

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



[www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org](http://www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org)

## **Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: Seattle, WA January 24, 2018**

A coalition strives to bring together critical stakeholders to accomplish a single mission. TAT's coalition builds do just that, by gathering law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to close loopholes to traffickers, who exploit victims and legitimate businesses for criminal gain. The primary goal of a TAT coalition build is to establish an effective and sustainable working relationship between the trucking industry and law enforcement statewide, in order to combat the crime of human trafficking. This is done through our short-term and long-term goals. Much of the short-term impact is seen immediately following the meeting, evidenced through the results of the survey and shown below under "same-day impact." The long-term impact is the result of follow up done two months after the meeting. TAT firmly believes that these meetings have far-reaching impact, not only in building strong coalitions between trucking and law enforcement agencies across the United States, but in ultimately saving lives.

**Short-term goals:**

1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, as well as county sheriff's offices, in the same room with representatives/executives of local trucking companies and truck stop owners and managers.
2. Offer an initial training on human trafficking to all participants at the meeting, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to combat it.
3. Introduce truck stop owners and general managers to their local law enforcement officers in order to establish a local contact protocol through the contact list.
4. Motivate more trucking companies to train drivers as a result of the build.
5. Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.
6. Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story.
7. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality in both industries from "prostitute" to victim.

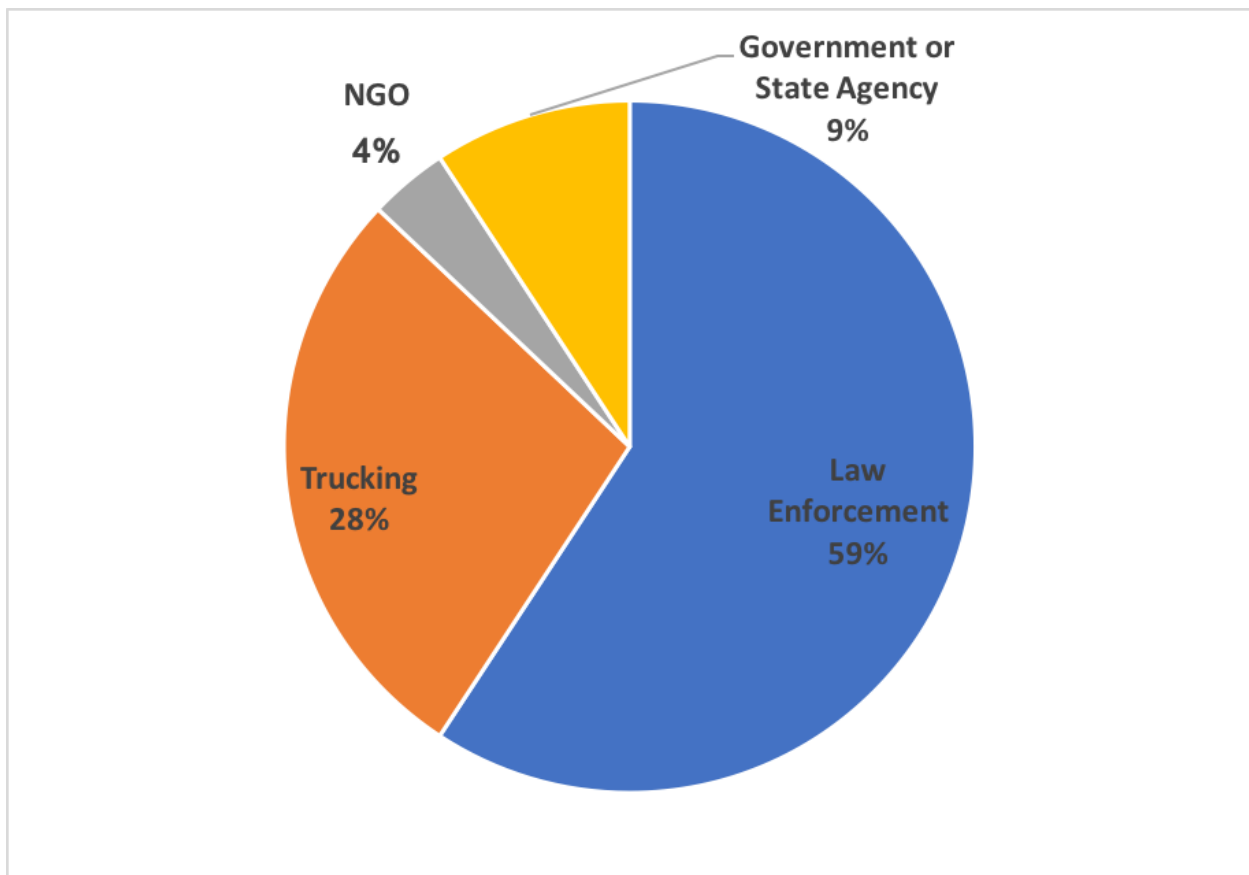
**Long-term goals:**

1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.
2. Chart increase in calls/reports into the hotline.
3. Equip local or statewide anti-trafficking task forces with industry stakeholders.
4. Assist in undercover investigations conducted between law enforcement agencies and industry stakeholders.
5. Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide.
6. Mandate TAT training at the CDL entry-level.

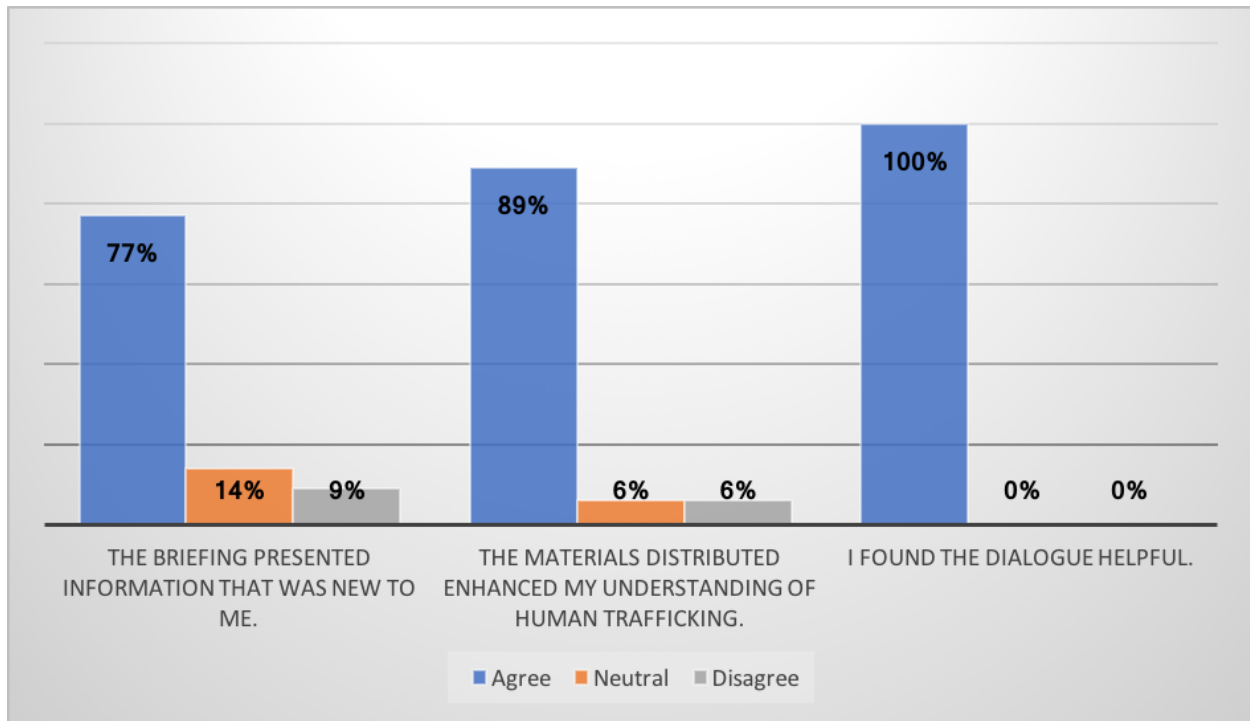
## Same-day impact:

***Goal #1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, as well as county sheriff's offices, in the same room with representatives/executives of local trucking companies and truck stop owners and managers.***

TAT co-hosted this coalition build with the Washington Attorney General's Office and the Washington State Trucking Association. Participants from trucking and related industries included Pilot Flying J Travel Centers, Travel Centers of America, Daseke, Costco Wholesale Corporation, Microsoft, Foster Farms, Premier Transport, UPS, Trailer Service Company and RoadOne Intermodal Logistics. Law enforcement and government agencies in attendance included the Federal Motor Carriers Association, the Washington Department of Licensing, the FBI, the United States Coast Guard, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the Washington State Fusion Center, the Washington State Patrol, Longview Police Department, Seattle Police Department, Kings County Sheriff's Office and Kitsap County Sheriff's office. The following results are based off the survey gathered the day of the meeting, which 67% of participants completed.



