



[ABOUT US](#)

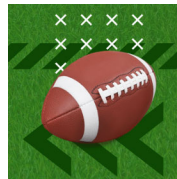
[TxLTAP EMAIL](#)

[AVAILABLE TRAINING](#)

TxLTAP February Newsletter

February 2025
Volume 3 Issue 5

Super Bowl - Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk



Date: February 9, 2025
Sponsoring Organization: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Super Bowl Sunday is a time of celebration and fun, but it's also one of the most dangerous days of the year on the roads due to alcohol-related accidents. Driving under the influence not only puts your life at risk but also endangers passengers, other drivers, and pedestrians.

Plan ahead by designating a sober driver, using rideshare services, or staying overnight at your destination. Making responsible choices ensures everyone can enjoy the game safely and prevents unnecessary tragedies. Remember, the true victory is keeping everyone safe.

- In 2022, there were **13,524** people killed in drunk-driving crashes.
- Approximately **one-third** of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with BACs at or above .08 g/dL).



Charting a Course to Greener Highways

In the latest edition of the Innovator magazine, transportation agencies are collaborating and sharing practices for integrating greenhouse gas emissions analysis into the planning process. View the digital copy by clicking on the magazine cover above!

- Although it's illegal to drive when impaired by alcohol, in 2022 **one person was killed every 39 minutes** in a drunk-driving crash on our nation's roads.
- The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2022 was **2.9 times higher at night** than during the day.
- Males are more likely than females to be driving drunk when involved in fatal crashes — in 2022, 23% of males were drunk, compared to 17% of females.

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$45 Million in Grant Awards for Connected, Active Transportation Infrastructure Projects

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced \$44.5 million in grant awards for communities in 13 states and Puerto Rico under its Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP). Authorized through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the grants will be used to plan, design, and construct projects for connected networks that lead to destinations and make communities safer for bikers and pedestrians while increasing access to public transit.

“Through the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program, communities across the country are making safe and accessible active transportation options a reality,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. “With the grants announced today—made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—towns and cities in more than a dozen states will have funding in place to plan or construct infrastructure that allows people to safely walk, bike, and roll to schools, medical centers, jobs, and other destinations.”

“The grants we're announcing today will expand connectivity in cities and towns large and small by removing obstacles to pedestrian and bicycle networks, especially in disadvantaged communities and areas where people rely on

Subscribe to the
Innovator Magazine



NLTAPA Tailgate Talk: Prevent Slips & Falls on Ice & Snow

Winter weather brings unique challenges, including an increased risk of slips and falls due to icy and snow-covered surfaces. Such incidents account for a significant portion of workers' compensation claims, making it critical to take proactive measures to ensure safety during the colder months. This document provides practical tips and guidelines to help minimize the risks of slip and fall injuries in work areas such as county garages, yards, outposts, districts, and CO locations. By following these recommendations, we can create a safer environment for everyone throughout the winter season.

Slip & Fall Tailgate Talk

Keep up to Date with TxLTAP's Social Media Pages!



public transportation,” said Acting Federal Highway Deputy Administrator Gloria M. Shepherd.

[Read More](#)



Winter Weather Safety Tips

Winter weather brings unique challenges for road users, from icy streets to reduced visibility. Prepare yourself and your team with practical tips to navigate the season safely. Learn how to handle winter hazards, protect workers in icy conditions, and ensure vehicles are ready for the road.

[Safety Tips From NHTSA](#)

[Safety Tips From DPS](#)

Follow TxLTAP on social media to stay up to date with the latest training classes, conference updates, and transportation-related resources.

View, follow, and share to stay informed!

See posts like the ones below and learn more about what we can do for Texas city and county transportation employees!

UTA
Extension and Extended Campus
- TxLTAP -

Installation and Maintenance of Signs & Pavement Markings

LTP515, 16 hours
Max 25 Attendees

Course Topics:

- TWUTCD
- TxDOT Sign Crew Field Book
- Pavement Marking Handbook
- TxDOT Standard Engineering Plans

Course Details:

Participants will learn accepted practices in the application, installation, maintenance, and operation of signs and pavement markings typically used in public roadways.

