

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



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

**Orlando, FL**  
**November 6, 2019**



## 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 trucking 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 bus 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, ultimately, in 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, bus 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 bus 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 bus companies to train drivers as a result of the build.
5. Motivate managers of truck stops and bus 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:

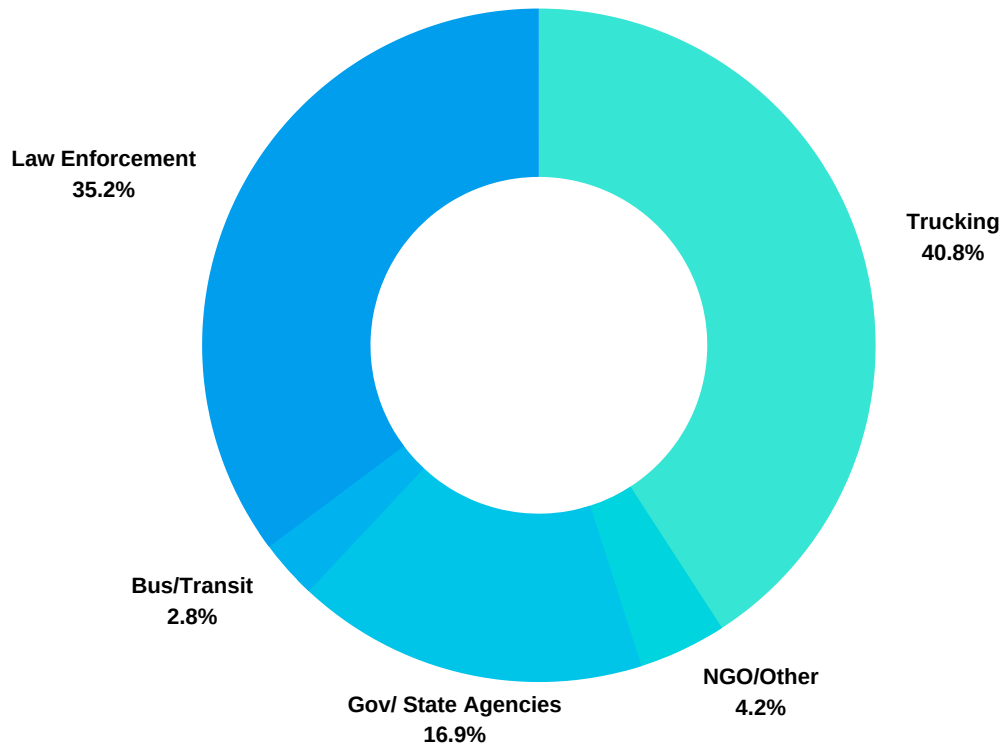
1. Utilize TAT and BOTL materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.
2. Chart increase in calls/reports into the hotline.
3. Equip local or statewide anti-trafficking task forces with industry stakeholders.
4. Assist in undercover investigations conducted 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.







