

TxLTAP January Newsletter



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Training Opportunities



Road Safety Champion Program - TxLTAP

It's not too late to join in on some of the upcoming Road Safety Champion Program classes! These hybrid classes are available for Texas City and County employees at no cost.

[- Overview of Data and Tools for Safety \(1/20/2026\)](#)

Open Enrollment Trainings - PWI

[Qualified Flagger Training & Trainer](#)

Jan 20, Houston, \$415

[Traffic Control Supervisor](#)

Jan 21-22, Houston, \$475

[Managing Conflict in the Workplace](#)

Jan 27, Houston, \$445

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[- Joint Training on Crash Reporting \(1/27/2026\)](#)

Jan 28-29, Houston, \$695

[- Systemic Safety Project Selection Tool \(2/3/2026\)](#)

[Employee Performance Plans & Evaluations](#)

Feb 24, Houston, \$445

[Advanced Management Skills](#)

Feb 25-27, Houston, \$995

Featured Articles

TMUTCD Updates

The 2025 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) becomes effective on **January 18, 2026**, following its adoption into state law by the Texas Transportation Commission on November 13, 2025.

The 2025 TMUTCD reflects updates from the national Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), 11th Edition, as well as Texas-specific laws and practices. The national MUTCD was published in the Federal Register on December 19, 2023, with an effective date of January 18, 2024, allowing Texas the required 24-month period to adopt the updated TMUTCD.

TMUTCD updates in TxLTAP Classes

All TxLTAP curriculum impacted by these changes is currently undergoing review and updates. However, beginning **January 18, 2026**, all TxLTAP course instruction will be taught in accordance with the **2025 TMUTCD**, ensuring training content aligns with the new requirements and standards.

[TxDOT 2025 TMUTCD](#)

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Did You Know...Texas Innovation Alliance

The Texas Innovation Alliance (TIA) is a statewide collaboration of transportation stakeholders—including the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), regional and local public agencies, and other partners—designed to accelerate innovation in transportation across Texas. It serves as Texas's official State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) and aims to foster a culture of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and technology deployment to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, and reliability on Texas roadways. TIA supports innovation efforts by facilitating regular information sharing, assisting with federal grant readiness and applications, and hosting events and roundtables to discuss emerging transportation technologies and best practices.

In short, the Texas Innovation Alliance helps connect agencies and practitioners with new tools, funding opportunities, and innovative approaches, so that local and state transportation systems can adapt and improve more rapidly.

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Texas Innovation Alliance

Traffic Control Device of the Month: Truck Mounted Attenuator

Work zones expose public works employees to significant risk, particularly from rear-end collisions involving errant vehicles. One of the most effective pieces of positive

protection used in these environments is the truck-mounted attenuator (TMA). TMAs are crash cushions mounted on the rear of work or shadow vehicles and are designed to absorb impact energy and reduce crash severity.

TMAs provide several key safety benefits for both workers and motorists, including:

***Impact protection:** TMAs absorb the force of a rear-end collision, reducing the severity of crashes and protecting workers positioned ahead of the device.

***Worker safety:** By shielding work vehicles and crews, TMAs significantly reduce the risk of serious injury or fatality when a vehicle intrudes into a work zone.

***Protection during mobile and short-duration work:** TMAs are especially valuable during striping, sweeping, pothole repair, and other operations where workers are frequently exposed to live traffic.

Research has consistently shown that TMAs are not only effective safety devices but also cost-efficient investments. Crashes involving TMAs result in substantially lower crash costs compared to similar crashes without TMAs. The reduction in injuries, fatalities, and property damage often allows agencies to recover the cost of the TMA through avoided crash costs. Even a single prevented severe crash can offset years of equipment costs.

In addition to crash protection, TMAs improve overall work zone awareness by providing high-visibility markings, chevrons, and warning lights that alert drivers to upcoming work activity, encouraging earlier lane changes and speed reduction, improving driver compliance, and serving as a clear visual cue that workers are present ahead.

Advancements in TMA technology continue to improve safety outcomes, including enhanced lighting and reflective materials for better nighttime visibility, automated alert and detection systems that warn crews of approaching vehicles at risk of collision, and integration into comprehensive work zone traffic control and safety planning.

