



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

20 Years of Working Together for Safer Streets

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

10 AM – 12 PM

Presented Via Zoom; 59 attendees

All presentations and related meeting materials are available on the [RSTF Website](#).

Opening Remarks

Kaylen Phillips, DVRPC, called the meeting to order at 10 am, welcomed attendees, and relayed housekeeping information. Kaylen then introduced Greg Krykewycz, DVRPC, who gave opening remarks. 2025 marks the 20th anniversary of the RSTF, and Greg expressed gratitude for the hard work of those involved and appreciated the many safety improvements made possible by the Task Force over the last two decades.

RSTF Pennsylvania co-chair Cathy Spahr, Delaware County, reviewed the meeting's agenda and gave a brief overview of the RSTF's big-picture goal of eliminating serious injuries and fatalities from crashes in the region by 2050. She then presented a poll asking how long each attendee had been with the group and what they believe are the three top goals of the RSTF. Kaylen summarized the results of the poll: most respondents were interested in educating and shifting safety culture within the industry (51%), sharing best practices (51%), and discussing specific safety problems and solutions (49%). Many respondents also showed interest in creating and compiling tools to advance safety work (43%), educating and spreading safety awareness to the public (40%), and spotlighting work within the region (31%), though few wished to deepen relationships and networking (11%) or give feedback on DVRPC safety work (0%). Additionally, the poll revealed 31% of respondents have been with the RSTF for less than a year, 41% from 1 to 4 years, 11% from 5 to 10 years, and 14% 10 or more years.

RSTF 20-Year Retrospective

Kevin Murphy, DVRPC, offered a history of the RSTF, beginning around 2005, when local safety-conscious forums emerged in PA and NJ while DVRPC was preparing its long-range plan; the RSTF subsequently emerged from a consensus that safety professionals and stakeholders should pool their resources to improve transportation safety at regional level. The first meeting was held on September 12th, 2005, and Kevin provided a screenshot from this early meeting and offered a brief overview of why the RSTF is important. He also highlighted the evolving nature of the forum through various key developments, including the first Regional Safety Action Plan (SAP) in 2007, the introduction of action items in 2010, breakout groups in 2015, and the embrace of Regional Vision Zero in 2023. He also presented several statistics: the DVRPC has held 70 meetings with over 100 member organizations, 150 guest speakers and panelists, and more than 2500 attendees. He then introduced Rosemarie Anderson, FHWA, who originally founded the RSTF back in 2005. Rosemarie introduced herself to the

group and thanked those who have carried on her legacy in the two decades since, and encouraged planners and engineers to continue working hard to fill in the gaps in transportation safety.

Panelist Rapid Presentations

Next, Kaylen introduced a panel of three guest speakers, who then introduced themselves and the context of their work via rapid presentations.

Ashley Moran, Acadiana Planning Commission (ACP), first explained that all MPOs in Louisiana are part of the State Highway Safety Plan, a state-wide plan that coordinates quarterly visions and goals as well as direct support like access to data dashboards. Though Louisiana's approach is top-down, the ACP works with individuals and communities in the greater Lafayette area to improve safety and address various emphasis areas, including impaired drivers, occupant protection, and distracted driving. Ashley presented a series of photos documenting an array of examples of the group's community engagement in action—talking to local TV and media, posters to promote bicycle safety awareness, free shirts for college students who wear their seatbelts, publicized checkpoints to reduce impaired driving, free child safety seat installations, and distracted driving checks for high schoolers.

Ellen Zavisca, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), introduced herself, noting her prior experience working with the Knoxville MPO for 18 years before her involvement with AMPO. Next, she explained that AMPO works with more than 70% of MPOs—over 400, including DVRPC as a new member. She then gave an overview of AMPO's function, explaining it is made up of numerous committees and interest groups ranging from Transit and Socioeconomic Planning to GIS & Data, as well as a recently added Safety interest group, reflecting a trend in safety prioritization in MPOs nationwide. She then explained how access to timely and reliable crash data is a frequent challenge in safety planning, and how reported police crash data often represents only the “tip of the iceberg” with regard to total crashes. Lastly, Ellen shared some of the ways MPOs can connect with AMPO, including an online member forum, public webinars, and their annual conference to be held this September in Providence, RI, which will include three panels on safety.

