

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



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

**Gulfport, MS**  
**January 16, 2020**



## 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, bus 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, 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 management 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.

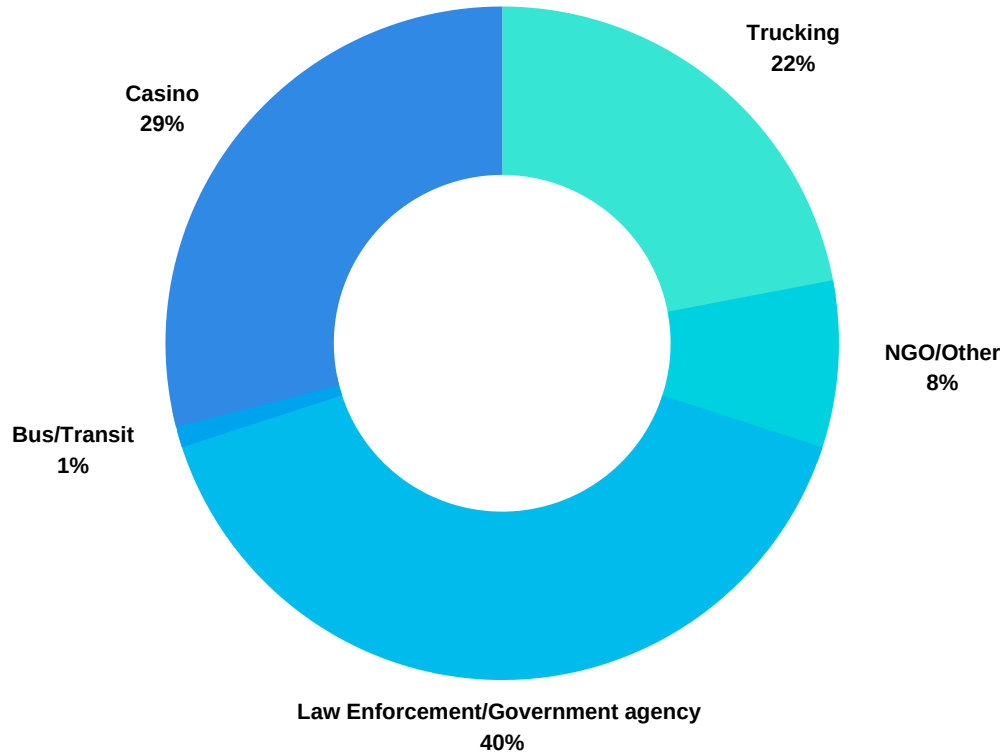






## Goal #1

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



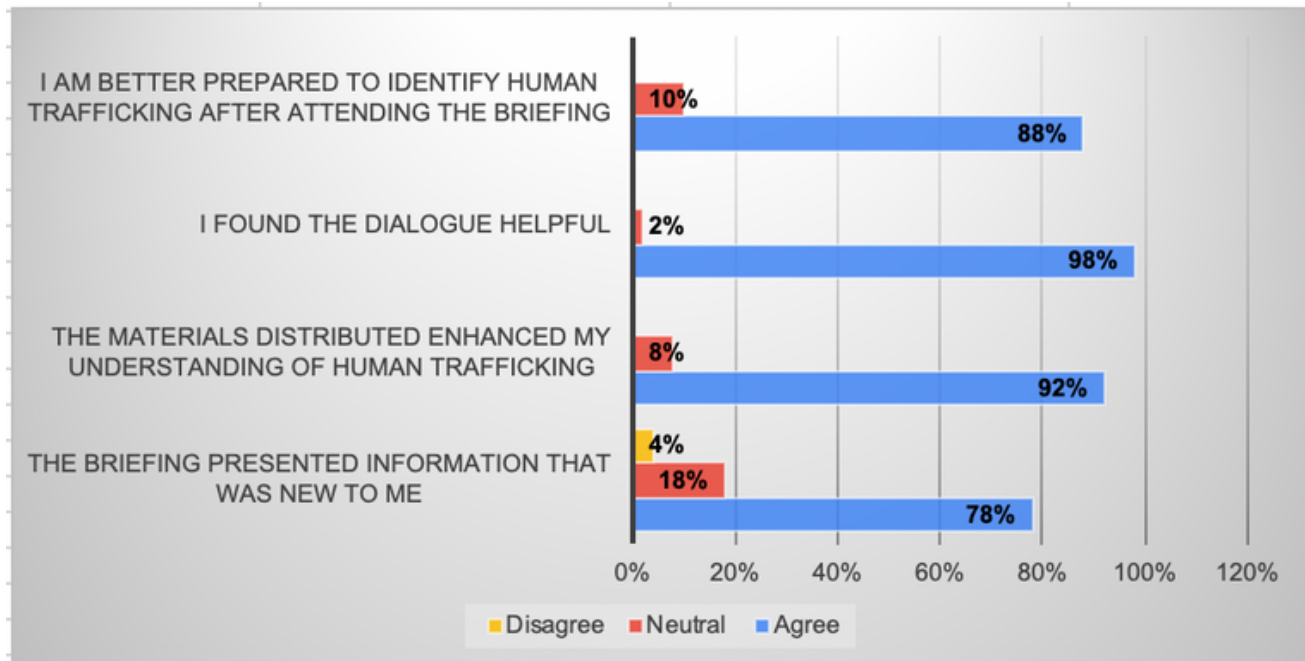
There were 67 participants at the meeting, and the following results are based on the surveys gathered, which 75% of participants completed.