**Goal #2. Offer an initial training on human trafficking to all participants at the meeting, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to combat it.**



**94%** of respondents said they know what next steps to take in order to combat human trafficking.

**100%** of respondents said presenters were knowledgeable and approachable.

**100%** of respondents said the briefing was a good use of their time.

**100%** of respondents said they would recommend attending a briefing like this to others in their field.

**94%** of respondents said they are better prepared to identify human trafficking after attending this briefing.

**Here is what attendees had to say about the meeting:**

*“All of my experiences with TAT have been amazing. I'm very pleased to be working with you.”*

*"It was just the right amount of time and a very good panel."*

*"Everyone was well versed and provided good educational takeaways. Sha's legal information was instrumental in educational law enforcement capabilities."*

*"Great program. I'm looking forward to training and passing on to anyone and everyone I can. Thanks!"*

*"Very well organized."*

*"I know it's hard for people to get away for an entire day, but it would have been great to have a couple more hours of this training."*

*"Very good presenters."*

*"The training provided resources and insight into the problem."*

***Goal #3 Motivate more trucking companies to train drivers as a result of the build.***

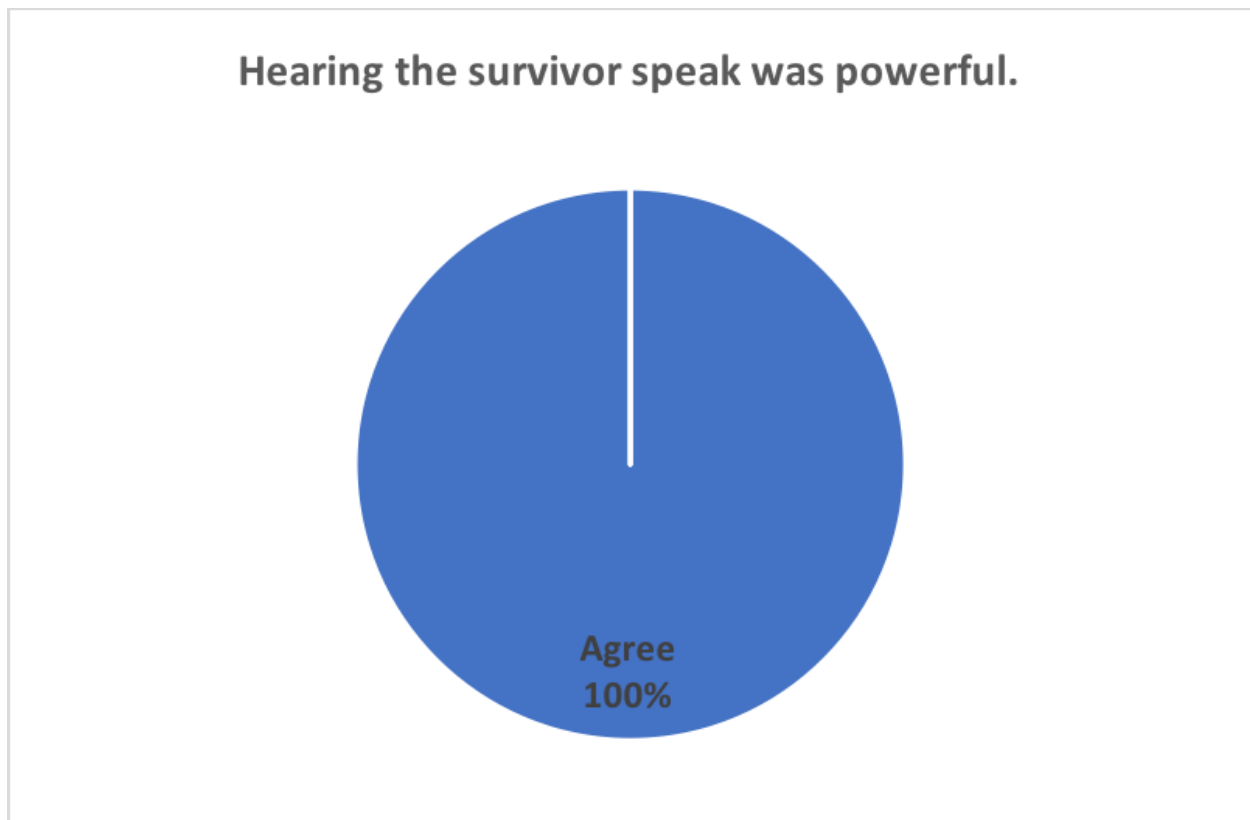
- Trailer Service Company is planning to have a Washington State Patrol officer, who was also at the coalition build, come train their drivers at their next safety compliance meeting. The manager has passed out TAT materials to parking locations in his area.
- Costco Corporation has included TAT's training information in their transportation bid that will go to any carrier hoping to do business with Costco. Costco is considering having the Freedom Drivers Project out to their headquarters in June.
- As a result of Costco distributing TAT's information to carriers they contract with, JTS Johanson Transportation Services became TAT trained and a silver level corporate sponsor of TAT.
- Daseke is planning to speak about TAT at their next CEO meeting in June.

