

# TEXAS TIM



1st Quarter, 2026 // Traffic Safety Division - TxDOT

## IN THIS ISSUE

[TIM Champions Leading the Way in TIM Training](#)

[Bees Can Sting Twice: Lessons From San Antonio](#)

[The Border Gets a New TIM Team](#)

[Remembering the Fallen](#)

[Suzanne Johnson Takes the Reins in Houston](#)

[TIM Coordinator Contacts, and TIM Meeting Calendar](#)

## TIM Champions Leading the Way in TIM Training

### ABILENE DISTRICT – Jeremy Dearing & Jill Christie

By Christopher Gray, TxDOT Statewide TIM Coordinator

Under the leadership of TxDOT's District Engineer, Jeremy Dearing, the Abilene District is at the forefront in the first quarter of 2026 as a TIM Champion. Jeremy has made it a priority that **all district employees in Abilene are getting the National Responder Traffic Incident Management Course**, from office workers to roadcrews, and maintenance personnel, ensuring that Everybody Goes Home. Jeremy has made it more than a priority; he has made it a mandate. A trend we in the TIM world hope will spread throughout the state.

Traffic Incident Management is focused on first responders and those with an active role in the roadway or responding to crashes. That does not mean that it excludes those that do not have an active role in crash investigation or roadway maintenance. Everybody can benefit from the TIM responder course. Think about how much time we spend in our personal or state vehicles traveling Texas's roadways. Now imagine witnessing a crash occur, not only witnessing the crash, but knowing you would have the tools and an understanding when placing a call for emergency services to respond. Take that a step further now and envision being able to provide emergency services with the correct information in a language that they also speak. This would allow emergency services to arrive on scene, set up temporary traffic control measures to keep responders safe and clear the roadway quicker, reducing responder exposure.



Figure 1: Jeremy Dearing, TxDOT's Abilene District Engineer (left), presented with the TIM Challenge Coin by TxDOT Statewide TIM Coordinator Sean Mannix.



Figure 2: Jill Christie, TxDOT's Abilene District Traffic Safety Specialist (right), presented with the TIM Challenge Coin by TxDOT Statewide TIM Coordinator Sean Mannix.

## // TIM NEWS //

- ▶ [Safety Service Patrol encounters with Commercial Vehicles, SafeHighways.org](#)
- ▶ [FIFA World Cup Traffic Preparations in Dallas](#)
- ▶ [TxDOT 2025 Preliminary Fatal Injury Summary](#)
- ▶ [TxDOT TIM Training Courses](#)

(Continued on next page)

Well Jeremy and his team in the Abilene District are accomplishing just that. With the assistance of Jill Christie, Carrie Hart, Jordan Crill, and Royce Bell, the Statewide TIM Team has conducted three TIM Responder Courses, with eight more scheduled to meet the training needs for the district. For their participation and dedication to first responders, and the Texas TIM Program, Jeremy and Jill were both awarded the Traffic Incident Management Challenge Coin, presented by the Statewide TIM Coordinators.



## EL PASO DISTRICT – Alonso Hernandez

### By Sean Mannix, TxDOT Statewide TIM Coordinator

As Chris and I travel throughout the state, we sometimes encounter examples of excellence that are worthy of recognition. One such example is the hard work and dedication of Alonso “Al” Hernandez, in his efforts to make safe Traffic Incident Management (TIM) a working priority throughout the El Paso district.

The City of El Paso, like many major municipalities throughout the state, has an established TIM Team. Instead of focusing all his efforts on singularly supporting the largest city in his district, Al turned much of his energy to ensuring the entire El Paso District is making TIM a priority.

Al has taken a leadership role in the creation of the Big Bend TIM Team in Alpine, supporting largely Jeff Davis, Brewster, and Presidio Counties. After feedback from the City of Presidio that it was difficult for them to participate in the Big Bend Team, due to the distance between Alpine and Presidio, Al began working with them to create their own TIM Team supporting the City of Presidio and Presidio County.

Today, Al coordinates and supports the El Paso, Big Bend and Presidio TIM Teams. Most recently, the City of Socorro has voiced an interest in the potential creation of a TIM Team centered in Socorro. Whether this turns out to be a fourth team or an increase in participation from Socorro in the El Paso Team is yet to be seen.

For Al’s dedication in supporting safe TIM practices throughout the El Paso District and striving to ensure that our motto “**Everyone Goes Home**” is a districtwide priority, Al was awarded with the Statewide Coordinator’s Challenge Coin at the El Paso TIM Team Meeting on January 6, 2026.



Figure 3: Alonso “Al” Hernandez, El Paso District TIM Coordinator (left) presented with the TIM Challenge Coin by TxDOT Statewide TIM Coordinator Sean Mannix.

