

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



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

## **Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: San Antonio, TX September 1, 2016**

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 one month, three months and six 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.

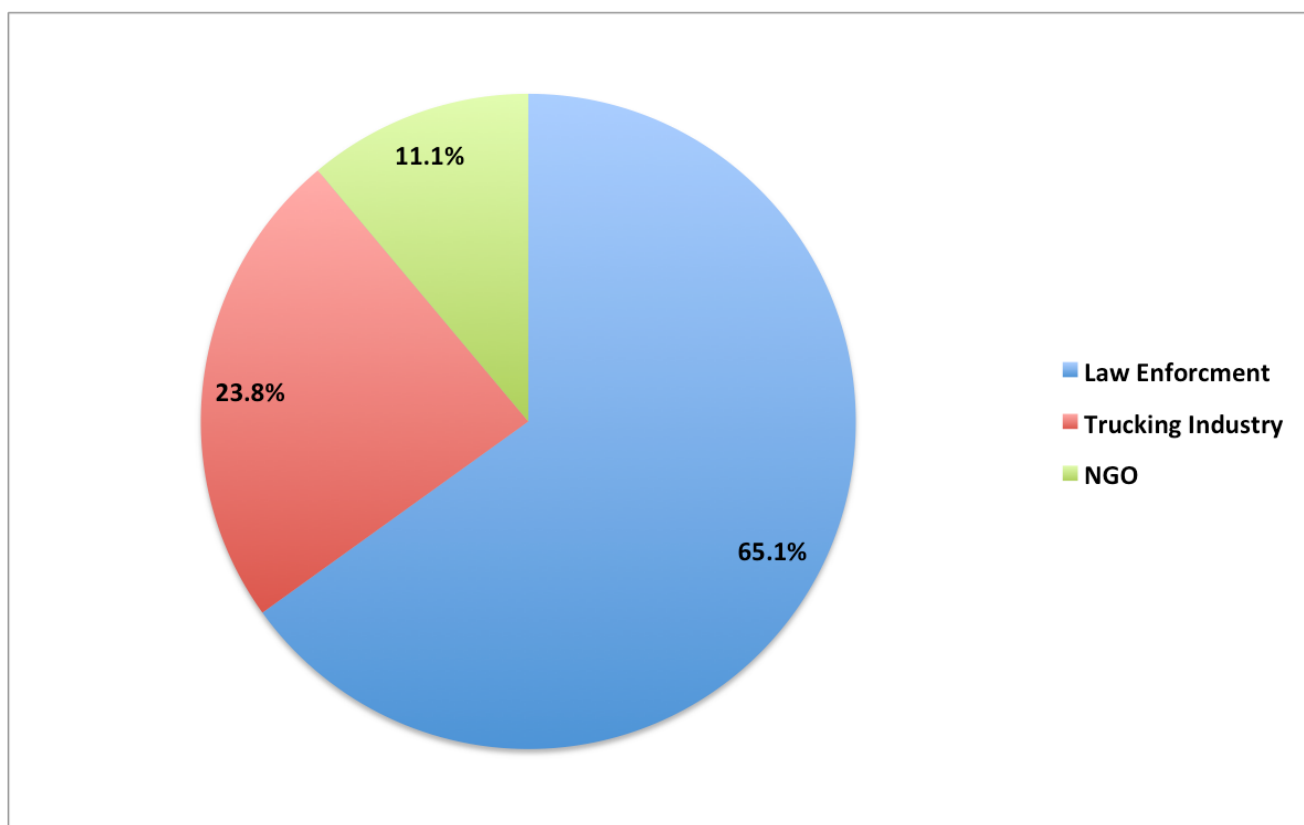
**Long-term goals:**

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:

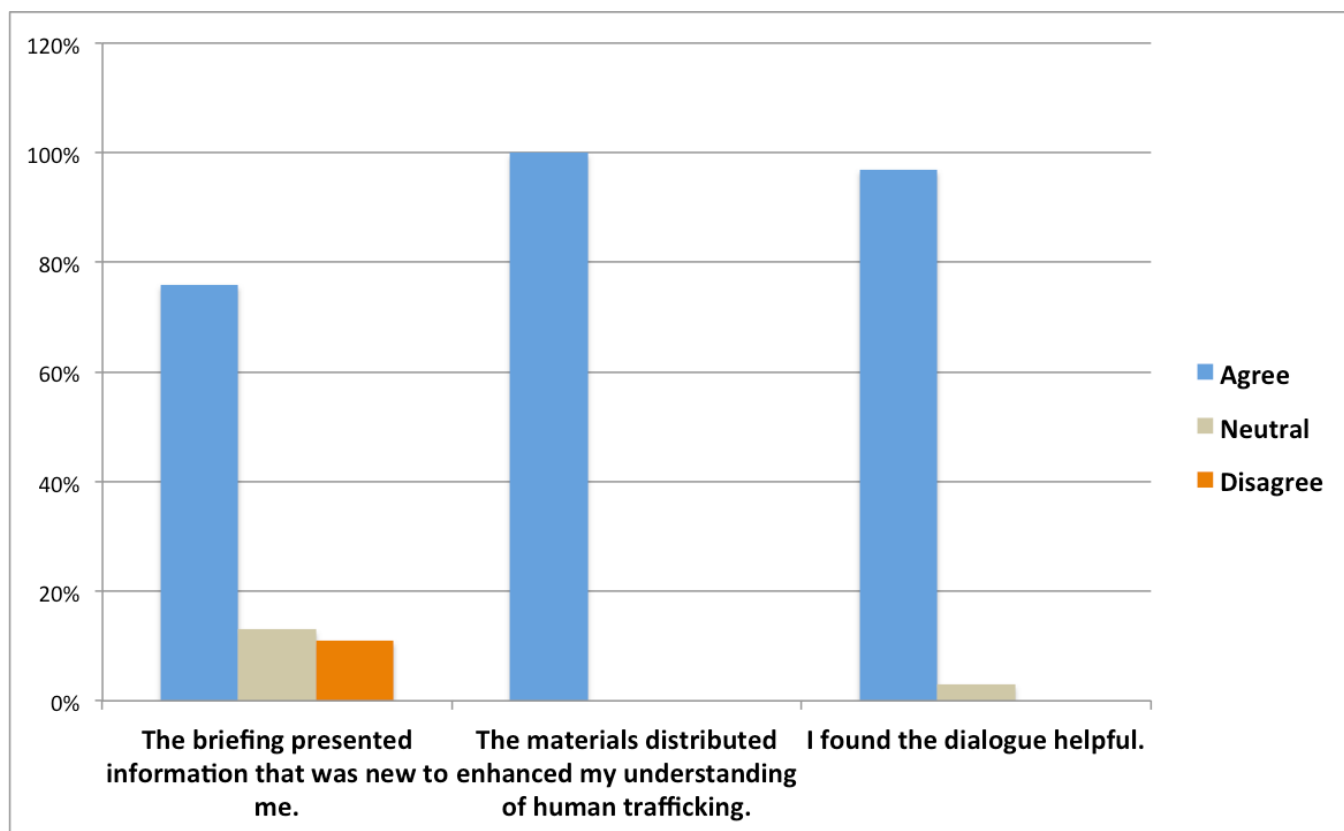
***Goal #1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, as well as county sheriff's offices, in the same room with representatives/executives of local trucking companies and truck stop owners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

TAT co-hosted this coalition build with the Office of the Attorney General of Texas and the Texas Trucking Association. There were truck stop general managers from eleven cities and towns, one trucking company, two sheriff's offices, ten police departments, Bexar County District Attorney's Office, the NATSO Foundation, the Rape Crisis Center and the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking represented at the meeting. The following results are based off the survey gathered the day of the meeting, which 64% of participants completed.



Over half (61%) of respondents said they were able to connect with pertinent members of the trucking industry and over half (71%) said they were able to connect with pertinent law enforcement in the room.

***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.***



*95% 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.*

*100% 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:**

*"Great material and definitely gave me an avenue to reach out."*

*"The presenter from the Office of the Attorney General, Kirsta Melton, was very passionate and I love her enthusiasm, and hopefully, she will continue her work with human trafficking."*

*"Thank you all very much!"*

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

- Vulcan Materials Company plans to train and register 1,000 drivers.
- The Texas Trucking Association will be sending out information about TAT's updated training video, available on Vertical Alliance, to its member companies.