***Goal #4: Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.***

- After the coalition build, law enforcement worked with a trucking company on an undercover investigation which resulted in the recovery of 10 potential victims of human trafficking and the arrests of three traffickers. They are planning future undercover operations through collaboration with trucking companies.

**Goals #5 & #6: Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality in both industries from “prostitute” to victim.**

While a cultural shift in how prostituted people are viewed is not easily quantified, it is a critical piece of these meetings. From the HT 101 training to the presentation from a survivor's perspective to the law enforcement training, all aspects of the day are geared towards promoting a victim-centered approach and the belief that every person has a part to play in ensuring that more lives are saved.



**Here is what respondents had to say about the presentation by Beth Jacobs:**

*"Gutsy lady to be talking about her life. She really got down to the nitty-gritty and that is more than just statistics ... but real-life stories."*

*"It was very powerful to hear her tell her story. Understanding how it happened gave me pause and ideas about conversations to have with young people in my life."*

*“The survivor presentation was excellent! Very valuable to hear from someone involved in sex trafficking.”*

*“Awesome! Great introduction for those with no experience with human trafficking. I think it would be great to have more advanced classes in the future.”*

*“Very powerful to hear the other side. It makes one realize how often one may make false assumptions.”*

*“I thought her story was heart-wrenching. My question would be whether any of her pimps were charged after she was able to get free.”*

*“She was wonderful. I would like to have her speak to members of my organization.”*

*“Beth was a phenomenal speaker with a powerful story! What you all do needs to be highlighted as much as possible.”*

*“Thank you for having the courage to share your story.”*

### **Long-term impact and assessment:**

The following results are based on follow up conducted two months after the meeting. Another follow up will be done in six months, and the report will be periodically updated.

#### **Goal #1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.**

- Washington State Patrol has invited TAT’s Freedom Drivers Project to come back to Washington for their Inspector’s Challenge June 22-23.
- Following the coalition build, Foster Farms hosted a training with the Lower Columbia Transportation Association focused on human trafficking. TAT’s Deputy Director came and spoke to the group, educating them on human trafficking and TAT.
- The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police will be sharing TAT’s law enforcement training video and subsequent training materials to all their members. They are considering having TAT do further in-person trainings with their members.
- The Washington Department of Licensing is planning to introduce TAT’s Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) Program Director to all transit and ESD organizations in Washington.

- The Washington State Patrol expressed interest in having TAT come do an in-depth law enforcement training for all troopers.

**Goal #5: Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide.**

- Washington state has already adopted the Iowa MVE model in total. However, through the Washington Department of Licensing's connection with busing stakeholders, TAT hopes to make significant strides in reaching the bus industry in Washington with our BOTL training materials.

**Assessment:**

The Seattle coalition build was a phenomenal day of training, networking, collaborating and building a strong coalition between law enforcement and trucking industry stakeholders. Attendees were visibly activated by the various presentations and were talking about action steps for their companies to take before the meeting was over. The meeting had an emphasis on demand reduction and that was an action point that resonated with many in the room. Law enforcement were energized by the diversity in the room and the opportunity to partner with industry professionals around combatting human trafficking. Future training for both law enforcement and industry members has already been planned as a result of this coalition build. Assistant Attorney General Farshad Talebi encompassed the purpose of the coalition build when he said:

*“The TAT coalition build brought together one of the most diverse groups of individuals for a human trafficking event that I have been a part of. I was thrilled to see the enthusiasm from the participants throughout the day. Law enforcement left with plans to partner with the trucking industry on investigations and operations, and participants from the trucking industry and other sectors left with a sense of empowerment to bring about change within their organizations.”*

