

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



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

## **Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: Billings, MT June 14, 2018**

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 truck and bus industries 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 and busing industries 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 two 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, busing companies and truck stop or bus terminal 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 and busing industries to work together to combat it.
3. Introduce truck stop and bus terminal 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 and busing companies to train drivers as a result of the build.
5. Motivate truck stops and busing terminals to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT and BOTL 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.

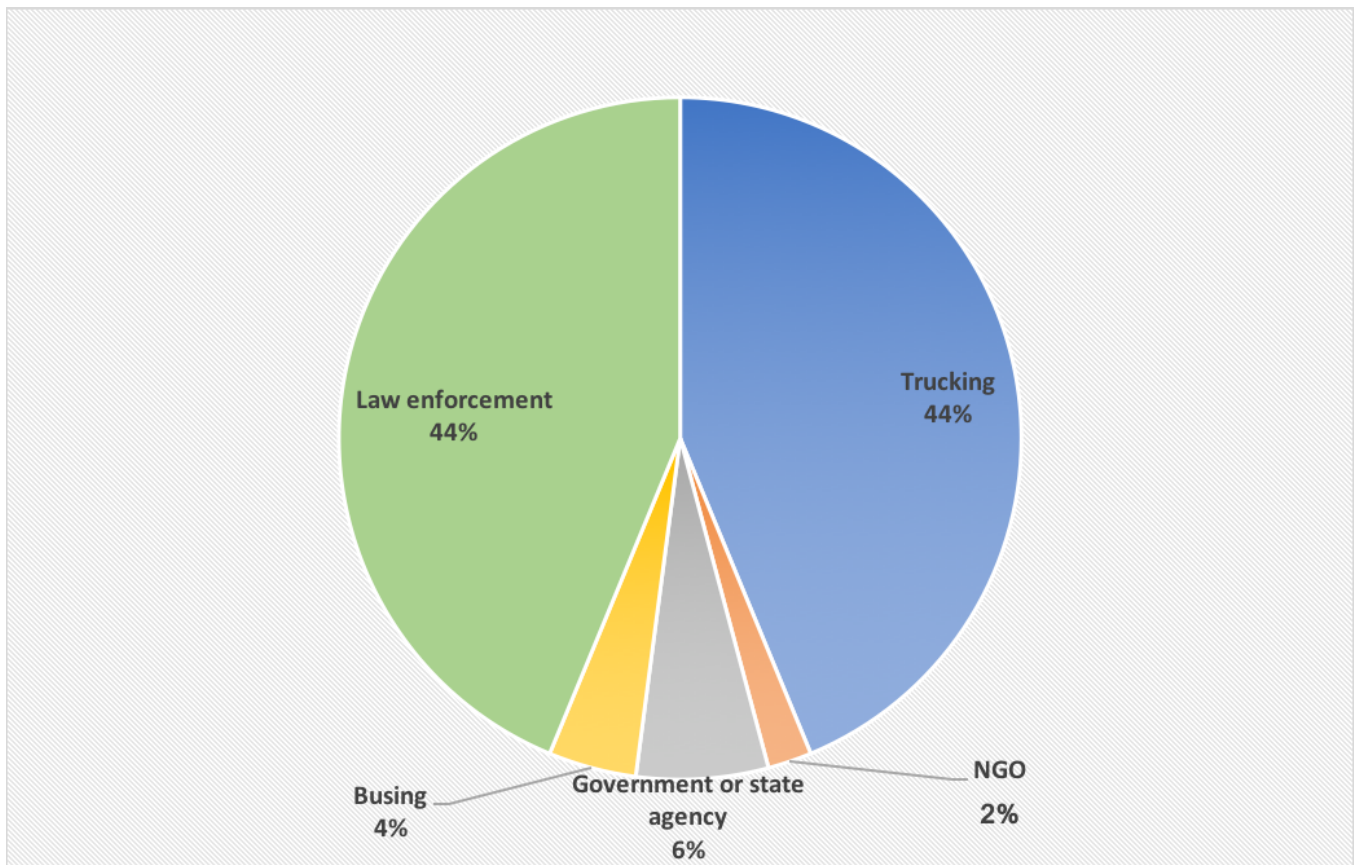
**Long-term goals:**

1. Utilize TAT and BOTL 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 and BOTL training at the CDL entry-level.

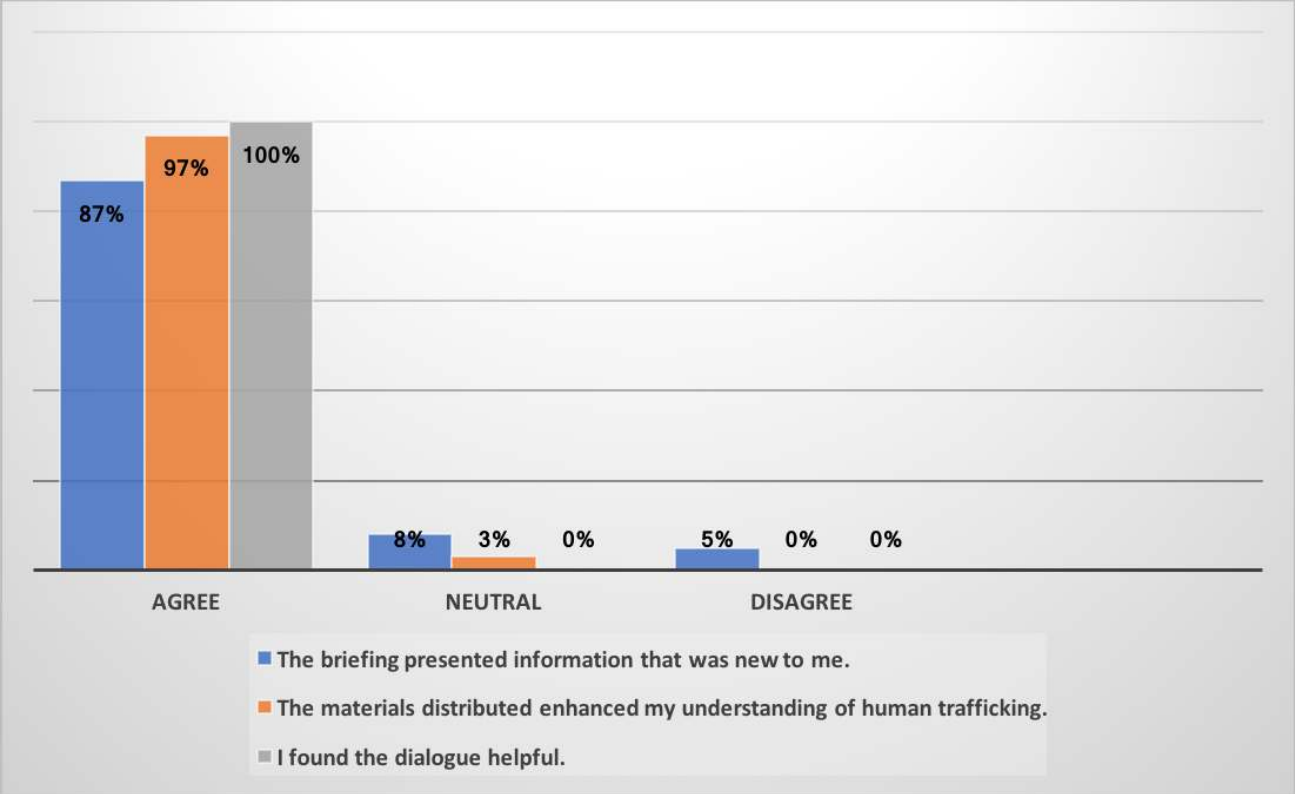
## Same-day impact:

***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 Montana Department of Justice and the Motor Carriers of Montana. Participants included one bus company, ten trucking companies and nine representatives from truck stops. Law enforcement represented two sheriff's offices, FBI Billings, Montana Highway Patrol, the Montana Attorney General's office, the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, the US Attorney's Office for the district of Montana and the Montana Department of Transportation. There were 49 participants at the meeting, and the following results are based off the survey gathered, which 80% of participants completed.



