



TEXAS County Progress

The Business Magazine Of Texas County Government

WHEELER - COUNTY - COURT HOUSE

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HOWARD MCCANN
TEEX - EUPWTT
301 TARRAW ST
COLLEGE STATION TX 77840-7896



Low Cost Safety Improvements Course

Traffic crashes remain a serious issue in Texas, with more than 3,000 roadway fatalities and more than 400,000 crashes in 2009. Unfortunately, nearly 900 roadway fatalities occurred on city streets and county roads.

TEEX's new four-hour course, *Low Cost Safety Improvements (City/County Roadways)* – (Course Number TAP240), provides practical guidance on improving road safety that is specifically geared to local road agencies. The course teaches participants how to incorporate safety into

routine activities, and to make the best use of available resources.

Course participants will learn how to provide a safer road, and reduce the incidence of traffic crashes through the application of low-cost countermeasures that will enhance road safety. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to recognize typical roadside hazards and select low-cost, proven countermeasures.

Research and experience have shown that a number of relatively inexpensive features, such as better use of traffic control devices and providing good road surfaces, results in better performing and safer roadways.

The course focuses on the implementation of safety strategies described in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) *Toolbox of Countermeasures and their Potential Effectiveness for Pedestrian Crashes*. The FHWA Toolbox of Countermeasures provides estimates of the percentage crash reductions that might be expected after implementing a given safety countermeasure.

To illustrate, run-off-the-road crashes account for 40 percent of Texas traffic fatalities. These crashes frequently involve curves and/or fixed objects. This course reviews a number of low-cost safety measures that can improve the safety of roadways at these locations.

The FHWA Toolbox of Countermeasures shows that the Crash Reduction Factor (CRF) for the countermeasure *Install Curve Advance Warning Signs* for run-off-road crashes is 30. That means that a 30 percent reduction in run-off-the-road crashes is expected after installing the sign.

If you are interested in setting up a class in your area please contact TEEX at 979-862-3735. This course is presented at **no charge** to county/city personnel.



Keeping shoulders pulled up to the pavement edge avoids hazardous pavement edge drop-offs.
Photos by Howard McCann, TEEX



A turn sign provides drivers advance warning of a change in the alignment.

Roads & Bridges



Type 2 object marker used to mark culvert end.

This class will be taught by one of the following TEEX personnel: Greg Brinkmeyer, P. E., Carroll Johnson, P. E., Bill Lowery, P. E., Sal Mercado, P. E., or Jeff Milburn, P. E.

Attention County Commissioners: This course has been approved by the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas County Commissioners Education Committee. County Commissioners attending this course will receive

four hours credit that will apply toward the 16 hours of continuing education credits they are required to obtain each year. ★

— By Howard McCann.

Howard McCann, P.E., is the TEEX Transportation Training Program Director. This article reprinted with permission.

Type 3 object markers used to mark bridge ends.



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