

Breakout 6: Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

Moderator: Robert Benz, Research and Implementation Division, TTI

Session Summary:

The three presentations in this session covered a variety of bicycle and pedestrian issues. Data drives the process to determine where the safety issues are located, and provides essential details on the involved parties so the best reduction strategies can be formulated. Each presenter focused on a safety issue and provided insight, alternatives, solutions and programs that could or are reducing the frequency or severity of bicyclist and pedestrian-involved crashes.

Seema Patel provided background data and local statistics from the trauma registry that is used to focus Texas Children's Hospital education program *Safe Kids, Walk This Way!* The program is implemented as a one day program to teach kids safe pedestrian behavior. She described some of the benefits of working directly with students in their local environment and the limitations of only being a one day program at each location, which does not provide the desired ongoing training and follow-up. Ms. Patel also presented some of the lessons learned and future directions of the program.

Dr. Gregory Istre provided some national and local statistics on pedestrian crashes on urban interstate highways and expressways with particular emphasis on "unintended pedestrians." Multiple data sources were linked to make comparisons and extrapolations. Almost 41% of the motor vehicle deaths on the interstates examined are pedestrians. Most occurred at night and there was alcohol involvement. What message should be sent to persons stranded on an expressway? Potential countermeasures or aids that could reduce the occurrence of unintended pedestrian fatalities include surveillance cameras, motorist assistance programs, lighting, and education.

Preston Tyree, League of American Bicyclists, provided cyclist operating characteristics, facility types and the elements of a good bicycle facility design:

- Provisions to accommodate or encourage bicycling
- Any roadway is a bicycle facility; so you can't make it unsafe
- Encourages operation in accordance with traffic law
- Connects destinations
- View bicyclists as operators of vehicles
- Accommodates cyclists without inconvenience or extra travel distance.

Examples of both good and bad designs were illustrated as well as some great examples of where a driver and cyclist focus visually when approaching an intersection.