**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 and busing industries to work together to combat it.**



*100% 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.*

*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.*

*97% 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:**

*“Thank you for this briefing. I do believe this information will help us in identifying human trafficking.”*

*“Excellent information to provide to target audience.”*

*“Thank you for coming to Montana!”*

*“Thank you for the work you do to arrange these sessions; I’m sure it is a challenge.”*

*“I will refer this to my son who is a trucking company owner.”*

*“Esther is an excellent speaker and presenter. She knew vital information without needing to refer to notes or the slideshow. Her presentation showed that she is an expert in the information she was presenting.”*

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

- Dixon Brothers will be conducting the TAT training with all drivers in September.
- Diversified Transfer and Storage is in the process of training all drivers with TAT materials.
- H.O.T. Express hauled the Freedom Drivers Project to the coalition build and has now trained and registered 81 drivers.
- Whitewood Transport Inc. will be training their entire fleet at their annual driver banquet with TAT materials.
- The two bus employees at the meeting will be undergoing BOTL training in the next couple of months. One of the employees also joined the local human trafficking task force in order to stay engaged in the issue personally and professionally.

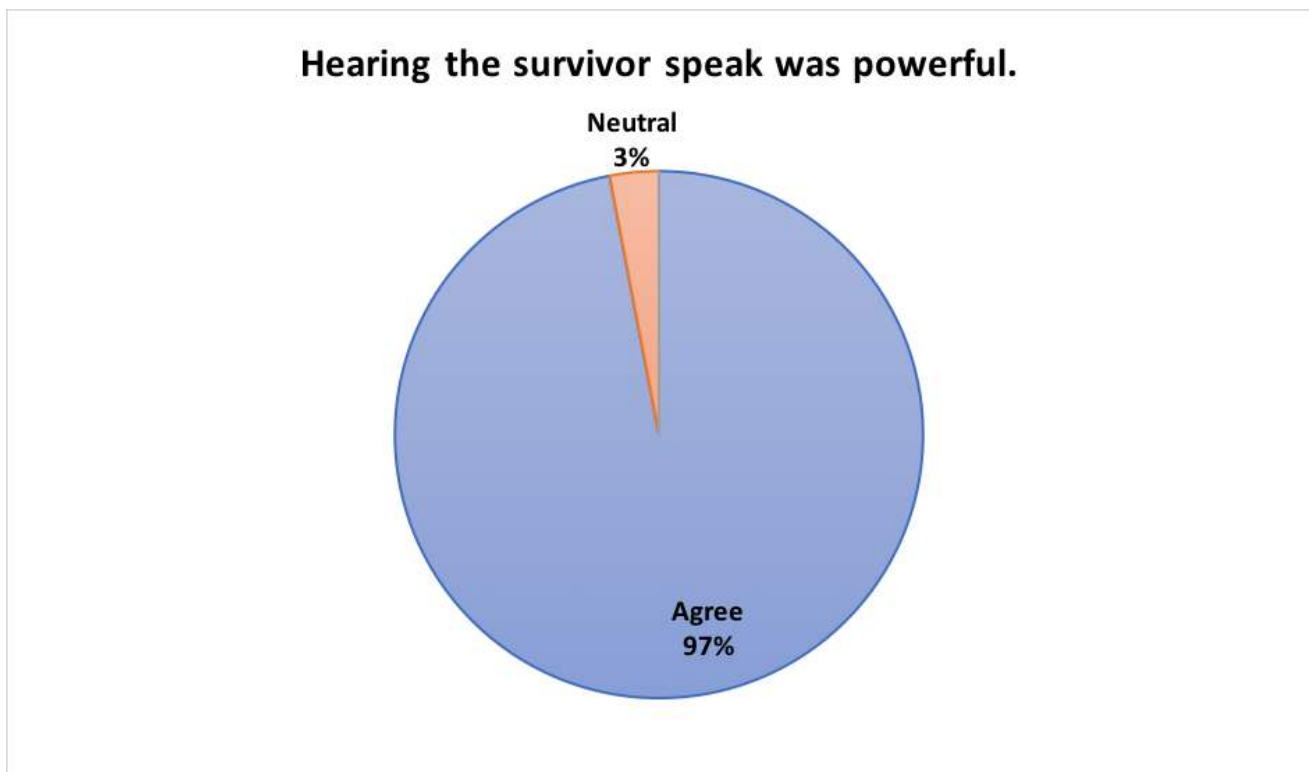
**Goal #4: Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.**

