

TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org

Baton Rouge, LA
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Mission

A coalition strives to bring together critical stakeholders to accomplish a single mission. TAT's Coalition Builds (CB) do just that, by gathering law enforcement and members of the truck and bus industries 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 and busing industries 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, busing companies and truck stop or bus terminal 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 and busing industries to work together to combat it.
3. Introduce truck stop and bus terminal 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 and busing companies to train drivers as a result of the build.
5. Motivate truck stops and busing terminals to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT and BOTL 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:

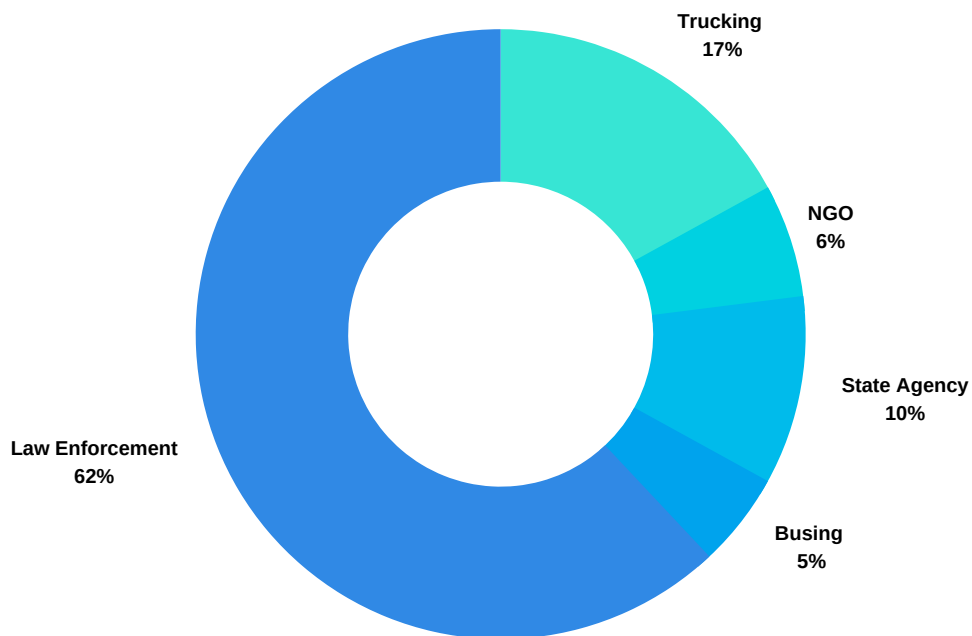
1. Utilize TAT and BOTL materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.
2. Chart increase in calls/reports into the hotline.
3. Equip local or statewide anti-trafficking task forces with industry stakeholders.
4. Assist in undercover investigations conducted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





Goal #1

Gather leaders from trucking, busing and truck stop industries with law enforcement agencies for a half-day training.