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

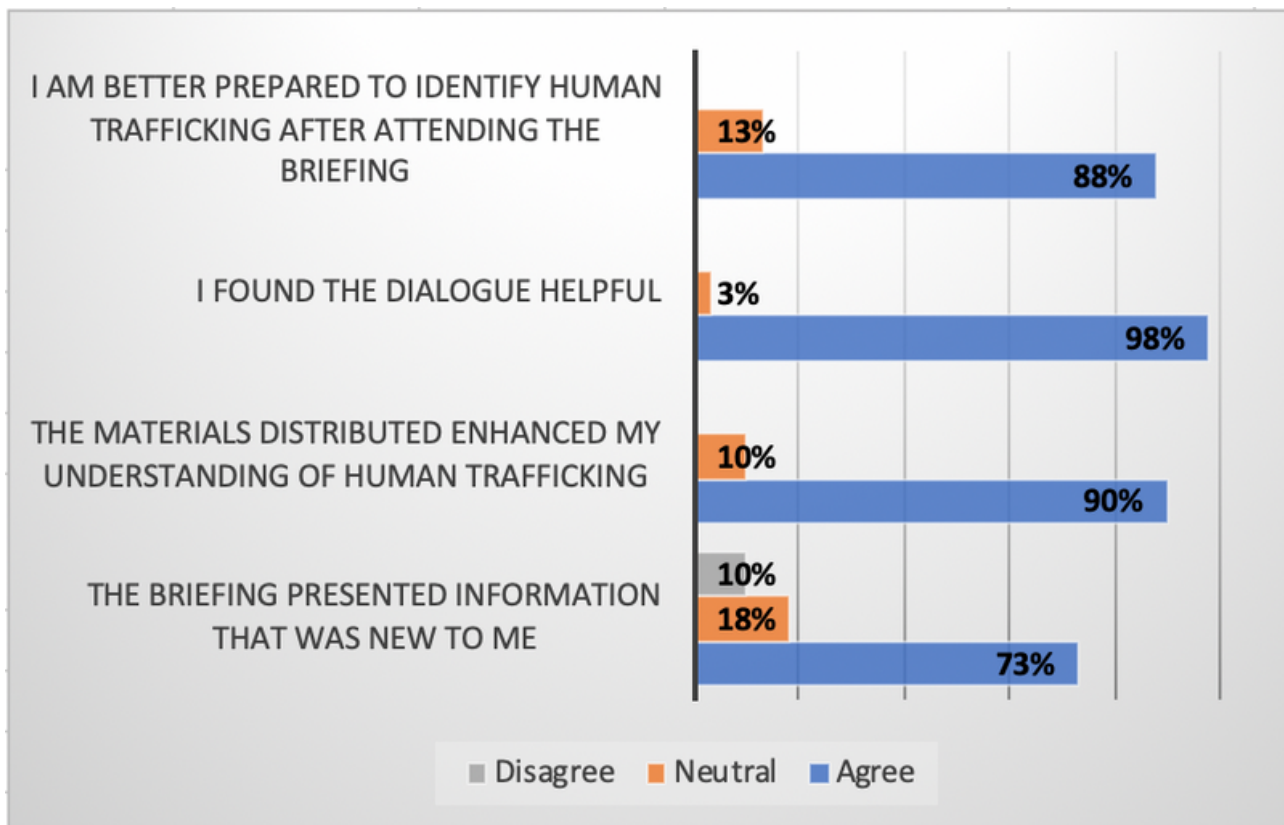


There were 71 participants at the meeting, and the following results are based off the survey gathered, which 56% of participants completed.





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



**95%** of respondents said they know what next steps to take in order to combat human trafficking.

**95%** of respondents said presenters were knowledgeable and approachable.

**90%** of respondents said the briefing was a good use of their time.



## Ongoing impact in Florida

- DBI Services has begun training employees with TAT materials.
- Revis Towing & Recovery is implementing TAT training company-wide.
- Busy Bee Truck Stops has implemented TAT training as well as distributed TAT materials at all their locations.
- Travel Centers of America Site 158 completed additional training after attending the Coalition Build.
- The Florida Trucking Association has sent out TAT's recommended anti-trafficking-in-persons policy with a demand-reduction focus to member companies, encouraging members to consider adding it as company policy.
- The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office contacted TAT to inquire about doing an undercover investigation involving the trucking industry. TAT has facilitated introductions for this and will continue to be an ongoing resource for the sheriff's office as they explore conducting a human trafficking undercover operation.
- By the request of the Florida Trucking Association, BOTL facilitated an introduction between the trucking association and the Florida Bus Association to collaborate on policies related to commercial vehicles and human trafficking.
- The Florida Highway Patrol has invited TAT to do an in-depth human trafficking training with troopers. The training is scheduled for October 2020.







## Here are a few things attendees said about the training:



*"Very well done!"*

*"Good information."*

*"Excellent training. We will be implementing this information into our safety meetings and orientation!"*



*"Great presentation."*

*"Great insight, thank you! I loved the law enforcement portion of the training. Being empathetic and victim-centered is so important."*



*"Great presentation! This is something I can share with my team."*

# 90%

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



**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.**

*"Makes you understand that this can happen to anyone, as well as that it is not a choice."*

**88%**

**88%** of respondents agreed that hearing the survivor speak was powerful.

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

*"Hearing an account from someone who lived a life of being trafficked greatly highlighted the reality of this problem and the urgency to take steps to end it."*

*"It made me aware that my team needs to be educated on all red flags and the importance of using the hotline number, so you have follow-up even with law enforcement."*

*"A testament to the dark side of humanity, but illustrates there is always hope. A powerful presentation."*

*"Listening to survivors always touches my heart and motivates me to work harder to battle trafficking."*





### *Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide*

- As a result of the Coalition Build, Florida Highway Patrol has committed to fulfilling the following Iowa MVE components:
  - Stock weigh stations with TAT materials
  - Visit truck stops and bus terminals with TAT and BOTL materials
  - Add TAT and BOTL training to mandatory safety compliance meetings
- The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) has pledged to:
  - Send a letter with a TAT wallet card to 500,000 CDL holders across Florida, encouraging them to get trained on human trafficking using TAT's training
  - Send a letter to 19,000 IRP/IFTA customers
  - Send a letter with TAT training information to 140 CDL Third Party Administrators (testing facilities)
  - Develop a human trafficking page on their website where drivers can access the TAT training and become TAT certified

### *Final Summary*

TAT's footprint in Florida has greatly increased since the Coalition Build in November. Senator Lauren Book introduced legislation in January that will make TAT training a mandatory part of CDL school curriculum. Additionally, as a result of the bill, Department of Education has added BOTL training as a mandatory component of driver training. While Senator Book was already interested in drafting this type of legislation, one of her staffers attended the Coalition Build which helped create momentum, communication and collaboration between her office and the trucking and bus industries. At the meeting, Florida Highway Patrol and Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles made a pledge to work with TAT to implement the entire Iowa MVE model and are working to fulfill that promise. As a result of these efforts, and the other results listed in this report, more eyes and ears are being mobilized in the fight against human trafficking and efforts to close loopholes to traffickers in Florida have been strengthened.

**THANK YOU TO OUR PRIMARY SPONSOR, N2GIVES, FOR MAKING  
THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!**

