

Closing Plenary Session

The closing session on November 19, moderated by TTI Agency Director Dennis Christiansen, focused on state legislative issues concerning transportation safety. It included presentations by Texas House Transportation Committee member Representative Jim Murphy and Steven Polunsky, Committee Director of the Texas Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee. In addition to summarizing significant legislative actions in recent sessions and the legislative agenda for the 2009, the political realities of legislating safety solutions were noted by both speakers. Representative Murphy noted that sometimes neither technical knowledge nor political will provides the driving force in improving traffic safety. Rather, the “power of persistence” of the public is often what really drives safety forward as a legislative priority. A lively question and answer period from the floor followed the presentations.