](#)
 - Mega Grant Program (known as the National Infrastructure Project program) will be coming out in late Spring 2023, the National Culvert Removal, Replacement & Restoration Grants will be out in Winter 23-24 and the SMART grant will be out in the Fall of 2023. For more information, please visit [SMART Grant Program](#)
 - Recently funded project-The Concrete Bridge Engineering Institute (CBEI), CBEI is the center of concrete bridge related research, education, and training at the University of Texas at Austin in the Cockrell School of Engineering. There will be classroom and hands-on training in 3 areas: debt construction, concrete materials to extend the life of concrete bridges and a post tensioning academy to provide hands-on training for the field of solar and inspectors.
 - FHWA sponsored a National State Planning and Research Forum with 111 participants representing the State DOTs and Division Offices across the county. Kevin Pete, Director of RTI participated and provided an overview of TxDOT's 30-million-dollar programs under the Research and Implementation Program.
 - Tennessee DOT is sponsoring the AASHTO 2023 National Research Advisory Committee (RAC) conference in Chattanooga, Tn, July 23-27. For more information, please visit [2023 AASHTO RAC Annual Meeting](#)
- Overview of the Heavy Highway Construction HEO Pilot Project presented by Kim Hunziker, TxDOT, Small Business Workforce Development Analyst.
 - STIC Incentive Project Update- CAD2TMC Project Update-Enhancing Traffic Incident Management (TIM) through CAD presented by Jeff Kaufman, Associate Research Scientist, Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI).
 - STIC Incentive Project Update -Strategic Workforce Development-5-Stage Model to Attract and Retain Employees presented by Kerri Farley, Program Coordinator, TxLTAP
 - How can we Improve Road Safety presented by Chad Smith, Street Superintendent, Public Works, City of Marble Falls.
 - Build a Better Mousetrap presented by Charnette Lucas, Program Manager, TxLTAP
- Updates-Darran Anderson, TxDOT Director of Strategy and Innovation, TxSTIC Co-Chair.
 - Legislature's regular session is ongoing and will run through the end of this month. There are several areas related to Technology, Research and Innovations in Mobility, across the areas of Electrification Data and Data privacy connected to Autonomous Vehicles and Advanced Air Mobility to name a few.
 - If the Electric Vehicles (EV) fee bill passes it will require owners to pay an annual registration fee to offset the cost of gas tax revenue on electric vehicles.
 - There is also a bill that focuses on the Council of State agencies that would plan Electrification statewide into the distant future (2040-2050).
 - There are 5 Autonomous Freight Companies still operating in the State. Two of them have announced plans to be driverless within the next 2 years.
 - During the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) of America conference there was a lot of discussion on Connectivity and Digital Infrastructure. More details to come.
 - Departmental discussions on Traffic Management Centers and what the advancement would be in the future relative to Autonomy as well as data received

- from vehicles and how it can enhance safety operations for the State.
- The Snow Plowing Panhandle Research Project is in discussion to scale the project through the Fleet Division across the State.
 - Strategy for Connected and Autonomous Development in the State was approved, and work has begun to advance the program.
 - Innovation Alliance is hosting an Innovation Invitational with its team members on July 17- 19th.

Q&A Highlights:

Q: We applied for the Accelerating Innovation Deployment Demonstration Program (AID) program back in 2021 for the use of traffic, speed, deflection devices and evaluation of pavement structural condition and planning at the network level but never heard back. *Melanie Alvord-TxDOT Federal Affairs*

A: We will talk to Jeffrey Zaharewicz to find out why and get back to you. *Kirk Fauver-FHWA*

Chat Highlights:

- ASCE International Conference on Transportation & Development (ICTD 2023) in Austin, Texas, June 14-17, 2023. In partnership with Texas Department of Transportation. For more information, please visit [ASCE Conference](#) .
- Build a Better Mousetrap (BABM) Annual Booklet-Highlights innovations of National and State winners: [BABM Annual Booklet](#)