Hello from Austin, Texas. As we reach the end of another year, I find it appropriate to look at what we have accomplished this year, where did we miss, and what is ahead of us.

In this year of more virtual meetings, working from home, and seeing a small resemblance of pre-pandemic events as we were able to host some in-person trainings, meetings, and conferences. I am hopeful these are all positive signs and we are nearing the end of the pandemic. As more folks become more comfortable with in-person meetings, I am hopeful I will be seeing many of you very soon.

Due to some of the challenges mentioned above, we did not set lofty goals for TIM. The approach from your statewide team was “let’s get back to basics” as we revisited many of the laws in place that support all TIM activities. It is a good reminder that safe quick clearance is not just lip service as we have very progressive laws in place to support the 3 goals: responder safety, safe quick clearance, and prompt reliable interoperable communication.

Some of our accomplishments were getting back to in-person meetings. A new TIM team was established in NE San Antonio and referred to as NESA (Northeast San Antonio). Our training moved from virtual to in-person as we hosted two 4-hour TIM trainings, one in Pearsall and the other in Childress. Much momentum was gained in Childress and we should be starting up our first Rural TIM team early next year. We also hosted a Train-the-Trainer at the San Antonio Police Academy.

So where did we miss? As of the writing of this newsletter, we lost 4 responders in Texas this year who made the ultimate sacrifice. We had many more struck and injured. I hope that you all share this burden on getting these numbers to Zero.

As we look toward 2022, data will be driving the ship. We are participating in FHWA Every Day Counts 6 (EDC6) and have chosen computer-aided dispatch (CAD) integration as our focus area. Having a clear understanding of where we are in our clearance activities in all things traffic will allow us to tailor our TIM programs, evaluate policies and procedures, training needs, and any additional deficiencies to ensure that Everybody Goes Home.

On behalf of the the Statewide TIM Coordinator, David McDonald, and the entire statewide TIM Team, we would like to thank you for your tireless, dedicated work to serve, protect, rescue, and heal the citizens of the great state of Texas.

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas and may the New Year bring you joy and peace.
The New North East San Antonio (NESA) TIM Team

Cecil Arient, San Antonio TIM Coordinator, AECOM

Nearly 2 years later after the discussion of creating a Northeast San Antonio TIM Team, the foundation has been set. COVID-19 has once again showed its sour demeanor and like so many other functions and activities has slowed the progress to a snail’s pace. With the groundbreaking of the new I-35 Northeast Expansion Central Project (NEX-35) starting early next year, it was imperative to get all first responders in the area rounded up before the project kicks off. The first of the three projects (NEX Central) will add 3 lanes of elevated freeway each direction from north to south starting at Comal County (FM3009) to south I-410 in San Antonio. This design-build project alone is expected to cost $1.5 billion with a duration of 6.5 years. The I-35 NEX project is expected to improve safety and mobility, address increase in traffic growth, reduce travel time and serve regional traffic. You can only imagine the complexity of this design for first responders trying to locate car crashes, fires, or hazmat spills.

Cecil Arient, the San Antonio TIM Coordinator consultant for TxDOT, was tasked with standing up the first Northeast San Antonio TIM Team known as the NESA TIM Team. The very first in-person meeting was held on September 30th, 2021 and had over 30 members attend. The majority of the NESA TIM Team is focused around the I-35 corridor to the northeast of San Antonio. Many small cities and towns comprise the team such as Cibolo, Converse, Live Oak, Schertz, Selma, and Universal City, to name a few. When asked about the first meeting, Cecil stated, “He was most proud that every discipline was represented at the first meeting including TxDOT maintenance, Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO), and even the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).” David McDonald, the Texas Statewide TIM Coordinator attended as well for the preliminary meeting. The NESA TIM Team is slated to meet bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. The Schertz #3 Fire Station has graciously volunteered to host the next meeting.

Texas TIM Team Recognized at 2021 ITS Texas Convention in Dallas

The Texas TIM Team, led by TxDOT State TIM Coordinator David McDonald, was recognized by the Intelligent Transportation Society of Texas “for contribution to the use and promotion of Intelligent Transportation systems in Texas.” Intelligent Transportation Systems, commonly known as ITS, is using computer systems and state-of-the-art communications to make travel on roadways smarter, faster, safer, and more convenient for the motoring public. ITS has integrated the TIM program as a crucial component to the overall program, both statewide and nationally. Computer-aided dispatcher (CAD) from 911 center dispatch, Traffic Management Center (TMC) Operations (including high-resolution cameras and CAD-to-TMC integration), and upgraded digital communications are a small part of the TIM program that ITS Texas integrates into an overall Texas highway design for the future.

