



**Center for  
Transportation Safety**  
Texas Transportation Institute

**Media Contact: Rick Davenport**  
TTI Media Relations  
Office (979) 862-3763  
[R-Davenport@tamu.edu](mailto:R-Davenport@tamu.edu)

## **Center hosts forum to address motorcycle safety issues; Meeting aims to identify ways to improve safety for all Texas riders**

COLLEGE STATION – Approximately 30 traffic safety professionals, including citizen motorcycle advocates, law enforcement, educators, and Federal and state motorcycle safety representatives, attended a first-ever Motorcycle Safety Forum at the Texas Transportation Institute on February 16, 2006.



The meeting, hosted by the Center for Transportation Safety, allowed participants to share expertise regarding the significance of the motorcycle safety problem and discuss opportunities for improving motorcycle safety in Texas.

The forum was convened in response to the alarming and consistently growing trend in motorcycle fatalities in Texas and nationwide. "I'm very pleased that the Texas Transportation Institute hosted a meeting on motorcycle safety," said Kenneth Copeland, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's South Central Region Traffic Safety Specialist.

"Infuriatingly, motorcycle fatalities in Texas and across the nation are rising and we need everyone to be aware of the problems and to be part of the solutions."

Participants heard presentations on national and state motorcycle crash trends, rider education and training efforts, helmet law and impaired rider law enforcement challenges, and initiatives to improve motorist awareness of motorcycles in local Texas communities.

Breakout sessions on motorist and rider awareness, impaired riding, rider training and licensing, and protective gear use provided an opportunity for participants to share ideas on what can be done and how best to address a particular issue.

The forum also facilitated communication and networking among motorcycle safety advocates throughout the state and resulted in plans for future meetings to continue long-range motorcycle safety planning efforts in the state.

"I'm glad that everyone in attendance seemed truly interested in the topic and is interested in working together now and in the future towards a common goal of fewer

motorcycle-related crashes and resulting injuries and fatalities,” said Clifton Burdette, Program Coordinator of the Texas Department of Public Safety Motorcycle Safety Unit.

“I think that the most important aspect of the forum was having participants from a variety of traffic safety disciplines get together to discuss a topic that is of tremendous importance to us in the motorcycle safety field.”

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TTI Center for Transportation Safety, Patricia Turner, (979) 458-2619