

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



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

**Truckers Against Trafficking  
Coalition Build Report:  
Jackson, MS May 2, 2017  
Tupelo, MS May 4, 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:**

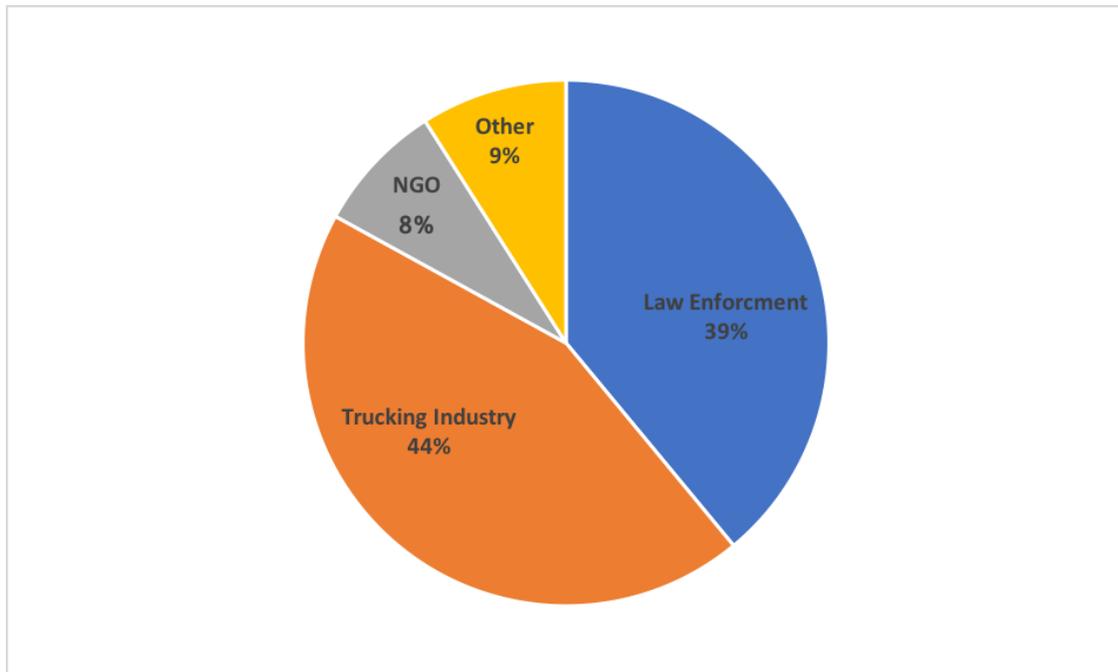
1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.
2. Chart increase in calls/reports into the hotline.
3. Equip local or statewide anti-trafficking task forces with industry stakeholders.
4. Assist in undercover investigations conducted between 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 two coalition builds in Mississippi in one week. The first meeting was in Jackson and had 57 attendees. The second meeting was a smaller meeting in Tupelo with 29 attendees. Both meetings were co-hosted with the Mississippi Trucking Association and the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security. In total, there were 22 general and district managers from truck stops, 8 trucking companies, 2 sheriff's departments, 2 police departments, 2 district attorney's offices, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services, the Lumberton District School Police and the Clinton Fire Department represented at the meeting.