# Bees Can Sting Twice: Lessons From San Antonio

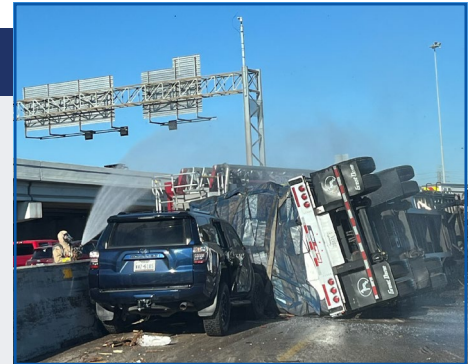


On January 16, 2026, a semi-truck hauling honeybees overturned in San Antonio, shutting down traffic for more than 11 hours. Experts estimated the load contained between 2 and 4 million bees. The crash occurred at the ramp from southbound Interstate 35 to westbound Interstate 10 known as the “Fine Silver” Ramp.

The San Antonio TIM Coordinator, Cecil Arient, organized an after-action review (AAR) meeting with over 20 responders’ representatives involved in the crash recovery. The AAR resulted in recommendations to improve future response and cleanup of commercial vehicles crashes.

## The key outcomes included:

- ▶ **Early notifications are made to all responders when bee cargos are involved.**
- ▶ **Identify an on-call pest control contractor for bee incidents.** Every large metropolitan area should identify and pre-coordinate with pest control companies who have verifiable experience managing large-scale bee recoveries.
- ▶ **Establish and enforce a strong scene perimeter** to reduce motorist’s rubbernecking, while defining and enforcing a quarantine zone taking measures to reduce secondary crashes.
- ▶ **Consider special personal protective equipment (PPE).** If budgets allow, consider equipping select supervisors or specialty vehicles with basic bee protection equipment, such as bee bonnets or veils. These are low-cost items compared to the operational delays and medical risks associated with unprotected exposure. While full bee suits are not practical for most responder fleets, minimal protective gear can provide a critical layer of protection during initial assessment and command functions.
- ▶ **Heavy duty wrecker equipment needed for bee cargo clearance.** Front-end loaders with fully enclosed cabs are essential to protect operators when bees are involved. When a flatbed trailer is involved, expect four 40-yard roll-off containers for debris removal when dealing with full trailer. Coordination between pest control, wreckers, law enforcement, and roadway maintenance must be tightly managed under unified command.



*Figure 4: Semi-truck crash on I-35 southbound ramp, San Antonio, January 16, 2026*

This crash highlighted that when millions of bees are airborne, time matters. At the AAR, it was discussed that once an incident is confirmed involving bees, information must be broadcast immediately to all responding disciplines. There is a strong likelihood that a responder may have a bee allergy. A sting could result in an anaphylactic reaction — quickly escalating a traffic incident into a medical emergency. **Bee incidents require early hazard recognition, clear communication and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) awareness and readiness.**

A similar crash happened in January 2021, when a semi-truck hauling bees crashed on the same I-35 exit ramp. In that crash, the hives were scattered upon impact, allowing for quicker removal and consolidation. In contrast, the 2026 load remained intact and stacked, requiring a deliberate, methodical dismantling process to safely manage the bees and protect workers. The more controlled approach enhanced safety but significantly extended clearance time.

For more information on the crash and outcomes, please contact Cecil at [Cecil.Arient@aecom.com](mailto:Cecil.Arient@aecom.com).

# The Border Gets a New TIM Team



The TxDOT Laredo District held its inaugural Traffic Incident Management (TIM) meeting on March 6, 2026, at the Laredo District office. The meeting, led by TxDOT's Lilia Solis, introduced key TIM concepts to attendees, reviewed crash statistics for Webb County and the City of Laredo, and analyzed several high-profile incidents.

Over 27 participants attended, representing various agencies, including the Laredo Police Department,

Laredo Fire Department, Webb County Fire Marshals, Webb County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Laredo. The discussions centered on the impact of upcoming construction on Loop 20 on emergency response operations, as well as the coordination of special events.

Additionally, the team was informed about available TIM training, including topics such as electric vehicle (EV) crashes and High-Tension Cable Barrier Training. The group also established the frequency and timing for future meetings.

The TxDOT Laredo Traffic Management Center (TMC) operates five days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., serving the Laredo area with a network of 110 cameras and 36 Dynamic Message Signs. Notably, Laredo is one of the busiest international trade ports in the United States, featuring three international bridge crossings. A unique aspect of Laredo is its population dynamics; during the day, the population doubles as individuals cross from-Mexico to work and shop, returning to normal levels at night.



Figure 5: Laredo TIM Team meeting, March 6, 2026

## Remembering the Fallen

### Fort Bend County Deputy Sheriff Killed – February 21, 2026

Deputy Kenneth Lewis passed away two days after being struck by a passing vehicle while assisting a motorist on Interstate 10 in Houston.

