



Initiative Ideas to Improve Motorcyclist Safety in Texas



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These initiatives can serve as a starting point for stakeholders to develop future proposals to guide efforts by TxDOT's Behavioral Traffic Safety Grants program, TxDOT's Research and Technology Implementation (RTI) program, other sponsors, or even to enact within motorcycle clubs/groups or by motorcyclists themselves. Any [TSAP-M countermeasures](#) (high-priority are identified with a reference code e.g., III-B) and NHTSA categories associated with each initiative are indicated. Suggested sponsoring organizations or champions are also listed as appropriate.

Improve Data Sharing



Facilitate the sharing and coordination of data among different state agencies, including motorcyclist safety data such as TxDOT's Crash Record Information System (CRIS), motorcycle registration records, motorcyclist licensing records, and motorcyclist safety training records.

Associated TSAP-M countermeasure: III-B. Update the driver licensing system to improve recording of rider training completion.

Associated NHTSA Category: Motorcycle operator licensing, Program Evaluation and Data

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: Larry Krantz (TxDOT) and Texas Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC)

Expand TMSC Membership



Find ways to involve more people, from multiple stakeholder groups, in the Texas Motorcycle Safety Coalition.

Associated TSAP-M countermeasure: I-A. Provide guidance to TMSC, if funding continues, to keep it moving in the right direction, including (a) enlisting support by formal and informal motorcycle groups on safety initiatives, (b) increasing participation by all segments of the motorcycle community, and (c) expanding the reach of the Motorcycle Safety Forum.

Associated NHTSA Category: Program Management

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: TMSC Chair, TMSC Task Force

Improve Motorcyclist Awareness within Driver Education



Develop Motorcyclist awareness/education materials for driving schools that address the human factors of drivers not seeing motorcyclist as easily (e.g. unintentional blindness) and requirements for motorcyclist licensing (training). Examine current driver-license exam for motorcyclist-specific questions.

Associated TSAP-M countermeasure: n/a

Associated NHTSA Category: Motorcycle Conspicuity and Motorist Awareness

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: Nina Jo Saint, PhD, SafeWay Driving; ABATE

Research Motorcyclist Training Funding



Research funding mechanisms and management, training subsidies, cost offsets for schools and trainers, and other financial aspects of motorcyclist training programs as in other states; and develop a technical memo and/or other briefing materials for motorcyclist training stakeholders in Texas.

Associated TSAP-M countermeasure: VI-A. Monitor fund allocations to ensure that funds from the motorcycle safety account continue to be used for allowable motorcycle safety tasks (e.g., training and awareness education).

Associated NHTSA Category: Motorcycle Rider Education and Training, Legislation and Regulations

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: TTI, TDLR



Involve Motorcycle Dealers in Safety Efforts



Conduct targeted outreach to motorcycle dealers on issues such as licensing, gear, alcohol-free riding. Messages to dealers might encourage them to:

- Inform the public about the requirement for a Motorcycle License (Class M) to ride a motorcycle legally.
- Support helmet use, e.g. by offering a free helmet with bike purchase, and promoting an *All The Gear, All The Time* message to customers.
- Support training, e.g. by offering a training voucher with bike purchase.
- Hold alcohol-free customer events.

Associated TSAP-M countermeasure: Encourage dealer participation to incentivize helmet use (e.g., free helmet with bike purchase).

Associated NHTSA Category: Personal Protective Equipment, Motorcycle Operator Licensing, Motorcycle Rider Education and Training, Motorcycle Operator DUI/DWI

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: TMSC, Texas Motorcycle Dealers Assoc.



Consider Motorcycles in Roadside Safety Barrier Design



Develop a supplement to the *Roadway Design Manual* on design variations and additions to roadside safety barriers that improve safety for motorcyclists in the event of an impact.

Associated TSAP-M countermeasure: VIII-A. Continue to improve highway engineering (e.g., increased sign use, increased use of motorcyclist-safe barriers, and increased use of high-friction treatments).

Associated NHTSA Category: Highway Engineering

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: TxDOT

Motorcyclist Safety Fund-Raising Ride



Plan and organize a group motorcyclist ride to promote motorcyclist safety messages, raise funds for motorcyclist safety activities, and raise public awareness of the motorcycling community in a positive way. The concept is based on the MS 150 bicycle ride that raises money for multiple sclerosis research each year.

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: Charles Herd, motorcycle clubs

Involve Influencers in Motorcyclist Safety Outreach Video(s)



Investigate the feasibility of involving influencers/celebrities who ride motorcycles (e.g., Jay Leno, Keanu Reeves, Matthew McConaughey) in one or more NHTSA-funded outreach videos about safety gear, training, conspicuity, etc.

Associated NHTSA Category: Communication Program

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: Sherry Matthews Group

Research Benefits of Lane Filtering/Splitting



Research the safety benefits of lane filtering/splitting based on the experiences of other states and countries that have implemented it. Summarize results in a technical brief and/or presentation.

Associated NHTSA Category: Legislation

Research Study on Motorcyclist and Autonomous Vehicles



Conduct research on the interactions between motorcycles and autonomous vehicles, including related infrastructure issues and motorcycle technology advancements.

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: TTI, TxDOT

Outreach on Penalties for Riding without a License



Develop outreach to unlicensed motorcycle riders about the ramifications of getting stopped without a license — potential citation, potential \$200 fine, potential impounding of the vehicle, cost of tow, etc.

Associated NHTSA Category: Motorcycle Operator Licensing, Motorcycle Rider Education and Training

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: TTI, TxDOT, TDLR

Prepare a Motorcyclist Safety Tool Kit for Traffic Safety Specialists



Identify the existing motorcyclist safety materials available in TxDOT's libraries and developed by TTI and others; develop a brochure and/or online directory of materials for Traffic Safety Specialists (TSS) and other stakeholders to support local motorcycle safety outreach efforts.

Associated NHTSA Category: Communication Program

Potential Champion/Lead Organization: TTI, TxDOT