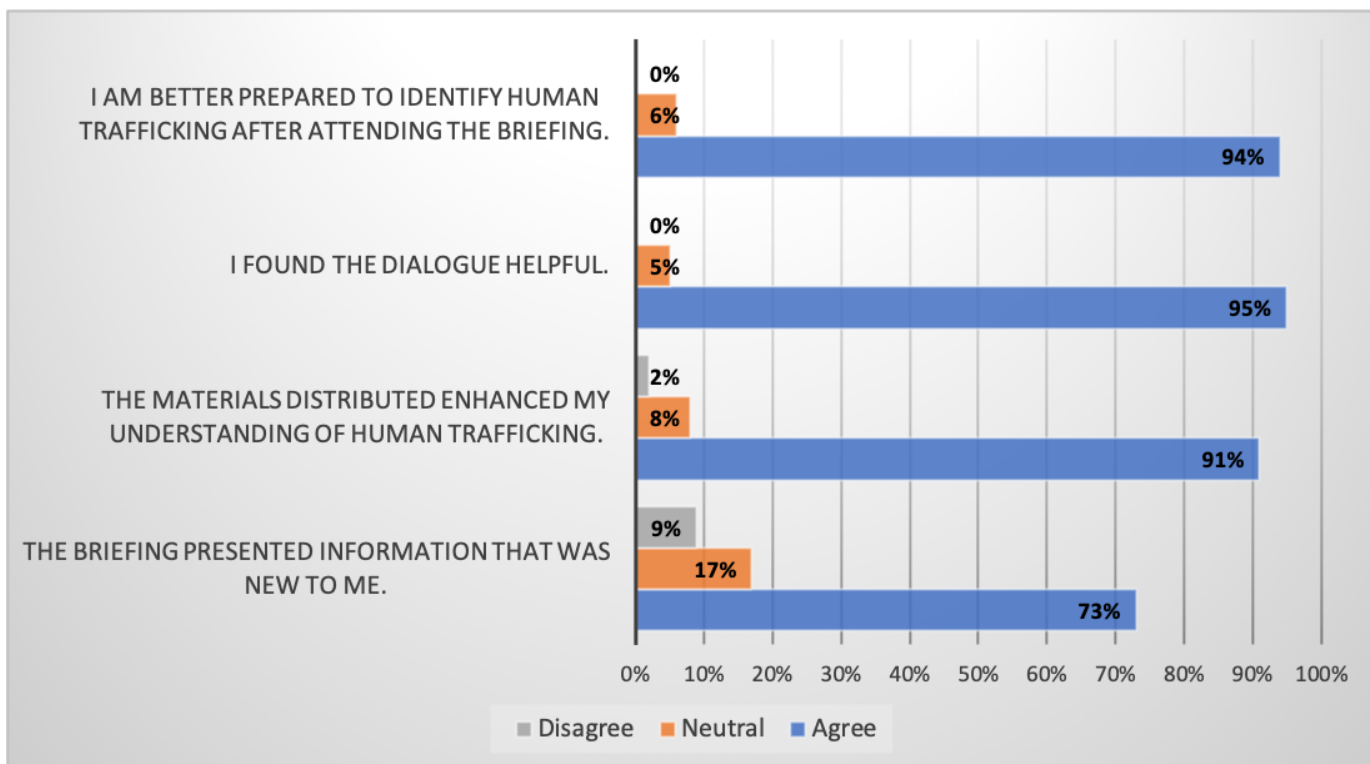
There were 109 participants at the meeting, and the following results are based off the survey gathered, which 60% of participants completed.





Goal #2

Offer human trafficking training to all participants, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and members of the trucking and busing industries to work together to combat it.



97% of respondents said they know what next steps to take in order to combat human trafficking.

98% of respondents said presenters were knowledgeable and approachable.

98% of respondents said the briefing was a good use of their time.



Goal #3

Motivate more trucking and busing companies to train drivers as a result of the build.

- Freedom Truck of America will begin training and registering all drivers and employees.
- Preferred Materials Inc. has added TAT training to orientation for all drivers.
- Agway Systems, Inc. has trained all 29 drivers with TAT's training video and distributes TAT materials at their warehouse, distributing TAT materials to drivers who come to pick up shipments.
- Billy Barnes Enterprises, Inc. has been doing the TAT training since 2016 and had registered 316 drivers. Since the coalition build, they added another 189 drivers who have gone through the training during orientation.

Goal #4

Motivate truck stops and busing terminals to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT and BOTL materials.

- Casinos are located in many truck stops in Louisiana, and these locations as well as casinos in the state are regulated by the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco (ATC). ATC was at the coalition build and invited TAT to come speak at their in-service training which included all ATC officers. The training was very successful and ATC now plans to incorporate TAT materials when visiting the truck stops under their jurisdiction. They are also looking at additional ways to partner with TAT at the state level.
- Many of the Louisiana local law enforcement that participated in the coalition build are now visiting truck stops, trucking companies, bus terminals and busing companies in their parishes with TAT and BOTL materials as is illustrated later in the report.



Goal #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.

Here is what respondents said about the presentation by TAT field trainer:

"She was brave to share her story, and I'm so happy she survived. Her story can help others who may be in that same situation."

"I am very proud of the organization to take a step in the prevention of human trafficking."

"Great and positive attitude with the ability to tell her story!"

"She was a brave woman to come out and speak of her experience."