CONTACT US! | Phone Number: 866.906.9190 | Email: TxLTAP@uta.edu | Website: TxLTAP.org | #EndTheStreakTX

UTA
Extension and Extended Campus
- TxLTAP -

EQUIPMENT LOAD & TIE DOWN

LTP172, 8 hours
Max 15 Attendees

Course Topics:

- Equipment Selection
- Load Weight Transfer
- Tie-down of Equipment
- Trailer Hitches
- Equipment Loading Procedures

Grant-funded Training offered to Texas cities and counties at NO COST!

Request training today!
TxLTAP.org
TxLTAP@uta.edu
866.906.9190

#EndTheStreakTX


See What's Inside the New TxLTAP Course Catalog!

We are thrilled to announce that our new catalog is out! This exciting resource is designed to enhance local road systems across Texas, providing essential tools and training that will empower our communities. At TxLTAP, we are deeply committed to supporting local government agencies by offering specialized training resources that prioritize employee safety and performance. We encourage you to explore the diverse offerings within the catalog, which includes customized training programs and technical assistance from industry experts. Together, we can foster workforce development and strengthen our transportation community through collaboration and shared goals. We invite you to take full advantage of the valuable resources in this catalog to elevate your team's skills and confidence!

[Click on the catalog image to download your digital copy today!](#)



Road Safety Champion Program Registration is Still Open!



Road Safety Champion Program

The RSCP is a certificate program focused on reducing serious injuries and fatalities by building a workforce skilled in road safety.

It includes seven main courses and two specialized paths, open to **Texas city and county employees.**

Core Module + One Pathway =

Contact us to learn more!
Email: txltap@uta.edu
Phone: +1 817 227 6698

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


PATHWAYS

MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION PATHWAY

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

PLANNING & ENGINEERING PATHWAY

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



The Road Safety Champion Program (RSCP) is in full swing, but it's not too late to join! This flexible program offers essential safety training tailored for professionals working to improve roadway safety. With courses covering key topics like traffic

safety culture, human factors, and more, you can complete the program at your own pace.

[View Program Details Here!](#)

Weather-Responsive Management Strategies

FHWA Every Day Counts
Innovation of the Month



Adverse road weather conditions are present during nearly 14 percent of fatal crashes in the United States, representing nearly 72,000 fatal crashes from 2013 to 2022. Additionally, during this time, approximately 1 percent of total motor vehicle crashes occurred during severe crosswinds.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has implemented a high-wind alert system on multiple bridges across the State to provide real-time wind speed information during severe weather events from each monitored bridge structure. This system, the Bridge Wind Speed Alerting System, gathers information that assists transportation managers with bridge closure decisions. Wind data are then instantly delivered to FDOT regional traffic management centers and public safety officials.

Prior to this innovation, Florida's law enforcement officers were taking periodic wind speed measurements during inclement weather and high wind conditions to inform agency staff for making bridge closure decisions. Doing so put law enforcement personnel in harm's way and occupied an officer during a time when their support may have been needed elsewhere. Installation of these bridge wind speed monitors required FDOT develop a mounting method that could be performed quickly to minimize lane closure time but also robust enough to withstand bridge vibrations and severe wind conditions. FDOT configured and tested each data collection platform on a rooftop test stand prior to deployment to avoid return visits to installed bridges. Since implementation, the Bridge Wind Speed Alerting System has been deployed across 18 locations, including critical waterway bridges, interchange flyovers, barrier island bridges, and other critical locations in the Jacksonville area.

FDOT has also integrated wind speed data and alerts into its Data Integration and Video Aggregation System (DIVAS), which was developed to provide authorized local public safety and emergency management personnel with accurate real-time information. DIVAS enables FDOT and local officials to monitor wind alert data securely online without compromising FDOT internal network performance or security.

The **Weather-Responsive Management Strategies** (WRMS) initiative promotes using road weather data from mobile and connected vehicle (CV) technologies to support traffic and maintenance management strategies during inclement weather. The goal is to improve safety and reliability, as well as to reduce the environmental impacts on the transportation system from adverse weather. To learn more about this FDOT innovation or other **WRMS** technologies, please contact **David Johnson**, FHWA Office of Operations.

