Official Newsletter of Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Teams

TEXAS TIM

3rd Quarter, 2026 // Traffic Safety Division - TxDOT

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National Day of TIM Responder Training

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration hosted its first-ever National Day of Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training on April 9th, 2026. This was done as part of a goal to have one million responders trained by the end of 2026 to save lives on American roads and keep first responders safe.



Figure 1 - TIM responder executive training class, Austin, TX

Under the leadership of TxDOT's Executive Director Marc Williams, Texas did its part by hosting an Executive Level TIM presentation conducted by the Statewide TIM Team and Traffic Safety Division. The two-hour course covered the benefits and best practices of TIM to an audience of engaged department leadership who were challenged to make a commitment to TIM training at the district and division levels.

With Texas leading the way with over 91,000 responders trained in TIM, the outcome of the executive course resulted in several districts within TxDOT making a commitment to TIM responder training requiring it to be mandatory for all district employees. Since April, the training has taken place in the Districts of Abilene, Amarillo, Brownwood, and Laredo. This has resulted in almost 600 district employees being trained and certified in TIM, by TxDOT's very own Statewide TIM Coordinators.

If you are interested in bringing training to your district, please reach out to us at TIM@txdot.gov. As a reminder the training is always free of charge, and we will travel to your district to provide the training so that "Everybody Goes Home".



// TIM NEWS //

- [Crash Responder Safety Week is November 4-6.](#)



Meet The New Statewide TIM Coordinator - Paul Harper

The Texas Department of Transportation is pleased to welcome **Paul Harper** as one of its new **Statewide Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Coordinators**.Paul joins TxDOT following a distinguished **32-year career in law enforcement**, including **27 years with the Austin Police Department (APD)** and **five years with the Temple Police Department**. Throughout his career, he served in a variety of roles, including **Field Training Officer**, Accident Investigator, **Detective**, and **Sergeant**, gaining extensive experience in public safety operations, investigations, and leadership.

After being promoted to Sergeant, Paul's first assignment was as a patrol supervisor in Downtown Austin, including the highly active Sixth Street entertainment district. In this role, he managed officers during daily operations and critical incidents, including large-scale disturbances, homicide investigations, fatal crash investigations, and other complex events. He also served as a key liaison between patrol personnel and specialized investigative units, ensuring effective communication, coordination, and operational success.

For the final 13 years of his APD career, Paul served as a **Senior Sergeant with the Austin Police Department Motorcycle Unit**. During this time, he developed extensive expertise in **traffic management**, **incident response**, and **interagency coordination**. He oversaw responses to incidents ranging from minor vehicle crashes to major collisions requiring full highway closures, consistently balancing roadway safety with efficient traffic flow.

Paul also played a critical role in coordinating interoperable communications among local, state, and federal agencies during major incidents and emergency responses. His leadership extended to numerous high-profile planned events, including **presidential motorcade escorts**, **public demonstrations**, and **organized marches**. These assignments required close collaboration with the **U.S. Secret Service** and law enforcement agencies



Figure 2 - Paul Harper, TxDOT's new TIM Coordinator

across Texas to ensure safe, coordinated, and effective operations.

In his new role with TxDOT, Paul is committed to continuing his lifelong dedication to public service. As a Statewide TIM Coordinator, working with TxDOT's Christopher Gray, he looks forward to supporting first responders through the delivery of industry-leading Traffic Incident Management training and best practices. His goal is to strengthen responder safety, improve incident scene operations, and help keep Texas roadways safe for both emergency personnel and the traveling public.



Texas Takes TIM to the Show-Me State

San Antonio TIM Coordinator shares Texas experience at the 2026 Missouri Highway Safety and Traffic Conference

Texas took its Traffic Incident Management (TIM) message to the "Show-Me State" in September when **Cecil Arient, TxDOT's San Antonio Traffic Incident Management Coordinator, represented Texas at the 2026 Missouri Highway Safety and Traffic Conference in Columbia, Missouri**.