The award, presented to Mr. McDonald by Joe Hunt, 2021 ITS Texas President (both pictured above), is a tremendous honor for the statewide TIM team. The recognition at the statewide convention brings the TIM program much needed exposure to the executive-level attendees to ensure the continuation and expansion of TIM programs throughout the state.

Mr. McDonald has also been a featured speaker several times on the monthly national TIM webinar, Talking TIM, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The webinar, held every 4th Wednesday of each month discusses innovations in training, equipment, public awareness programs, and innovations from all over the country.

Welcome to the New Austin TIM Coordinator, Scott Caswell

Scott Caswell is the new Austin TIM Coordinator. He is responsible for ensuring that the TMC uses TIM best practices, ensures all staff have the necessary TIM training, and facilitates the AIM High TIM meetings, while also working with the TxDOT Statewide TIM Coordinator, supporting the TxDOT statewide TIM program.

Scott was born in Austin TX and raised in Victoria TX. After high school he attended Victoria College, before entering the US Marine Corps. After serving his country for 4 years, he joined the Austin Fire Department, reaching the rank of Lieutenant, before retiring in July 2021, after an amazing and rewarding 31 year career.

Scott has been married to his wife Laura for 28 years, and they have a son that is attending the University of Texas. He lives northwest of Austin, in Liberty Hill, TX. Scott enjoys going to Longhorn baseball games, sports cars, and fishing at the gulf coast.
Training, training, training - these are the top three ways to keep our first responders safe on roadways in Texas! All fifty states and the District of Columbia have Move Over Laws designed to help keep everyone safe. But training is the key to survival. Below are the training numbers for Texas and the locations of classes held for first responder TIM training. Thank you to all of the trainers throughout the state for your extraordinary efforts to keep our responders safe. Training trainers, first responders, and the motoring public about the dangers of working on highways helps to ensure that Everyone Goes Home!

The numbers presented here were numbers reported to the FHWA by the instructors.

Numbers after the city name indicate the total number of first responder trained in 2021 in that area.

There were 24 TIM for First Responder Training Classes held for a total of 330 first responders trained in 2021.

The average class size was 14 students.

In addition to the current 68.1% (53,344) of first responders trained in Texas, the Texas TIM Team held the first virtual SHRP2 Train-the-Trainer Classes in the United States in 2020. In 2020 and 2021, instructors throughout the state have trained 234 TIM trainers (134 in 2020 and 100 in 2021).

The TIM training is mandatory for both police and fire personnel in Texas. If you or someone in your agency would like to be a TIM trainer contact the statewide TIM coordinator, David McDonald.
Available Classes

NCTCOG First Responder & Manager’s Course
2020 Class Schedule
616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX, 76005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>First Responder</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 3 and 4, 2022</td>
<td>In-Person (Day 1, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Day 2, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) NCTCOG 616 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX 76005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21 and 22, 2022</td>
<td>In-Person (Day 1, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Day 2, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) NCTCOG 616 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX 76005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16 and 17, 2022</td>
<td>In-Person (Day 1, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Day 2, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) NCTCOG 616 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX 76005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact NCTCOG to verify the above classes will be held.

For SHRP2 TIM Train-the-Trainer Classes
Off-Site Classes Available
Contact David McDonald: david.mcdonald@txdot.gov
Contact Camille Fountain: cfountain@nctcog.org

TIM Meetings

Texas Statewide TIM Webinar
Dec. 15, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.
Feb. 16, 2022 @ 9:00 a.m.
Apr. 20, 2022 @ 9:00 a.m.

Every third Wednesday, every other month.

The cities of Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio all have local TIM meetings that discuss local TIM operations.

Contact David McDonald for Meetings and Webinar information: david.mcdonald@txdot.gov or (512) 506-5105.

There will be a TIM Train the Trainer Training Course offered for any agency that needs TIM trainers and will train others in TIM.

Fort Worth Police and Fire Public Safety Training Center
February 22 and 23, 2022, 8AM-5PM and 8AM-Noon
511 W. Felix St. Fort Worth, TX.76115

To register for the above Train-the-Trainer classes, email David.McDonald@txdot.gov

Questions about training requirements or to set up a training class in your area?