Erik Braaten, Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), introduced himself and provided an overview of the DRCOG. DRCOG, representing 8 counties and 60% of Colorado's population, works on transportation, growth and development, and aging and disability in the Denver area. Next, he introduced DRCOG's Regional Vision Zero Working Group, which originally served as a steering committee to create the Vision Zero Action Plan but has evolved into a valuable space for plan improvement, resource sharing, and SS4A grant implementation assistance. Erik also spoke about the Crash Data Consortium, a group that meets triannually and seeks to identify and address challenges in the collection and use of crash data; he also showcased the Crash Data Dashboard, a valuable tool utilized by various groups within the Denver area.

Panelist Discussion

Following these presentations, Kaylen moderated questions for the three panelists. The following summary of the discussion is paraphrased, and the language should not be taken as direct quotes.

1. Could you describe the meeting structure and logistics of their groups for those planning their own working groups or committees?
 - Ashley Moran explained that the APC uses very action-oriented quarterly goals.

- Erik Braaten described how the meetings of DRCOG's RVZ Working Group are presentation-centered so that partners can share and learn from each other.
 - Ellen Zavisca explained how the MPO she worked with did a joint review of fatal crashes, a holistic approach to transportation safety that was effective in building relationships.
2. What are your group's main goals, both explicitly and informally?
 - Ashley explained how APC has focused primarily on building relationships (and the MPO's "brand") to highlight how they can serve as a resource for improving safety even through nontraditional partnerships.
 - Erik noted that DRCOG has embraced a Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities by 2040 and serious injuries by 2045. Additionally, the groups are focused on exchanging information between partners, implementing their Vision Zero action plan, and addressing issues such as inadequate safety data.
 - Ellen elaborated on the aforementioned joint review of fatal crashes, recalling an important discovery in partnership with medical examiners' offices that deaths from intoxicated driving are highly underreported.
 3. What are the membership demographics in terms of industry and background? How do you ensure it makes sense for members to be involved? How do you ensure members feel valued?
 - Ashley explained that the group asks itself who will help reach quarterly goals, and seeks to assemble a wide net of participants with valuable interests or perspectives.
 - Erik noted there is crossover in membership between their Crash Data Consortium and Regional Vision Zero Working Group. It can be difficult to maintain a representative list of members since individuals throughout the region change positions/agencies.
 - Ellen opened by saying that it is important both to feed people and to translate the conversation across professions since industry jargon and a lack of diversity in perspectives can create silos. This work may therefore take more time.
 4. What is the role of these groups in gathering and sustaining reliable crash data?
 - Ashley noted that Louisiana provides highly reliable and updated crash data, facilitated by a valuable crash [data analysis platform](#) provided through a partnership with Louisiana State University. This allows the MPO to direct implementation funds to the proper locations more efficiently.
 - Ellen suggested that groups outside Louisiana consider the software AASHTOWare, if their state DOT does not provide quality crash data.
 - Erik described the work of their Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee, which includes updating officer training manuals and commissioning videos to address data completeness issues.
 5. What impact does your group have on your greater organization or region in terms of impacting safety culture and shifting the conversation around safety?
 - Ashley explained how discussing the Safe System Approach and encouraging more safety awareness as individual road users has been helpful for ACP to hit their safety targets. Ashley expressed gratitude for the state DOT for providing assistance and setting good standards for safety work.
 - Ellen shared some experience with law enforcement training courses, especially for the sake of data collection needs. Ellen also suggested getting your engineers and officers out of their cars to help them better understand hazards from the pedestrian or cyclist perspective.
 - Erik mentioned how professionals involved in planning will join these groups voluntarily, and what they learn will directly impact their work. Additionally, groups can review both internal and external documents (such as action plans) and provide comments specific to

safety. Erik shared an experience where he shadowed an officer to get a firsthand understanding of how they conduct traffic safety work and respond to crashes.

6. Wrapping up, are there any other thoughts you would like to share?

- Ashley shared gratitude for DVRPC and the meeting's attendees.
- Ellen also applauded DVRPC's work and encouraged those having conversations about fatal crashes to humanize the victims of these tragedies.
- Erik, too, commended DVRPC and encouraged group organizers not to be afraid to reach out to other groups and governments for collaboration.