This year's conference theme, "**Show Me Zero**," provided a fitting backdrop for a conference focused on reducing roadway fatalities and injuries. On September 10th, Arient joined two physicians for the afternoon breakout session, "**The Golden Hour: Saving Lives Through Better Post-Crash Care**." The session focused on the critical minutes following a serious crash and how transportation and emergency-response professionals can work together to improve outcomes for crash victims.

Arient began by sharing how San Antonio's TIM program has developed over several decades through partnerships among law enforcement, fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), towing and recovery, transportation and other agencies. "The strongest lesson we've learned is that TIM doesn't belong to one agency," Arient said to the session attendees.



Figure 3: San Antonio Traffic Incident Management Coordinator, Cecil Arient, presents San Antonio's TIM program and statewide responder-training efforts at the 2026 Missouri Highway Safety and Traffic Conference in Columbia, Missouri.

TxDOT's approach includes regular TIM meetings, regional training, After-Action Reviews, Safety Service Patrols, heavy-duty towing capabilities and the 24/7 operations of TxDOT operated Transportation Management Centers across the State.

Texas' commitment to responder training was also highlighted. As of September 3rd, Texas trained 95,385 first responders in the FHWA 4-Hour TIM course, leading the nation in total number trained in TIM. But Arient emphasized that the number is not the goal. The real value is having responders from different disciplines understand one another's roles and communicate effectively when they arrive at an incident. That message led directly to post-crash care. "TIM is often thought of as moving traffic, quick clearance, and opening lanes," Arient explained. "But there is another side of TIM that deserves just as much attention—that is…**post-crash care**."

San Antonio's Whole-Blood Program – Where it Started in the U.S.

Arient highlighted the growing use of **low-titer group O whole blood (LTOWB)** in pre-hospital trauma care and its connection to saving lives during the critical minutes after a crash.

Texas is playing an important role in bringing whole blood into civilian pre-hospital care. In 2017, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48 became the first civilian ground EMS system in

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the United States to carry and transfuse whole blood. **One year later, San Antonio Fire Department EMS and local medical helicopters expanded that capability into one of the nation's first major metropolitan regional whole-blood programs**.

Today, the San Antonio regional whole-blood program, supported by the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC), brings together blood centers, trauma centers, ground EMS, air medical services and hospitals. More than **3,100 units have been administered through the program**. The program also demonstrates the importance of preparing resources before a major incident occurs. During San Antonio's 2025 NCAA Men's Final Four, additional whole-blood units were prepositioned throughout the city.

For Arient, appearing at the conference was also a personal milestone. He joined the military at an early age and chose a career path that led him from military service into public safety and eventually Traffic Incident Management. Standing on a professional conference stage alongside two physicians and discussing how transportation, emergency response and medical care can come together to save lives was a special moment. He closed with a personal message about blood donation. After learning more about San Antonio's whole-blood program, he overcame a lifelong hesitation about donating and made his first blood donation recently, bringing his sons with him.

From Texas to the Show-Me State, the safety messages were familiar, just like TxDOT's Statewide TIM slogan: Everybody Goes Home. And in the spirit of Missouri's conference theme: "**Show Me Zero"**.

I-45 Innovative Corridor Roadside Maintenance and Response Vehicle Digital Alert

Purpose

Roadside maintenance and response vehicles remain vulnerable to vehicle intrusions despite existing warning lights, signs, and traffic control measures. In 2025, Texas experienced more than 28,000 work zone crashes resulting in 203 fatalities, including seven roadside workers[1]. This pilot evaluates whether digital vehicle alerts can provide earlier awareness of active roadside operations and improve worker safety while supporting Texas' Move Over or Slow Down law.

Project Overview

- Install digital alert transponders, HA-7 on select maintenance, response, and courtesy patrol vehicles in Dallas and Austin.
- Deliver advance vehicle alert notifications through participating connected vehicle services and navigation platforms.
- Evaluate operational readiness, alert performance, user feedback, and potential safety benefits to inform future deployment decisions.