Please contact David McDonald, Statewide TIM Coordinator
david.mcdonald@txdot.gov, (512) 965-2515
These “heroes of highways” do much more than change tires! They are an integral part of everyday traffic management and safety for the motoring public AND for emergency, TxDOT and public utility workers on Texas roadways! Their dedication and hard work save hundreds of lives each year and save millions of dollars in commercial, private and municipal revenue by keeping our highways open and moving safely.

### Austin HERO
- CL miles covered: 142
- Incidents: 8,954
- Service to public: 11,786

### Dallas Courtesy Patrol
- CL miles covered: 260
- Incidents: 6,312
- Service to public: 16,219

### Fort Worth Courtesy Patrol
- CL miles covered: 177
- Incidents: 151
- Service to public: 5,119

### El Paso HERO
- CL miles covered: 212
- Incidents: 5,609
- Service to public: 14,933

### Houston Motorist Assistance Program
- CL miles covered: 244
- Incidents: 6,847
- Service to public: 20,541

### North Texas Tollway Authority
- CL miles covered: 156
- Incidents: 7,524
- Service to public: 11,743

### North Tarrant TEXpress
- Saint Louis TEXpress
- LBJ Tollway
- CL miles covered: 211
- Incidents: 232
- Service to public: 703

### July-September 2021 Texas Totals
- Total Lane Miles—1,641
- Incidents—47,199
- Services to Public—106,850

### San Antonio HERO
- CL miles covered: 239
- Incidents: 11,570
- Service to public: 25,806
Local and National News

Vehicle Emergency Lighting and Marking

Here is a list of resources that give the case for upgrading and improving apparatus emergency lighting.

Read More >>

First responders celebrate TIM collaboration

Nebraska first responders celebrate a new era of collaboration in the state TIM program, adding higher training numbers and more agencies to the TIM roster.

Read More >>

The New Texas TIM Team in Childress and Coordinator, Nicole Tyler

A Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT), Nicole Tyler started her TxDOT career in 2014. Nicole’s passion to never see another preventable traffic death or incapacitating injury became more of a reality when she began work for TxDOT’s Behavioral Traffic Safety Section in December of 2018. In her current TxDOT role she serves as the Traffic Safety Specialist (TSS) for the Childress District and the Statewide EMS Program Area Manager. “EMS work is vital but is very reactive by nature”, said Nicole. As a TSS, I felt that I was finally doing proactive work to prevent fatalities on our roadways.”

As a TSS, Nicole promotes traffic safety initiatives to all ages, from the ‘not-here-yet’ baby to the distinguished mature driver. She manages several federally funded traffic safety grants from all over the state. As the EMS Program Area Manager, she strives to improve EMS availability, response, care, and support provided to motor vehicle trauma victims to increase survivability. Speaking about her new role in the TIM program, Nicole said, “Merging these two worlds (EMS & Traffic Safety) together has been pivotal in my goal to be a catalyst of change to end preventable deaths, and now I get to add TIM training which is like the icing on the cake.”

Nicole Tyler became a TIM Instructor in September 2021 and by November she held her first training and the first TxDOT Childress District TIM Team was created. The TxDOT Childress District has thirteen counties, and she has plans to bring TIM to all of these counties. In November 2021, she presented TIM at the Texas Maintenance/Traffic Conference to key stakeholders from all over the state and she has presented the overwhelming TIM need for EMS professionals to the State EMS Director and the EMS Regional Area Councils (RACs).

Nicole lives in Childress with her husband and four children, Jocelyn (19), Zeth (13), Aeryn (11), and Blake(11). Her husband, Daniel, serves his community as the Fire Chief, active Paramedic, current Police Academy Cadet, and a TIM Instructor. “As a family of first responders, we have a deep passion to ensure the safety of ourselves, other responders, and the traveling public. We both want to come home to each other and our children every day. It’s our duty to help ensure everyone else goes home to their families as well.”

Faces of the Fallen - Remembering Our Comrades

We are fortunate that we have had no first responders struck and killed in the July-September. The last newsletter release without a first responder death in Texas was the third quarter of 2020.

We share the grief of our sister agencies and mourn the 51 first responders that have lost their lives on United States highways this year.

To read responder Struck-By Incidents: Click Here >>>