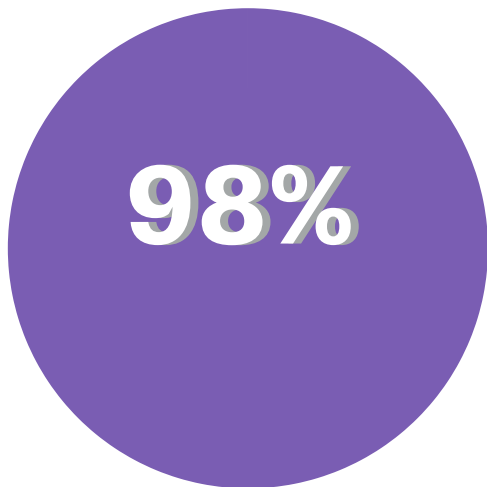
"Thankful for her bravery to speak up and help others to be free of that life."

"I want to thank her for the courage to stand up and help a lot of people that may be going through the same situation."

"Very good and moving. I now have a better perspective of this issue."

"Beth Jacobs presentation was powerful."

"She is very brave to share her story with us. I applaud her for that, because not everyone would want people knowing that about themselves. I would like to know if Meeco and/or Moe were busted for human trafficking."



100%

98% of respondents agreed that hearing the survivor speak was powerful.





Here are just a few things that attendees had to say about the training:



"I've seen a good bit of this training; however, the materials was very well presented and getting to know programs and outreach assistance was great."

"The presenters are very knowledgeable and passionate about the issue of human trafficking."

"They were all breathtaking."



"Please give more training like this to keep the awareness front and center."

"Very informative, especially Truckers Against Trafficking."

"I really enjoyed touring the Freedom Drivers Project trailer. Knowing survivors' stories helps us to understand human trafficking better."



"Good class. I enjoyed listening to the speakers."

"I learned a lot and will be more alert to my surroundings than I have been in the past and will pass on this information."

"The survivor testimony, and her explanation of why someone would stay in a situation, was very helpful."

98%

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



Long-term impact in Louisiana

Utilize TAT and BOTL materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.

- The Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco (ATC) law enforcement division has invited TAT to come speak to officers at their in-service training and plans to distribute TAT materials to truck stops across the state during routine inspections.
- The Louisiana Motor Truck Association (LMTA) featured the coalition build on the front page of their magazine.
- LMTA sponsored the lunch for the coalition build, making them a Copper Level Corporate Sponsor.
- LMTA will be showed the 13-minute TAT training video at their truck driving championship and annual conference.
- LMTA is considering having TAT come speak at their next annual conference.
- LaFourche Parish Sheriff's Office will be distributing TAT materials to truck stops, BOTL materials to bus terminals and oil and gas wallet cards and posters in high traffic areas. They are also distributing the TAT law enforcement video throughout the parish and to neighboring parishes.
- Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office is looking to implement training throughout the department, either using the LE training video or a TAT's in-depth law enforcement training. They are also planning to visit truck stops and trucking companies in the parish as well as visit all schools in the parish about training bus drivers with BOTL.
- St. Landry's Sheriff's Office requested TAT and BOTL materials to distribute as well as TAT's law enforcement training video.
- St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office is using TAT's law enforcement training video to train deputies.
- Vidalia Police Department is visiting two truck stops and seven gas stations with TAT materials.
- Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office took TAT materials to distribute and shared the BOTL information with the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority.
- Evangeline Parish Sheriff Office will be distributing TAT materials at the truck stop in their jurisdiction.
- Alexandria Police Department will be distributing TAT and BOTL materials to truck stops and bus terminals in their jurisdiction, as well as using TAT's law enforcement training video with officers.



Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide.

With the help of some of the connections made at the Coalition Build, Louisiana is now working on full compliance of the Iowa MVE model.

Final summary in Louisiana

The Louisiana Coalition Build was the largest TAT Coalition Build to date with a very high turnout from local law enforcement who are now carrying TAT's message throughout their jurisdictions and communities. Many of these local law enforcement agencies are now taking TAT and BOTL materials back to their parishes and spreading awareness and training on human trafficking to schools, trucking and busing companies, truck stops, bus terminals and high traffic areas for the energy industry. During the discussion portion of the meeting, management from the local truck stops were able to voice some of the challenges they face in dealing with crime at their locations, and connections were made with law enforcement around possible undercover operations. By strengthening key partnerships with the Louisiana Office of the Attorney General, the Louisiana Motor Transport Association, the Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission and Louisiana State Police, TAT believes there will be an overall increase of calls made and cases reported in Louisiana and victims recovered.

