

Birmingham Regional Coalition

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
2 20th Street North, Suite 1200, Birmingham, AL 35203
November 17, 2015

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

Name	Organization/Agency
Becky Malenke	Neel-Schaffer, Inc. / ALSITE
Bill King	SouthEast Child Safety (ThinkFirst and Safe
Brandon Denny	Sain Associates
Clay Ingram	AAA
Danena Gaines	Cambridge Systematics
David Schwehel	UAB
Despina Stavrinou	UAB Psychology
Folashade Ayanwale	ADPH
Harry He	RPCGB
Henry Ikwat-Ukwa	Birm Jeff Cty Transit Authority (BJCTA)
James Fowler	UAB
Jim Meads	Sain Associates
Linda Crockett	ALDOT
Linda Guin	FHWA, AL Division
Lindsey West	Zyp BikeShare
Luana Ozelim	UA-UTCA
Lynne Wilman	ADECA
Marie Crew	Children's Alabama Safe Kids
Mike Kaczorowski	RPCBG
Randy K. Smith	UA - CAPS
Ray D. Pugh	ALDOT - Modal Programs
Richard Topping	ALDOT
Sam Meriwether	ADECA
Scott Tillman	RPCGB
Sonya Baker	ALDOT - Safety Operations
Stephanie Vereen	UA - UTCA

Susan Herbel	Cambridge Systematics
Tim Barnett	ALDOT - Safety Operations
Waymon Benifield	Schaffer
Willy Giron	UA-UTCA
Zeke Willis	City of Birmingham - Traffic Engineer

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Project Purpose and Need**
- **RPCGB Regional Context**
- **Emphasis Area - Survey Results**
- **Emphasis Area - Crash Data**
- **Selecting RPCGB Emphasis Areas**
- **Potential Countermeasures**
- **RPCGB Regional Safety Action Plan**
- **Next Steps**

Welcome & Introductions

Stephanie Vereen, Ph.D. (University of Alabama) welcomed meeting attendees and had participants to introduce themselves.

Project Purpose and Need

Stephanie reviewed the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) update process and provided a summary of the activities completed to date. A bottom up approach will be used to update Alabama's SHSP based on the regional safety plans developed as a part of the pilot project. In the first meeting, the group reviewed high level crash data and discussed potential programs and countermeasures. The purpose of this meeting is to identify the emphasis areas to be included in the Birmingham Regional Safety Action Plan, review detailed emphasis area level data and identify potential countermeasures.

RPCGB Regional Context

Randy Smith, Ph.D. (University of Alabama) reviewed some of the high level data presented in meeting #1 showing the number of crash, fatal crashes and serious injury crashes in the region, compared to statewide totals.

Emphasis Area - Survey Results

Stephen Jones, Ph.D. (University of Alabama) presented the results of the emphasis area needs survey conducted with Birmingham stakeholders prior to the meeting. Participants were asked to participate in the online survey by identifying the top safety challenges in the region, based on their experiences. Table 1 shows the results of the survey.

Table 1 - Emphasis Area Survey Results

Ranking	Emphasis Areas
1	Distracted Drivers
2	Speeding
3	Aggressive Drivers
4	Impaired Driver
5	Intersection
6	Roadway Departure
7	Younger Driver (15-25)
8	Unrestrained
9	Pedestrians
10	Bicycles

Table 2 shows the top 5 emphasis areas based on crash data analysis.

Table 2 - Emphasis Data Analysis

Ranking	Emphasis Areas
1	Roadway Departure
2	Aggressive Drivers
3	Younger Driver (15-25)
4	Unrestrained
5	Intersections

Emphasis Area – Crash Data

Danena Gaines, Ph.D. (Cambridge Systematics) presented a comparison of the top 5 emphasis areas selected by survey participants to the top five emphasis areas identified by the data analysis. For each of the top 5 emphasis areas, actual fatal and serious injury crashes were compared.

Selecting RPCGB Emphasis Areas

Danena Gaines led a discussion with the group to identify three or four emphasis areas to target in the regional plan. The group agreed most of the fatal and serious injury crashes occur because of driver inexperience, impairment, speed or distraction. The roadway departure and intersection crashes mostly occur for these same reasons.

Each participant was asked to select their number one emphasis area to address. Table 3 shows the results.

Table 3 – Top Emphasis Area (after reviewing survey and data results)

Distracted Driving - 13	Intersections - 3	Unrestrained - 1
Roadway Departure - 5	Speeding - 2	Aggressive Driving - 1
Young Drivers - 4		

The group selected distracted driving, young drivers, speeding and impaired driving as the emphasis areas for the Birmingham plan.

Potential Countermeasures

Susan Herbel, Ph.D. facilitated a discussion on potential countermeasures for the Birmingham Regional Plan. Potential countermeasures should be derived from expanding existing successful programs, identifying new programs/projects based on research, and creating new programs which may require an evaluation plan to determine effectiveness. When possible countermeasures should cover the 4 E's, engineering, education, enforcement and emergency services. The following agencies/organizations summarized current programs and countermeasures:

ADECA – Lynn Wilman

- Providing funds for overtime enforcement to local law enforcement agencies
- Two rounds of enforcement campaigns (Click It or Ticket, etc.)
- Data driven, sustained visible enforcement

- Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program (TSRP)
- Year round impaired driving campaign (Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over)
- Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training program
- Child passenger safety program (1 full time technician)
- CAPS Data/Information improvements

AAA – Clay Ingram

- Teen driver education programs (classroom, online, etc.)
- Senior driver education programs (classroom, online, etc.)
- Research on the national level (teen driving, traffic cameras, etc.)
- Involvement in safety related legislative issues (GDL, seat belts, etc.)

ALDOT Safety – Waymond Benifield

- Safety outreach (providing data to various county and city engineers)
- CARE training
- Identify roadways with over represented crashes
- Overtime enforcement, training on crash report completion
- Safety outreach at various schools, sporting events, etc.
- Public service announcements (on engineering and behavioral related issues)

ALDOT Safety – Tim Barnett

- Responsible for the built environment
- Provides safety related analysis and technical assistance throughout the planning and design stage
- Manages Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), \$60 million annually
- Local road safety training (county and city engineers)
- Intersection design and operations

RPCGB Regional Safety Action Plan

The RPCGB Regional Safety Action Plan will be developed to include an action plan for each of the four selected emphasis areas. The action plan will include objectives, strategies, steps and owners for each strategy. The action plans will be a living document and will be revised as programs are implemented and new programs/projects are identified.

The project team will hosts a series of emphasis area task force webinars to begin developing an action plan for each emphasis area. Participants will be asked to participate in a survey to identify emphasis areas they want to participate in and available dates for webinars. The action plans will be finalized at the next RPCGB meeting in February 2016 (date TBD).

Next Steps

- The project team will distribute a meeting summary and the presentation for the meeting.
- Coalition members will be asked to participate in a survey to select the emphasis area task forces they want to assist.
- Emphasis area task forces will be scheduled and facilitated by the team to develop draft action plans for each emphasis area.
- The next coalition meeting will be held in February 2016 (date TBD) to finalize action plans.