





Now is the  to start an initiative in



your  and focus on

 safety. Lives can be saved by

encouraging the use of .

Help Us  that 

and  don't .

 on board with 

and .



**Drink.
Drive.
Go to Jail.**

Traffic safety benefits can go far beyond the traffic stop!

What Can You Do?

- Get involved
- Add traffic safety materials to your city's and court's website
- Host a warrant round-up with nearby cities
- Invite school groups into your court
- Start a proactive fine collection program
- Recognize situations where a "fine is not fine"
- Join the TMCEC *listserv* on traffic safety
- Approve adequate funding, staff, and support for your municipal court
- Speak to local civic groups on the importance of traffic safety
- Build community partnerships
- Ask law enforcement officers and prosecutors to work together to identify at-risk drivers in your community
- Create meaningful sentencing alternatives for repeat offenders, especially juveniles and minors using deferred disposition
- At the close of a trial after sentencing, remind jurors and court observers of the importance of compliance with traffic laws
- Adopt a seat belt policy for all city employees
- Participate annually in Municipal Court Week
- Frame and display a TxDOT poster
- Encourage your police force to enforce all traffic laws
- Form a local planning group in your community to identify traffic safety issues



Texas Municipal Courts
Education Center

MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

A project of the Texas Municipal Courts
Education Center in cooperation with
the Texas Department of Transportation

1609 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Austin, TX 78701
512.320.8274 ■ www.tmcec.com





Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives (MTSI)

This project is designed to bring courts and city governments in partnership to make traffic safety a high local priority so that our communities are safer. More Texans are killed in traffic crashes and alcohol related crashes than any other state, except California, which leads Texas by just one death.

Statistics show that Texas has a significant traffic safety problem. Approximately 1,509 (41%) of fatal crashes in Texas were speed-related. Such crashes in Texas constitute 11% of all fatal speed-related crashes in the United States.

The Texas Department of Public Safety reports that over 26% of fatal crashes involved an intoxicated driver (BAC>.08%). Impaired drivers often violate other laws including speeding, running red lights, reckless driving, and failure to wear a safety belt.

Municipal Traffic Safety Conference

The Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives (MTSI) Annual Conference in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is held in the spring. Judges from municipal courts, clerks and city officials are invited to attend. The preliminary agenda includes topics such as: *Aggressive Drivers, Young Drivers, DUI, Deferred Disposition, Booster Seats/Child Safety Seats, How Municipal Courts Can Make a Difference, Red Light Cameras and Enforcement, Community or Problem Solving Courts, Role of Courts in City Government, Blood Warrants,* and much more. More information can be found on the MTSI website (accessed through www.tmcec.com).

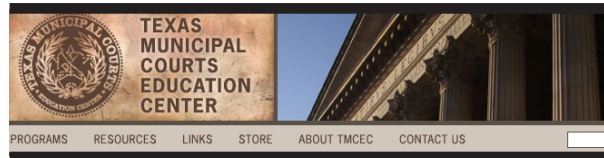


Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Awards

The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center's (TMCEC) Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives, funded by a TxDOT grant, sponsors Municipal Traffic Safety Awards to recognize those who work in municipalities that have made outstanding contributions to their community in an effort to increase traffic safety.

This competition is a friendly way for municipalities to increase their attention to quality of life issues through traffic safety activities. All municipal courts in the State of Texas are eligible to apply.

Information on the Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Award can be found on the MTSI website.



Judicial Outreach: Speakers' Bureau

TMCEC has a speakers' bureau. Knowledgeable speakers throughout the state can be drawn upon to speak in their community on the importance of traffic safety. TMCEC has resources, materials, and power point presentations that will assist you as you speak in the community, organize field trips, and mock trials at your court or as you provide outreach into your community. To place your name on the speakers' bureau, please contact Lisa Robinson at robinson@tmcec.com or 512.320.8274.



Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Website

Another excellent resource is our Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives website. Simply go to www.tmcec.com and click on the Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives to access valuable resources and information. This information is updated on a regular basis. There are information sheets, model power points, lessons for school age children, and more. Please let us know if there are any resources we should add.



TMCEC Save A Life Listserv

TMCEC sponsors a listserv on traffic safety issues. There is no charge to subscribe, as the listserv is sponsored by Yahoo and contains a small amount of commercial advertising.

The purpose of this listserv is to (1) provide participants with up-to-date information on laws and procedures that effect the operations of Texas municipal courts regarding traffic safety; (2) allow participants to network, problem solve, and share with others what problems involving traffic safety arise in your court; and (3) distribute information relevant to municipal courts on traffic safety issues.

To join the listserv, e-mail your name, title, court name, telephone number, and e-mail address to Lisa Robinson at robinson@tmcec.com. Please add a note that you are interested in joining the traffic safety listserv. To remove your name from the listserv, just send a message to unsubscribe.