

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



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

## **Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: Raleigh, NC March 9, 2017**

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.

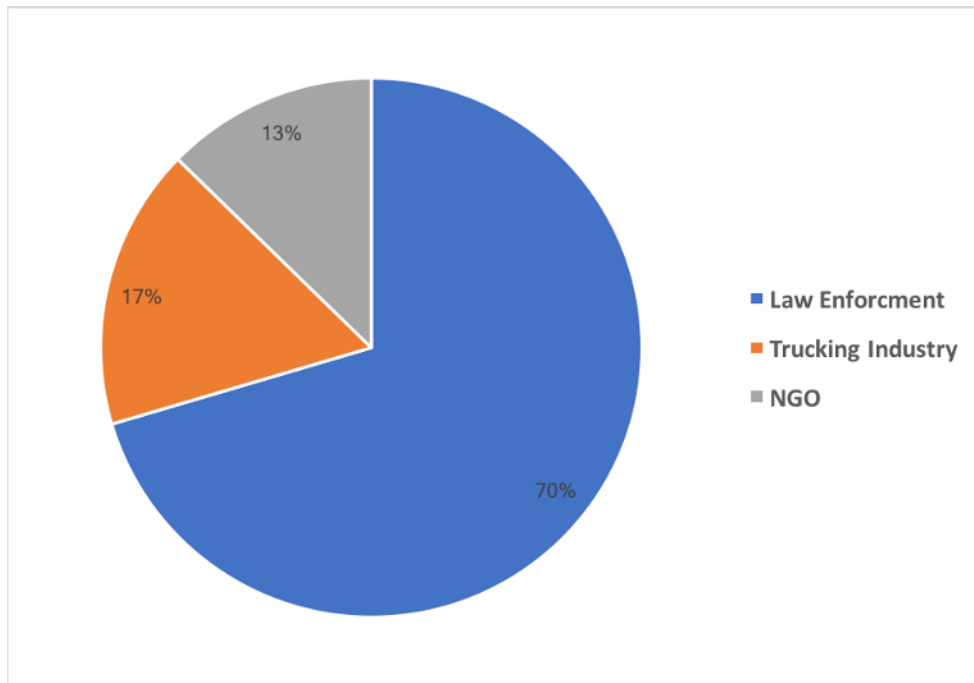
**Long-term goals:**

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.***

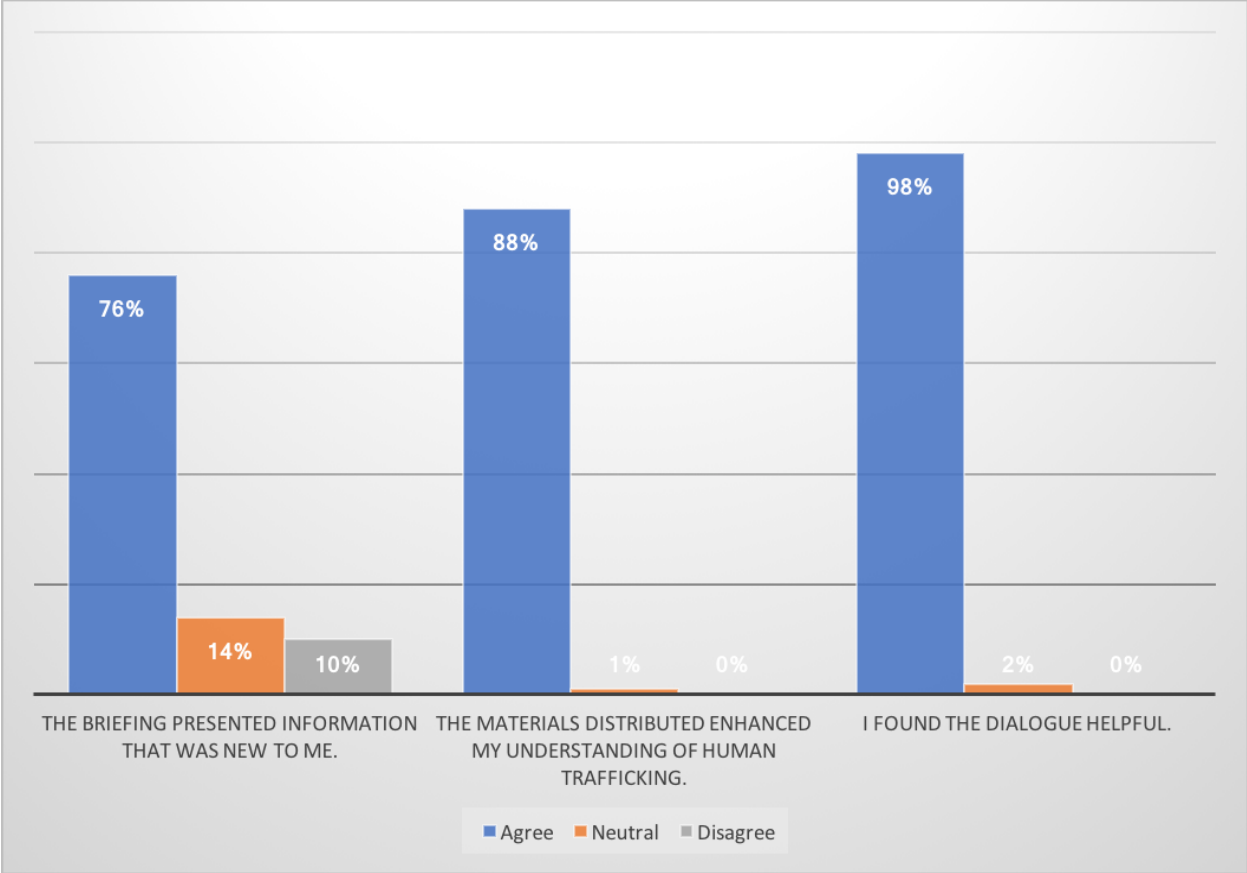
TAT co-hosted this coalition build with the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission and the North Carolina Trucking Association. There were eight general managers from truck stops, two trucking companies, nine police departments, three sheriff's offices, North Carolina Department of Public Safety Motor Carrier Safety Division, Highway Patrol, State Bureau of Investigations, the North Carolina Justice Academy, Homeland Security Investigations, the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, Cumberland County District Attorney's Office, the North Carolina Department of Justice, and the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The following results are based off the survey gathered the day of the meeting, which 69% of participants completed.