[Fox26 news report HERE.](#)

### Dallas Tow Truck Operator Killed – March 18, 2026

Tow truck operator Guillermo Garcia lost his life while changing the tire on his tow truck when a passing vehicle struck him on the shoulder of Interstate 20 in Dallas. [Fox4 news report HERE.](#)

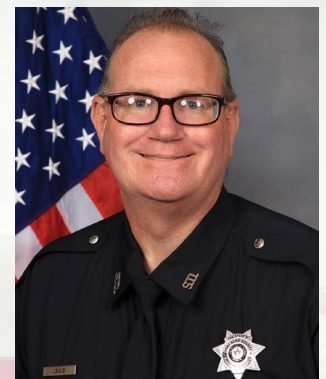


Figure 6: Fallen Fort Bend County Deputy Sheriff Kenneth Lewis



## Suzanne Johnson Takes the Reins in Houston

The Houston District has named Suzanne Johnson as the new TIM Coordinator and TMC Floor Operations Manager at Houston TranStar. Suzanne has had a remarkable career with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). From her beginnings as a summer hire in 1998 at Houston TranStar to her current role as a respected leader in the Houston District in TIM, Suzanne has made an indelible mark on the agency and the communities it serves.

Her work in real-time traffic monitoring is exemplary, leveraging advanced surveillance and control technologies to ensure swift and effective responses to traffic incidents and emergencies. Suzanne's ability to coordinate with multiple local and state agencies has been instrumental in maintaining public safety and minimizing disruptions during critical situations. Her leadership extends to emergency operations, resource coordination, and public communication, where she disseminates vital traveler information using tools like Dynamic Message Signs, TxDOT HELP Alerts, and the Houston TranStar website to inform travelers about crashes on the freeways to reduce secondary crashes and protect first responders.

Having a passion for continuous learning and professional development, Suzanne shines through her role as a TxDOT Certified Senior Instructor. She has certified over 300 first responders in TIM, strengthening emergency response partnerships across the region. Her dedication to empowering others reflects her belief in the importance of collaboration and preparedness.



*Figure 7: Houston TIM Coordinator Suzanne Johnson*

Suzanne enjoys spending quality time with her family, caring for her cats, a new puppy, and helping animals in distress. She loves camping with her husband and expressing her creativity through crafting. Her 25-year career with TxDOT is a story of resilience, leadership, and service. From her technical expertise in TIM, Suzanne exemplifies the values that make TxDOT a cornerstone of public safety in Texas.

## Do You Have a Topic or Article to Contribute to the Newsletter?



If you have a topic you would like to see covered, an article on a TIM topic that would be helpful to other programs, or if you would like to recognize someone for their outstanding work in the TIM field, then we want to hear from you!

Submit your article in an MS Word document and the statewide team will consider placing your article in one of the upcoming newsletters. Please keep the article under 500 words, include any photos (with photo credits) and the reason why you feel the topic is important to the TIM community. Send your article and contact information to: [TIM@txdot.gov](mailto:TIM@txdot.gov)

[Submit your topics](#)



# Texas TIM Teams and Contacts

## **Austin (AIM HIGH) TIM Team**

Jay Bryant

[jay.bryant@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:jay.bryant@atkinsrealis.com)

## **Big Bend TIM Team**

Alonso Hernandez

[Alonso.Hernandez@txdot.gov](mailto:Alonso.Hernandez@txdot.gov)

## **Dallas TIM Team**

Natalie Bettger

[nbettger@nctcog.org](mailto:nbettger@nctcog.org)

## **El Paso TIM Team**

Alonso Hernandez

[Alonso.Hernandez@txdot.gov](mailto:Alonso.Hernandez@txdot.gov)

## **Fort Worth TIM Team**

Currently Vacant

## **Houston TIM Team**

Suzanne Johnson

[sjohns7@txdot.gov](mailto:sjohns7@txdot.gov)

## **Laredo TIM Team**

Lilia Solis

[Lilia.Solis@txdot.gov](mailto:Lilia.Solis@txdot.gov)

## **Northeast San Antonio TIM Team**

Cecil Arient

[Cecil.Arient@aecom.com](mailto:Cecil.Arient@aecom.com)

## **Presidio TIM Team**

Alonso Hernandez

[Alonso.Hernandez@txdot.gov](mailto:Alonso.Hernandez@txdot.gov)

## **San Antonio TIM Team**

Cecil Arient

[Cecil.Arient@aecom.com](mailto:Cecil.Arient@aecom.com)



# Texas TIM Regional Meetings

## **STATEWIDE TIM MEETING**

Quarterly

### **Next Meetings:**

- ▶ April 15, Brownwood, TX
- ▶ July 15
- ▶ October 21

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## **Austin AIM High TIM Team**

Bi-Monthly

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## **Dallas TIM meeting**

Bi-Monthly

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## **Houston TranStar TIM Team**

Second Thursday of the Month

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## **Northeast San Antonio (NESA) TIM Team**

Quarterly

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## **San Antonio TIM Team**

Second Tuesday of the Month

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## **EL PASO DISTRICT TIM MEETINGS**

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### **El Paso Metro TIM Team**

Quarterly

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### **Big Bend TIM Team**

Quarterly

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### **Presidio TIM Team**

Quarterly