## Goal #2

**Offer human trafficking training to all participants, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and industry members to use in working together to combat it.**



**92%** 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.



### **Goal #3**

**Motivate more trucking and bus companies, as well as transit agencies, to train drivers as a result of the build.**

- Ergon Trucking has implemented TAT training with their drivers, with plans to cover the entire fleet.
- An EHS Specialist for the Gulf States Division of Coca-Cola Bottling Co. has passed the TAT information on to his corporate team for consideration and has encouraged them to implement the training as a company.
- Total Transportation supplied TAT with a list of their top 25 shippers and plans to make introductions for TAT with these companies. Companies include Wayfair LLC., Family Dollar, Dollar General Corp, Dollar Tree, The Home Depot, Coca-Cola Company, Nike, Staples, etc.

### **Goal #4**

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

- Representatives from 3 local casinos were in attendance, and they expressed interest in training employees with the TAT Casino webinar when it is released in mid-April.







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



*"Glad to see multiple municipalities coming together for knowledge on this cause!"*



*"Thank you! I needed this basic understanding."*

*"Very knowledgeable."*

*"Good questions were asked by the moderator."*



*"Great knowledge."*

# 98%

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



### 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.**



98%

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

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

*"It was interesting to hear her thoughts on how survivors feel about the words or names they are called. That information was helpful and informative."*

*"Great presentation!"*

*"Learned quite a bit. Very helpful."*

*"Very brave; please continue the conversations."*

*"Very powerful story."*

*"Very helpful insights on a seldom talked about issue."*







## Impact:

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

- A human trafficking investigator that attended the CB is co-writing a sex trafficking investigator certification curriculum for MS and is incorporating knowledge that he learned from the meeting into the protocols. He will share that curriculum with TAT when it is complete.
- The Biloxi Police Department has received two potential human trafficking tips from stakeholders since the CB in Gulfport. The tips came from casino employees that were present at the Coalition Build. While the tips were not immediately actionable, it did allow the Biloxi Police Department to develop new information that will inform future enforcement operations.

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

- As a result of the meeting, TAT has received a meeting with the DMV about adding TAT and BOTL wallet cards with CDL issuance and renewal, a component of the Iowa MVE model not previously implemented in MS.
- FMCSA contacts at the Coalition Build are working on getting BOTL the opportunity to speak at the next bus driver's conference in MS.





## Final Summary:

TAT and the Mississippi Trucking Association (MTA) have partnered on three CBs across the state of MS. The first two were in 2017, in Jackson and Tupelo. Given the remarkable success of those events, MTA asked TAT to come back and offer the same program in the southern part of the state. Centralizing the CB in Gulfport created the opportunity to engage casino, energy and bus industry stakeholders, as well as trucking and law enforcement. The Pine Belt Task Force is a group of local law enforcement agencies working together to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts and the CB provided an opportunity to connect their efforts with strategic community stakeholders. Linking casino employees directly to the law enforcement that will be responding to calls, and seeing them report potential human trafficking to those officers, is a key goal of the Coalition Builds. Additionally, the Coalition Build allowed TAT to make the necessary connections in order to accomplish some of the last key components of the Iowa MVE model still needed in MS.

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

