Texas Innovation Alliance Agenda

Winter In-Person Meeting

November 10, 2026, at 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Central Standard Time (CS

Topics

Join the Texas Innovation Alliance on November 10 at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Stassney Headquarters in Austin, Texas, for an afternoon focused on the latest innovations shaping transportation across Texas. The meeting will explore emerging approaches to reducing substance-impaired driving, advancements in crash reporting and data analysis, and the evolving role of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in transportation, infrastructure monitoring, emergency response, and flood detection.

Meeting information

Location: TxDOT Stassney Campus, Duro Canyon

Agenda

1:00 PM CT: Welcome & Introductions

- Speaker: Erika Kemp Roach, TxDOT and Andrea Gold, University of Texas at Austin

1:30 PM CT – 2:30 PM CT: Innovations in Traffic Safety

- 1:30 PM CT: Using Innovative Data to Reduce Substance-Impaired Driving
    - Speaker: Subasish Das, Associate Professor, Texas State University

This presentation explores an often-overlooked transportation safety challenge: impaired driving during the final leg of a trip, particularly for travelers using transit or park-and-ride facilities. Led by Texas State University, the research uses innovative data sources to identify safety risks and inform practical strategies to reduce impaired driving and improve roadway safety.

- 2:00 PM CT: Updates in Crash Reporting (CR)– CR-4 Updates
    - Speaker: Jim Markham, Director of Crash Data & Analysis, TxDOT Traffic Safety Division

This presentation will explore how innovations in data and analytics are strengthening safety analysis and informing strategies to reduce crashes across Texas. This presentation highlights advances in safety analysis tools, the use of mobile data to identify distracted driving hotspots, and a brief update on CR4 and its potential to improve crash data quality.

2:30 PM CT: Break

2:45 PM CT: Every Day Counts (EDC)-8 Panel: UAS 2.0

This panel will explore the next generation of UAS and how agencies are moving beyond traditional drone applications to support transportation, emergency response, and infrastructure operations. Panelists will share real-world examples of UAS use in areas such as flood detection, roadway and infrastructure monitoring, and emergency response, while discussing how

agencies can integrate emerging UAS technologies into their operations and prepare for future applications.

Moderator: Morgan Avera, Research Associate, Center for Transportation Research, University of Texas at Austin

Speakers:

- Casey Hogg, Emerging Aviation Technology Coordinator, TxDOT
- Jason Wilkinson, Assistant Director, Asset Management, Harris County Flood Control District
- Andrew Dowdy, Survey Crew Chief, TxDOT Fort Worth District
- Jason Burnside, Manager, Robotics Emergency Deployment (RED) Team, Austin Fire Department

3:45 PM CT: Closing Remarks & Next Steps

- Speaker: Erika Kemp Roach, TxDOT and Andrea Gold, University of Texas at Austin

4:00 PM CT: Adjourn