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

- All truck stops/travel plaza companies that participated in the San Antonio coalition build are currently training their employees during orientation. The general managers in attendance offered feedback, both positive and negative, after the coalition build. One field manager said:

*"Presenters were very approachable; however, I was not able to connect with law enforcement. I'm not sure they see the trucking industry as part of the solution, but as part of the problem."*

- TAT followed up with him, and he brought up some very important concerns regarding the relationship between the truck stop/travel plaza industry and law enforcement. We are working to address some of his concerns in future meetings in order to foster greater communication and trust between law enforcement and the trucking industry.

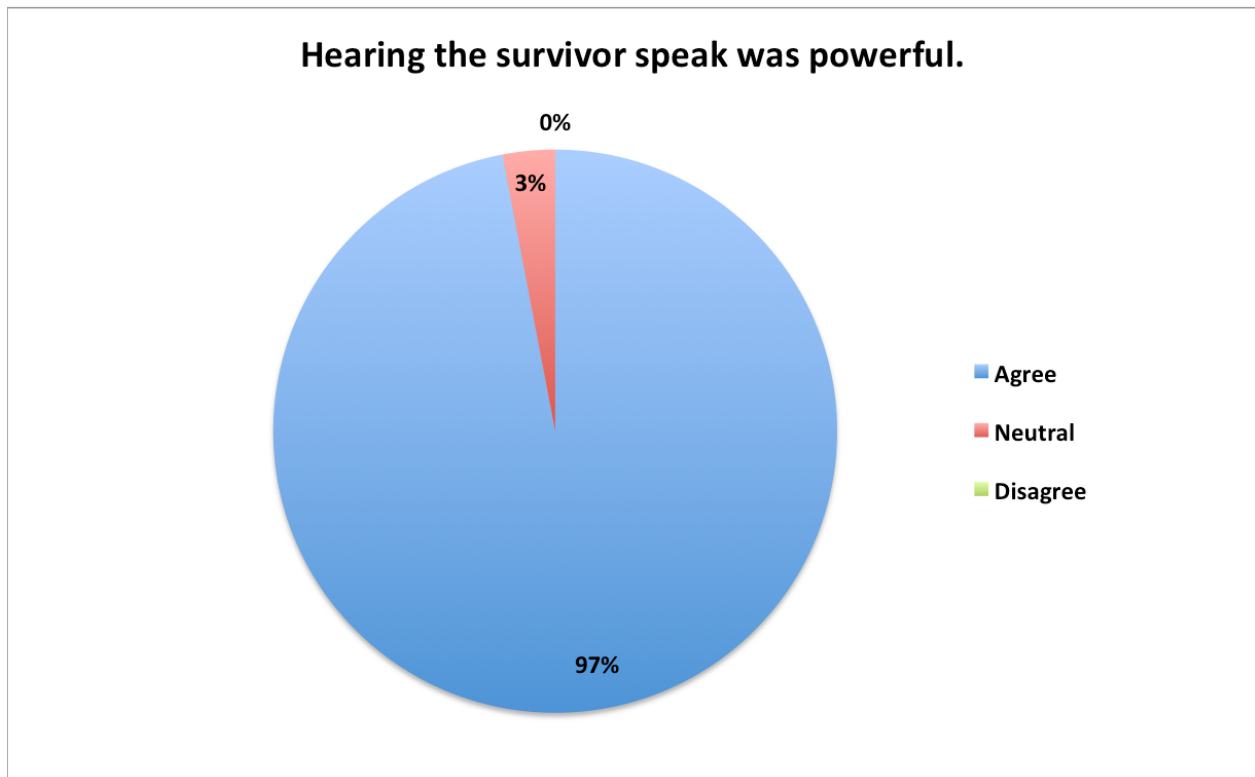
- Another general manager had this to say about the meeting:

*"I did find your meeting informative. We have done a few things differently. The security guards are now watching the video. We are now looking at the situations differently. The employees are now wanting to help, if needed. We appreciate all of your efforts. Your presentation shows how you care and I think that's what made the difference."*

- As a result of the meeting, a TA/Petro field manager conducted training for all third-party security with TAT materials.