Read More - Road Weather Management

Visit Our Booths!

Check out where TxLTAP will be at the following events!

**TX-APWA 2025 Public Workshop
and Equipment Roadeo**



- **When:** February 10, 2025 - February 12, 2025
- **Where:** College Station, Tx

[Visit for More Information](#)

**VG Young Institute School for
County Commissioners Court**



- **When:** February 18, 2025 - February 20, 2025
- **Where:** Brazos County Expo Center

[Visit for More Information](#)

Focus on Build a Better Mousetrap



2024 Bold Steps Award

Street Sweeper Conversion to Leaf Vac Unit West Lafayette Street and Sanitation Department (INLTAP)

What was the challenge?

Leaf pickup is an important service of the West Lafayette Street and Sanitation Department. Existing leaf vac units were on trailers and took two people to operate; a driver and a leaf vac operator that would stand on the trailer and operate the vac hose. Several challenges were encountered during this process including: the need for two employees to operate with a limited workforce, the safety aspect of the operator on the trailer, the need for a CDL level A to operate the truck and trailer, and the limited funds to purchase equipment when needed.

How did you develop and implement your solution?

To address the challenges of workforce availability, workforce safety, operational efficiency, and cost-effectiveness, the street and sanitation team explored the opportunity to re-purpose a street sweeper chassis. By extending the chassis frame, placing the leaf vac unit on the frame instead of a trailer, and wiring the unit so the leaf vac hose can be operated within the cab of the truck, it allows the driver to be located on the right side of the unit for better visibility of leaf pickup operations. Many used street sweeper units are sold due to street sweeper machine failure. The street sweeper bodies and chassis are generally in good condition and have the same engine configuration as leaf vacs. With the talents of in-house mechanic staff, the department purchased used street sweepers and re-purposed the truck and chassis for leaf vac operations.

What labor, equipment, plans, or materials did it take to make the solution work?

- Used street sweeper = \$3,000
- Mechanical parts and hydraulic hoses = \$1,500
- Labor of in-house mechanic staff = \$50/hour

What was the cost of implementation?

A new leaf vac unit cost over \$200,000 and the converted unit of a street sweeper to a leaf vac machine averaged \$10,000 depending on the used street sweeper cost. We were also able to sell used parts of the street sweeper to recoup the purchase costs.

What was the positive impact/results/outcome?

The innovation has reduced workforce needs in half, with only one person required to drive and operate the unit, resulting in a savings of over \$16,000 in labor costs per truck. With five trucks in operation, the department has saved \$80,000 total in leaf pickup operations. It has also reduced the need to have CDL level A drivers on staff. Now, units can be operated by a CDL level B driver. Employee safety has increased by having the operators remain in the vehicle (not on the trailer) and located on the curbside of the unit for better visibility of leaf pickup operations.

Source: West Lafayette Street and Sanitation Department
 Contact: Paul Kull, (765) 775-5242
 pkull@westlafayette.in.gov

Share Your Innovative Designs Today!

TxLTAP Partners

FHWA

APWA

TxDOT

NACE

NLTAPA



[Build a Better Mousetrap \(BABM\)](#) program by the FHWA showcases innovative solutions to everyday challenges faced by local and tribal transportation professionals.

Sign-Up for eNewsletter!

[The Every Day Counts \(EDC\)](#) initiative by FHWA promotes innovations to accelerate highway project delivery, improve safety, and reduce costs with support for strategies.



Subscribe to EDC News!



"Texas has lost at least one person every day on Texas roads since Nov. 7, 2000." Join TxDOT and Texans on ending the streak of daily deaths on our Texas roads.
#EndTheStreakTx

End the Streak Digital Toolkit

Move Over or Slow Down. Be Safe and drive smart. The state's Move over of Slow Down law enforces drivers to keep the roads safe for all. Drive Smart and Drive Safe! Keep Texas roadways and roadside workers safe.



Move Over Slow Down Resources



Contact Us
817-272-2581



TxLTAP | 140 W. Mitchell Street | Arlington, TX 76019 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!