*76% of respondents said they were able to connect with pertinent members of the trucking industry.*

*92% 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.**



*92% 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.*

*98% 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.*

*88% 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:**

*“All presentations were great and kept the group’s attention.”*

*“All of the presentations were thorough and well presented.”*

*“I applaud the commission for bringing a lot of key players together to network and work together to find solutions on how to best approach and stop this epidemic that is definitely in our state. Hopefully, this is just the beginning of what we will do. Our victims depend on ALL of us.”*

*“I love that I was able to network with law enforcement in a county near me, because my program is new in my area.”*

*“I appreciate all the information, and I am very glad to be able to assist in stopping trafficking.”*

*“Thanks to everyone for putting this event together.”*

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

- The Senior Director for Human Resources at Red Classic Transportation has presented TAT’s training materials and program to the leadership team. They plan on incorporating TAT training for new employee orientation as well as showing the video during monthly driver meetings to reach existing drivers. Red Classic also increased their corporate sponsorship to Silver level.
- UPS Freight is already training all drivers; however, they attended the coalition build, offered support for our work during the discussion and offered these words about the survivor’s presentation:

*“Her presentation was very moving. Thank you for speaking and God bless!”*

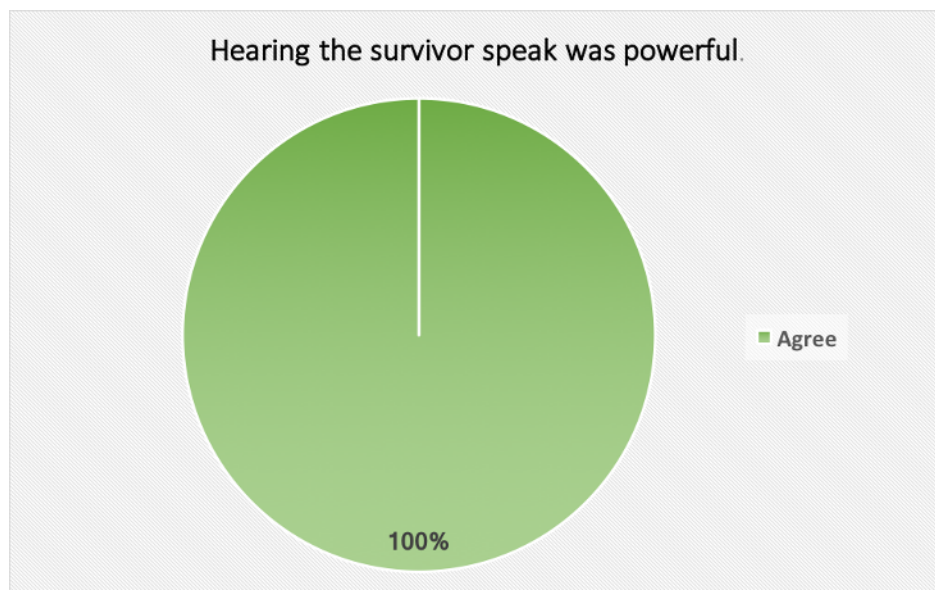
- The North Carolina Trucking Association published an article about the coalition build in its magazine.
- The North Carolina Trucking Association spoke to key member companies about TAT’s training program and is planning to host a webinar with TAT and those companies.
- The North Carolina Trucking Association is interested in having TAT come speak at chapter meetings with trucking companies across the state.