**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, TAT field trainer and survivor-leader:**

*"Beth is a very good example, and I am so grateful for her to share her story."*

*"To actually hear from a victim and what she went through was very eye opening and an inspiration to try and help those that cannot help themselves."*

*"Good to hear her mindset from then and how it is now...hearing the thoughts and resentment that she has experienced."*

*"Thank you for sharing your story. God bless!"*

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

The following results are based on follow up conducted one month after the meeting. Another follow up will be done in three months and 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.***

- The Office of the Attorney General is partnering with Truckers Against Trafficking and the Texas Trucking Association to co-host the fifth coalition build meeting in El Paso, TX in 2017.
- The Office of the Attorney General plans to train the Leon Valley Police Department on human trafficking. The Assistant Chief of Police attended the coalition build and said it was quite informative and provided additional insight. He requested that the rest of his officers receive training, and TAT was able to connect him with the Office of the Attorney General's human trafficking task force to conduct that training.
- China Grove Police Department is using TAT materials to train officers.
- Bastrop County Sheriff's Office has been utilizing TAT materials to train officers. The Crimes Against Children Unit plans to visit three other law enforcement agencies as well as trucking companies in their county and distribute TAT materials. They have contacted the CDL instructors at a local community college in order to share information about TAT and ask them to incorporate TAT training into their curriculum.
- The Bastrop County Sheriff's Office is looking into including TAT training into their Citizens on Patrol Academy (C.O.P.) training and a Criminal Investigator from that office said:

*"I think it is great information and needs to be known far and wide".*

- Many officers at the training commented on the need to get this training out to more law enforcement. Here is what officers had to say:

*"This would be a good training to push out to patrol officers also."*

*"This could easily be a couple days long, not only a good introduction to human trafficking, but a law enforcement class on how to build the case, crime scene dos and don'ts, actual interview techniques or video of interviewing victims."*

*"I am interested in training for new officers in my agency as part of the state mandate and as a refresher for senior officers."*

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

- As a result of TATs coalition builds conducted throughout the state of Texas in 2016, including Houston, Lubbock, Tyler, and San Antonio, numerous law enforcement agencies have begun using TAT materials to train their officers, thus adopting a portion of the Iowa MVE model.
- Since learning about TAT through the coalition builds, many law enforcement agencies across Texas have begun using TAT materials to communicate with members of the trucking industry in their jurisdictions and train them about human trafficking. These efforts have led to another portion of the Iowa MVE model being adopted and are evidenced below:
  - Talking to CDL instructors about utilizing TAT training as part of the training course.
  - Visiting truck stops and gas stations in their jurisdiction with TAT materials, educating them about human trafficking and asking them to utilize TAT training materials.
  - Training CMVE departments with TAT materials.
  - Visiting trucking companies and making them aware of TAT's program.

***Goal #6: Mandate TAT training at the CDL entry-level.***

- Mandating TAT training is included in the Texas Trucking Association's proposed legislation set to be introduced in the next legislative session.

**Assessment:**

The meeting in San Antonio was highly productive and is already having an exponential impact across Texas in the fight to combat human trafficking. Law enforcement officers and members of the trucking industry are now informed about the issue and activated to play their part. As a result of the meeting, over 1,000 new drivers are set to be trained. Numerous truck stop managers are pushing TAT's message with their employees. In just one month, two law enforcement agencies have already used TAT materials to train other officers and one agency has requested the rest of their officers be trained by the Office of the Attorney General. Truckers Against Trafficking firmly believes that as participants of the meeting continue to use their influence to spread awareness around human trafficking in their communities, more calls will be made and more victims recovered.

**Follow-Up Goals:**

1. More Texas drivers trained and registered as awareness of TAT's program spreads through efforts by the Texas Trucking Association, law enforcement agencies, and other participants at the meeting.