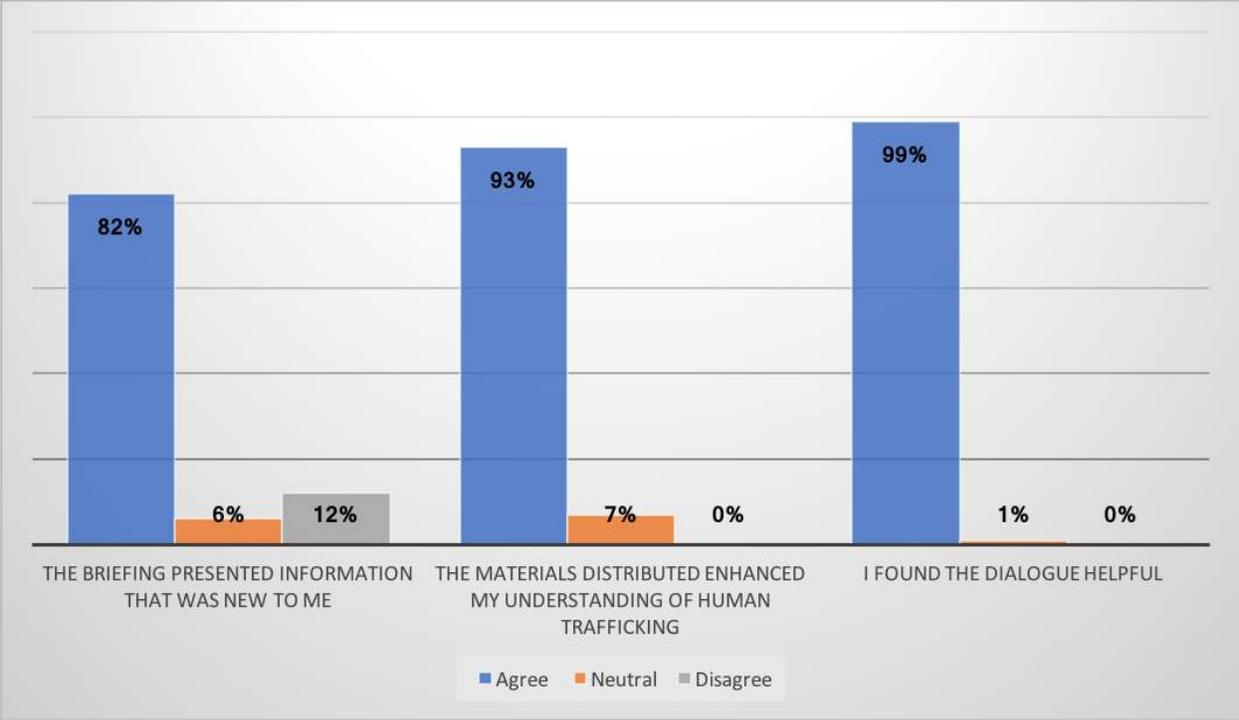
The following results are based off the survey gathered the day of the meetings, which 80% of participants completed.



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

*52% 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.**



*99% of respondents said presenters were knowledgeable and approachable.*

*100% 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.*

*95% of respondents said they are better prepared to identify human trafficking after attending this briefing.*

*97% of respondents said they know what next steps to take in order to combat human trafficking.*

**The president of the Mississippi Trucking Association, Hal Miller, had the following words to describe why he thinks the coalition builds are such a unique program and so valuable for the trucking industry:**

*"Thank you for letting us be a part of the coalition builds. I sincerely hope that the events had as huge an impact on all the other attendees as they did on me. I already had a pretty good understanding of the great things that TAT was doing, but the real impact for me was the paradigm shift after hearing the survivor's story. That story needs to be heard by as many as possible. It truly brings a whole new level of empathy and understanding that will motivate many more to support the efforts of TAT to combat trafficking. Her testimony was huge! Please let her know how much of an impact her courage has on others. She is one very special lady! You and all the others at TAT are such a blessing. Thank you for letting us find a place to help."*

**Here is what other attendees had to say about the meeting:**

*"Most definitely would like more training between truckers' association and law enforcement on working together and being aware."*

*"Powerful, good information and will help me do my work better."*

*"Outstanding!"*

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

- KLLM Transport Services LLC has been training their drivers with TAT materials. However, before the meeting they had only registered 104 drivers as TAT Trained. Their director of safety attended the coalition build and, as a result, updated their number of TAT trained from 104 to 1,066. He also made a donation to the survivor-leader who presented at the coalition build.
- Big M Transportation was already TAT trained but has updated their number of TAT-trained drivers from 200 to 220. Every new hire watches the video and receives the TAT wallet card.
- J & B Services Inc. has now trained and registered all 50 drivers as TAT Trained.

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

- A general manager from a truck stop that already partners with TAT had this to say about the meeting and training she received:

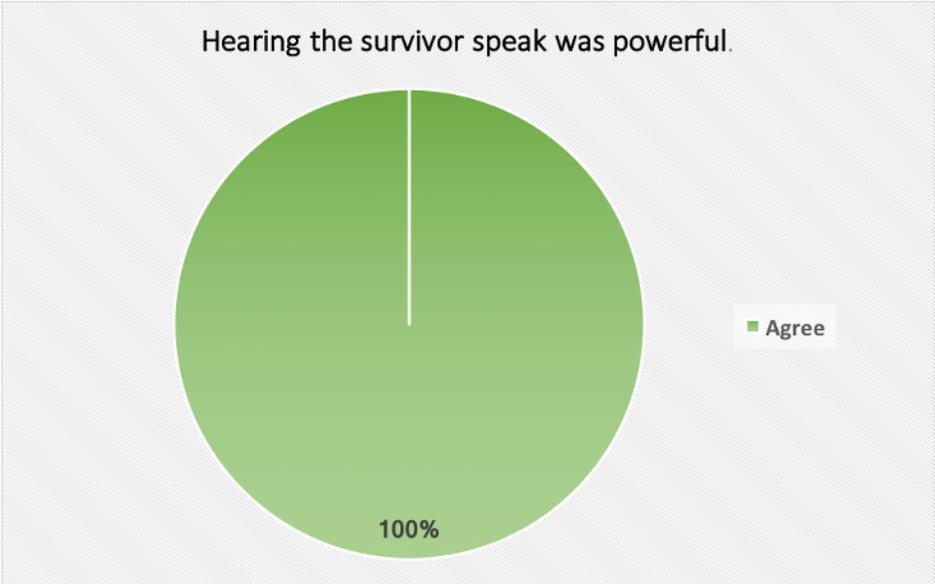
*“I love the class. It was very educational. I learned a lot and plan on taking all the data I receive back to my team so they know the importance.”*

- Another general manager, from a truck stop that already partners with TAT, has done updates in several employee meetings. In addition to having new employees watch the training video on their first day, the general manager discusses with them the signs to look for and how to handle any issues that might arise. This general manager has had a couple of possible trafficking situations, and they have called their local county police. He said he does not know the outcomes of these cases.

*“I am happy to help in anyway. This month’s employee meeting is security related, and a fresh visit about trafficking will be a part of the discussion. Thank you for all you do for this serious issue.”*

**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:**

*"Very informative. She provided specific points and takeaways"*

*"Very powerful."*

*"Awesome job, very touching."*

*"Wow! This story needs to be heard."*

*"She is a very powerful, strong individual, and as a law enforcement person, I want to say "I'm sorry" from those of us who care and take our ethics seriously."*

*"Hearing first-hand experience really brings the point home."*

*"Wow, what a powerful and informative speech. So grateful she had the courage to do this."*

*"It was a powerful presentation that would make anyone want to help."*

*"Very direct made it very impactful."*

**Long-term impact and assessment:**

The following results are based on follow up conducted three months after the meeting. Another follow up will be done in 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.***

- The following week, the Mississippi Trucking Association, Truckers Against Trafficking and the Mississippi Department of Transportation were featured on the Dave Nemo show, highlighting the two coalition builds that had just been completed in Mississippi.
- The director of safety for the Mississippi Trucking Association has joined the Governor's Human Trafficking Task Force and has requested 350 copies of TAT's law enforcement video to pass out to all law enforcement agencies in the state. The MTA has also invited TAT to come back in 2018 for a third coalition build in Mississippi.

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

- Major portions of the Iowa MVE model were already in place prior to the coalition builds, such as all Mississippi DOT officers being trained by TAT as well as all weigh stations stocked with TAT materials. However, as a result of the coalition build, State Patrol is looking at getting troopers trained by TAT's Field Trainer and Deputy Director.

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

- The Mississippi Trucking Association and TAT are working together to draft legislation around making TAT training mandatory for entry-level CDL holders through CDL schools.

**Assessment:**

The Jackson coalition build was a large and lively gathering. With a full room, attendees were engaged and interested in the topic, and the discussion focused around combating demand. The Tupelo training was a small meeting, but local law enforcement were especially grateful and impressed with the training. The strength of the Mississippi coalition builds was twofold: the enthusiasm and support of Mississippi Trucking Association and its members and the active participation of the Mississippi Department of Transportation. There were around a dozen MDOT officers at both meetings, and they offered support for TAT's training, input in the dialogue and even a case study of recovering a victim at a weigh station, which they attributed to their training received by TAT training. The Mississippi Trucking Association has been a long-time partner of TAT and continues to push TAT's message with their member companies. However, as articulated early in this report, the impact of Tajuan McCarty sharing her story was a game-changer for many at the meeting. With key partners in both law enforcement and trucking, there is no doubt that TAT's impact will continue to grow in Mississippi.

**Follow-Up Goals:**

1. Highway patrol to adopt the rest of the Iowa MVE model: training all troopers, adding TAT presentation as part of mandatory safety compliance meetings and stocking rest areas and ports of entry with TAT materials.
2. An increase in calls to report human trafficking by truck stops in attendance.
3. More carriers that attended the meeting to get TAT trained and registered.