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

- Simmons Travel Center is now training at its two locations. The general manager who attended the coalition build plans to stock TAT materials at their location, train all 48 employees with TAT materials, register the two locations as TAT trained and make members of the local fire department aware of human trafficking and TAT materials.
- One general manager took TAT materials, used them to train his four employees, asked to receive TAT's monthly newsletter and has become a distribution location for 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 Tajuan McCarty:**

*"Thank you for your courage and willingness to speak out and help. The Lord is using you in a powerful way."*

*"The survivor's presentation made things more real. It was very powerful and touching."*

*"Best part! Real life experiences are what get us involved. Putting a face with what we're talking about is extremely helpful."*

*"I appreciate her willingness to share her experiences, so that I may become a better officer who understands a victim of human trafficking."*

*"Most eye-opening and humbling story I have ever heard. I have been a volunteer fire fighter for 27 years and had no clue this happens. God bless her."*

*"I applaud her courage! Thank you for sharing. May God continue to bless you and use you to make a difference."*

*"Understanding from the perspective of a victim, the way it affects them and how they are not in control, was very helpful."*

*"She was amazing. It is so powerful to hear a survivor's story. I hope the law enforcement in the room understand."*

*"You are the reason I do what I do. Thank you."*

*"Amazing. She should be very proud of her achievements. I want to applaud her for everything she shared."*

**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.**

- A Love's Travel Stop manager has asked the corporate office to have TAT speak at their annual meeting of general managers.

- Through the Department of Public Safety, all troopers will be required to view TAT's law enforcement training video statewide.
- The Department of Public Safety will now stock all weigh stations across the state with TAT materials. They are also connecting TAT with the state Welcome Centers, in order to get TAT materials distributed at those locations.
- The North Carolina Justice Academy has added a one-hour human trafficking training which features TAT's new law enforcement training video, along with a webinar and additional resources. To date, 127 officers in training have completed the training.
- The Chief of Apex Police Department, who is the former chair of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, has shared TAT's materials and law enforcement video with the IACP General Chairs and plans to discuss TAT with them at the next Executive Committee meeting. He has trained approximately 45 officers with TAT training materials, has visited truck stops with TAT materials and has shared TAT's information with trucking companies during safety compliance meetings. He said:

“We appreciate your information and partnership!”

- The Captain of Mecklenburg County Sheriff's office has used TAT's law enforcement video with other officers and has requested more TAT materials.
- A Sergeant with the Fayetteville North Carolina Police Department has used TAT materials to train ten other officers in his department. He said the information he learned at the coalition build was great information and definitely applicable due to their location near major interstate highways.

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

- The North Carolina Highway Patrol is adopting portions of the Iowa MVE by training all troopers with TAT's law enforcement video, handing out TAT materials at truck stops, interdictions stops and within trucking companies at safety compliance meetings.
- The North Carolina Department of Public Safety will stock all weigh stations with TAT materials, adopting another portion of the Iowa MVE model.



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

- The North Carolina Trucking Association is reviewing the mandate to potentially work with the Attorney General's Office and the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission to make TAT training mandatory for entry-level CDL holders.

**Assessment:**

The Raleigh coalition build was very well attended, with a good representation from law enforcement and trucking stakeholders, including many top officials in law enforcement. All participants, and especially law enforcement present, seemed very moved by the survivor's presentation, even giving her a standing ovation. The training was solid throughout the day, and many more long-term impacts are now beginning to be seen. The North Carolina Justice Academy trains thousands of criminal justice personnel throughout the state, and they are adding TAT's law enforcement training video, along with other TAT resources, to their training. The Colonel of DPS was a panelist at the meeting and, as a result, has agreed to stock all weigh stations with TAT materials, train all troopers with TAT's law enforcement training video and utilize TAT's materials where overlap with the trucking industry exist. Multiple attendees commented on the value of being able to connect with law enforcement and collaborate with industry stakeholders for this important cause. As coalition building is at the heart of these meetings, Raleigh accomplished that goal as well as reached towards many of its long-term goals.

**Follow-Up Goals:**

1. More law enforcement to show TAT's law enforcement training video agency-wide.
2. The opportunity for TAT to speak at the IACP conference or other police divisions.
3. Red Classic to train all employees and get registered.
4. Having TAT speak at the Love's annual meeting of general managers.
5. Getting all weigh stations, through DPS, stocked with TAT materials.
6. Working with NCTA and the NCHTC to get TAT training made mandatory for entry-level CDL holders.