Breakout Sessions

Following the panel, the meeting was split into four breakout group sessions. Each group began with introductions, followed by a discussion of the personal impact of RSTF on each member and their work. Then, discussion transitioned into a discussion of how the panel has impacted their perspective on the RSTF, how they envision the RSTF in the future, and who should be represented in the group. After the breakout sessions finished, attendees returned to the main session, where a member from each group reported back on their discussion. Key takeaways include:

- The RSTF is an opportunity to bring in nontraditional partners and advocates who may not often be included in transportation decisions. The RSTF can look to groups like the New Jersey Bicycle Advisory Committee, which is doing targeted outreach to nonplanners, to create a more welcoming space and encourage more members of the public to join RSTF conversations.
- The RSTF is a great forum for sharing best practices from outside the region. In the inverse, the RSTF has been and can continue to be a model for similar task forces beyond the region.
- Members are interested in increasing the RSTF's involvement in policy change and leveraging legislative/advocacy relationships. For example, the RSTF could help interpret safety data for elected officials.
- The RSTF can serve as a way of breaking down silos within the transportation field by encouraging collaboration between partners across the region. One way of doing this can be to highlight share-outs from partners at the beginning (rather than the end) of meetings to highlight work that emphasizes regional diversity throughout the region.

Closing Remarks

Cheryl Kastrenakes wrapped up the meeting by asking attendees to fill out the meeting survey. She also shared a handful of announcements, including a reminder that June is [National Safety Month](#), links to the [New Jersey's Target Zero Action Plan Input Form](#), the [Wissahickon Avenue Vision Zero Survey](#), and NJDOT's [Micromobility Guide](#), as well as call for post-crash care success stories ahead of [Rural Road Safety Awareness Week](#) (July 14-18). Lastly, she reminded attendees that Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) grants are due June 26th and that anticipated applicants should coordinate with DVRPC as soon as possible. Virginia Lynn, City of Philadelphia, also shared the [Philadelphia Vision Zero Action Plan survey](#) in the meeting chat.

Cheryl concluded the meeting by announcing that the next RSTF meeting will be held in person on September 11, 2025, in addition to coffee hours on July 18 and August 8 via Zoom.

Meeting Attendee List

Alex Sankaran, CCPC
Alyson Dressman, DVRPC
Ashley Moran, Acadiana MPO
Austin Mosby, MCPC
Bailey DeJonge, East-West Gateway COG
Ben Timberlake, DVRPC
Betsy Mastaglio, DVRPC
Cathy Spahr, DCPD
Charles Romanow, WSP
Cheryl Kastrenakes, Greater Mercer TMA
Chris Pollard, DVRPC
Dan Motta, PlanRVA
Doris Lynch, Port Richmond Neighborhood Action
Edward Boothman, HSN
Elena Peeples, Columbia University
Elise Turner, DVRPC
Ellen Zavisca, AMPO
Emma Moritz, PennDOT
Eric Hicken, NJ DOH EMSC
Erik Braaten, DRCOG
Ernie Bristow, Indo Chinese American Council
Frances Conwell, Sisters Interacting Through Stitches
George Thiel, SICK, Inc.
Gina Myers, DVRPC
Greg Krykewycz, DVRPC
Ian Schwarzenberg, DVRPC
James Foley, DVRPC
James Miller, Michael Baker International
Jesse Buerk, DVRPC
Jon Sinker, MCPC
Kaylen Phillips, DVRPC
Kevin Murphy, DVRPC
Kristi Metzger, CHOP
Lara Bouck, MetroPlan Orlando
Lauren Pawlowski, DVRPC
Lillian Drake, DVRPC
Lynn Rosner, Camden County DHHS
Marco Gorini, City of Philadelphia - OTIS
Matthew Anderson, PennDOT
Matthew Lawson, Mercer County
Michael Clements, West Chester Borough
Michael James, DVRPC
Mykayla Marek, North Front Range MPO
Pam Eaton, Pam Eaton Consulting
Parker Frohlich, BCPC

Patty Quinn, CCPC
Priscilla Kayku, DVRPC
Raymond Scheinfeld, Philadelphia Ride of Silence
Regina Moore, VDOT - Northern Virginia District
Rosemarie Anderson, FHWA
Sara Freed, CHOP
Sean Meehan, Voorhees Transportation Center
Shelby Guercio, South Kensington Community Partners
Shoshana Akins, DVRPC
Steve Teterus, Evident Forensics, LLC
Tameka Fogg, NJHTS
Timothy Konetchy, MCPC
Tom Stanuikynas, Burlington County
Virginia Lynn, City of Philadelphia
Will Rogers III, GNRC