Key Takeaway for Public Works Agencies

Truck-mounted attenuators are a proven, life-saving tool that address one of the most dangerous hazards in work zones - rear-end impacts. When properly deployed, TMAs protect workers, reduce crash severity, and lower overall crash-related costs. For public works departments, TMAs should be considered an essential component of work zone safety,



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National Highway Institute Training Opportunities

The **National Highway Institute** provides a wide range of training developed by the Federal Highway Administration to support transportation professionals. These trainings are delivered mainly through the **Blackboard Learning Management System**, and include:

***Free web-based trainings (WBTs)**: self-paced, online courses you can take anytime.

***Virtual instructor-led trainings (vILTs)**: live online sessions with expert instructors.

***Instructor-led trainings (ILTs)**: in-person classroom courses.

Free Training for Public Works Employees

Hundreds of web-based trainings are available at no cost and can be accessed 24/7 once you create a Blackboard/Login.gov account. These include topics important for local government and public works staff, such as:

Roadway safety fundamentals – core safety strategies and practices for reducing traffic injuries and fatalities that apply directly to local roadway projects and traffic management plans.

Infrastructure and asset management – courses covering bridges, pavements, sidewalks, and other public works infrastructure relevant to maintenance and operations.

Traffic and incident response training – modules that help crews improve incident management, responder safety, and traffic control around work zones. (e.g., National TIM Responder Training, free online offerings)

Planning, design, and construction practices – online sessions on transportation planning, design standards, construction inspection, and more.

Create a Login.gov and Blackboard account (use the same email for both). Log into Blackboard and explore the course catalog to find web-based trainings that match your needs. Register and begin training at your own pace.

[Learn more about NHI Training](#)

Winter Weather Tips

January APWA Reporter

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Even without snow, Texas roads can become dangerous fast when temperatures drop. Ice, especially on bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas, is the biggest threat, and it often forms before drivers realize it.

[View More](#)



The latest issue of the APWA magazine is out and ready for you to read. Take a moment to explore the January 2026 issue and stay connected with what's happening across public works.

[Visit APWA to Read More](#)

Beyond Safety: Protecting Texans Every Mile

Winter weather, darker mornings, and the return of students to school zones all mean drivers need to stay extra alert. Icy patches can form quickly on bridges and shaded areas, and speeding only increases the danger. In 2024, speeding contributed to nearly 160,000 crashes in Texas, causing 1,467 deaths and 5,921 serious injuries (TxDOT *Be Safe. Drive Smart* campaign, 2024). Slowing down and giving yourself more time can prevent serious crashes during winter conditions.

TxDOT's Drive Like a Texan campaign is a reminder to show kindness, patience, and awareness on every trip. Watch for pedestrians near schools, use caution in winter weather, and stay alert in work zones where crews are counting on drivers to help them get home safely. Small choices behind the wheel make a big difference for everyone on the road.

For a closer look at why these choices matter, explore the Drive Like a Texan video stories featuring real Texans and impacts.

[Drive Like a Texan - Featured Stories](#)

No Cost Podcasts Focused on Public Works

 Podcasts Focused on Public Works & Infrastructure

Public Works Podcast — Covers stories, ideas, and challenges faced by public works professionals and departments. Available free on platforms like *Apple Podcasts*, *Spotify*, and *radio.net*.

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The Public Works Nerds — Weekly episodes exploring trends, issues, and practical insights in public works, often with professional guests and discussions on topics like leadership, technologies, and professional organizations.

Infrastructure Matters (by IPWEA) — A global infrastructure-focused podcast that discusses topics like asset management, workforce challenges, and planning from expert guests in the public works sphere.

Whatcom County Public Works Podcast — A department-produced local show that dives into real projects, road maintenance, stormwater issues, and community outreach — helpful for understanding how a public works agency communicates work with the public.

The Public Works Hot Seat Podcast — Explores real challenges public works leaders and crews face, including workforce, funding, and operational pressures.

✦ These podcasts offer real-world insights that reflect everyday public works challenges, promote professional development that enhances safety and operational effectiveness, and are free and accessible, removing barriers to continued learning. Add another powerful tool to your arsenal—tune in today!

Resources & More



Tailgate Talks

Designed for field supervisors to discuss with their workers, Tailgate Talks cover a wide variety of safety topics.

Click the link below to view some resources to help you bring Tailgate Talks to your team.

Be sure to check back for a new Tailgate Talk topic every month.

[View Topics](#)



Build a Better Mousetrap

The FHWA proudly recognizes state, local, and tribal agencies that harness these innovative solutions to enhance their transportation programs through the esteemed annual Build a Better Mousetrap Program. This initiative highlights innovative achievements and encourages collaboration that strengthens transportation systems.

[Learn how your agency can both contribute and benefit!](#)



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