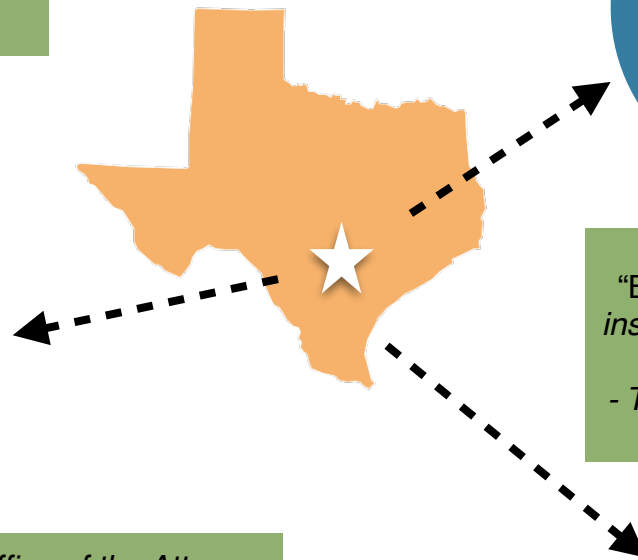


2. Proposed legislation to pass at the next legislative session, making TAT training mandatory to all new CDL holders in Texas.
3. Continued training for law enforcement departments by the Office of the Attorney General's human trafficking task force, as well as TAT training materials being used to train officers where gaps in training exist.

## San Antonio Coalition Build At-a-Glance

*"This would be a good training to push out to patrol officers."*  
- Police Detective

Bastrop County Sheriff's Office plans to visit trucking companies, CDL instructors and other law enforcement agencies in their jurisdiction with TAT's message and materials.

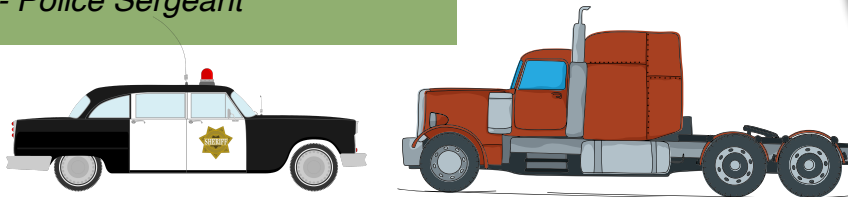


Vulcan Materials Company plans to train 1,000 drivers with TAT materials and register them as TAT trained.

*"Beth Jacobs brought a lot of insight into the inner working of trafficking in the U.S."*  
- Truck Stop General Manager

*"The presenter from the Office of the Attorney General was very passionate and I love her enthusiasm, and hopefully, she will continue her work with human trafficking."*  
- Police Sergeant

The Texas Trucking Association is making its members aware of TAT's updated training video available on Vertical Alliance and encouraging them to train their drivers.



### Law Enforcement, Trucking and NGO Participants

- |  |  |                                 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| • Alamo Area Coalition Against Human Trafficking | • Leon Valley Police Department                | • Pilot Flying J #737           |
| • Bastrop County Sheriff's Office                | • Love's #264                                  | • Rape Crisis Center            |
| • Bexar County District Attorney's Office        | • Love's #463                                  | • San Marcos Police Department  |
| • China Grove Police Department                  | • Love's #464                                  | • San Antonio Police Department |
| • Cibola Police Department                       | • Medina County Sheriff's Office               | • Schertz Police Department     |
| • Dilley Police Department                       | • Natalie Police Department                    | • Travel Centers of America     |
| • George West Police Department                  | • National Association of Truck Stop Operators | • Texas Trucking Association    |
| • Kyle Police Department                         | • Office of the Attorney General of Texas      | • Vulcan Materials Company      |
|  | • Pilot Flying J #488                          | • Windcrest Police Department   |

## San Antonio Coalition Build in the News

### **The Texas Tribune:**

<https://www.texastribune.org/2016/09/01/state-looks-truckers-combat-human-trafficking/>

### **SE Texas Record:**

<http://setexasrecord.com/stories/511004830-ag-paxton-challenges-all-texans-to-fight->

### **Houston Public Media:**

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2016/09/02/166539/texas-works-with-truckers-to-reduce-human-trafficking/>

### **Fox San Antonio:**

<http://foxsanantonio.com/news/local/truckers-join-forces-with-texas-ag-to-combat-human-trafficking>

### **TWC News Austin:**

<http://www.twcnews.com/tx/austin/news/2016/09/1/texas-truckers-help-combat-human-trafficking.html>