Figure 4 - HA-7 Transponder

[1] TxDOT Work Zone Safety Traffic Safety Campaign: **https://www.txdot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-campaigns/work-zones.html**

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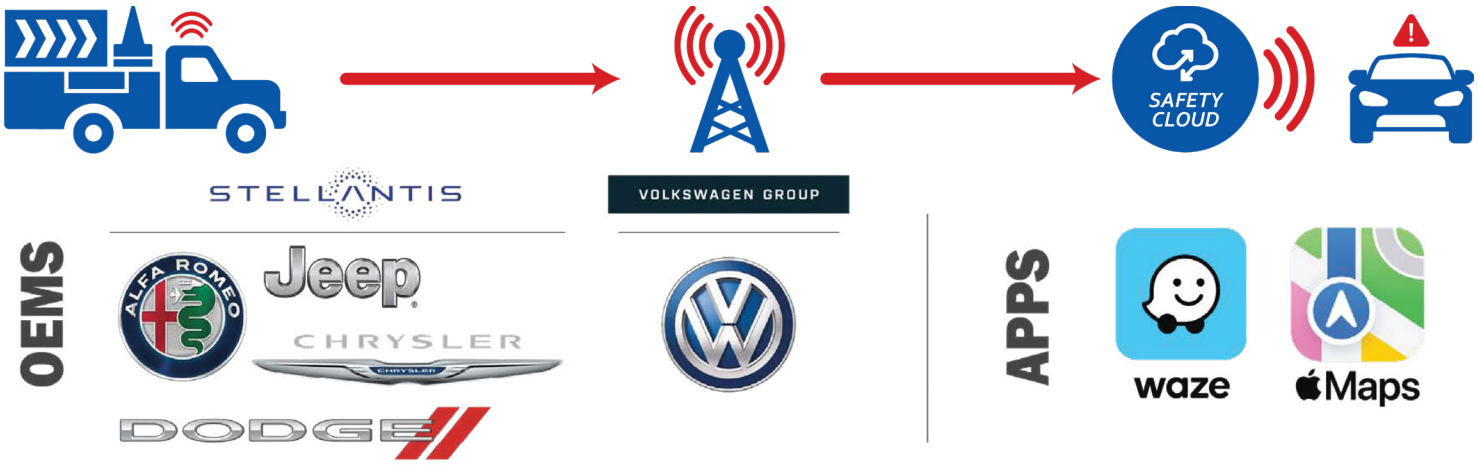
I-45 Innovative Corridor Roadside Maintenance and Response Vehicle Digital Alert



Why This Matters?

- Supports Texas' Move Over or Slow Down law by extending awareness beyond visible warning lights.
- Protects field crews with real-time digital alerts sent connected vehicles and navigation apps.
- Evaluates a scalable, infrastructure-light solution for future statewide deployment.

Project Schedule



Participants

Dallas District Maintenance Offices* TxDOT Dallas District	Dallas County Sherriff's Office Courtesy Patrol TxDOT Dallas District	Highway Emergency Response Operator TxDOT Austin District
47 Vehicles	13 Vehicles	29 Vehicles

*Dallas, Ellis & Navarro County Maintenance Offices

TOTAL: 89 VEHICLES

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Texas TIM Regional Meetings

STATEWIDE TIM MEETING
Quarterly
January 20, 2027



Austin AIM High TIM Team
Bi-Monthly

Dallas TIM meeting
Bi-Monthly

Houston TranStar TIM Team
Second Thursday of the Month

Northeast San Antonio (NESA) TIM Team
Quarterly

San Antonio TIM Team
Second Tuesday of the Month

EL PASO DISTRICT TIM MEETINGS
El Paso Metro TIM Team
Quarterly

Big Bend TIM Team
Quarterly

Presidio TIM Team
Quarterly

Texas Department of Transportation