- Cenex Zip Trip sent eight managers to the coalition build, and all took TAT materials to keep at their locations. Cenex Zip Trip has C Stores and truck stops and is already working with Convenient Stores Against Trafficking. The truck stop managers plan to utilize TAT’s training at their locations, and their corporate office plans to send managers and corporate staff to any future coalition builds in their operating areas,

which include Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

- One truck stop manager has posted TAT materials all over her store and has been pleased with how many customers have commented on them. She also shared the information with her son who owns his own trucking company, and they will begin training.

***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 TAT Field Trainer:**

*“Her presentation was very good. I appreciated that she was willing to tell a part of her story, so that everyone can learn from her experiences. I also appreciate that she informed us about the appropriate question to ask. The question “Are you safe?” is a question I have not asked someone that I thought was being trafficked and will be useful in the future.”*

*“Her testimony was moving! Such an amazing person to turn her life around in such a positive way. Very powerful. Hopefully her schedule will allow her to speak at our annual driver conference.”*

*“I was so impressed and yes, awestruck, at how brave this woman was. During the panel discussion she gave very useful information. She personalized the whole concept of trafficking.”*

*“It was hard hitting and made the problem very real.”*

*“It was a very eye-opening presentation that changed my view and attitude about this issue.”*

*“She was amazingly transparent and brave.”*

*“I really appreciate her honest story. It is so important to understand this problem.”*

*“It was a very powerful presentation.”*

**Long-term impact and assessment:**

The following results are based on follow up conducted two 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 Montana Highway Patrol will be showing TAT’s law enforcement training video to all troopers throughout their fall meetings. They have received TAT training materials and will hand them out to troopers.
- The Montana Department of Transportation Motor Carriers Services has invited TAT to do in-depth law enforcement training with all officers.

- The Rosebud County Sheriff's Office has sent the TAT law enforcement training video to all satellite offices and has asked the sergeants to have the deputies watch it. All Rosebud County dispatchers have also watched the video, and they have visited gas stations with TAT materials, as well as posted TAT materials at their offices.
- The Montana Analysis and Technical Information Center for the Department of Justice has been distributing the TAT law enforcement training video to various law enforcement agencies around the state. They have recommended TAT speak at the National Fusion Center Association Conference and are interested in TAT offering additional law enforcement training in the future.

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

- The Montana Department of Transportation is now stocking all weigh stations in Montana with TAT materials and is looking to add them to rest areas as well.
- The Montana Motor Vehicle Division of the Montana Department of Justice is looking into adding TAT wallet cards with CDL issuance and renewals.
- TAT, the Montana Department of Justice and the Motor Carriers of Montana are working on finding out how to add TAT's training to CDL schools in Montana.

**Assessment:**

The coalition build in Montana provided the right opportunity for decision makers in the state to hear TAT's message and the strategic ways they can engage with the trucking and busing industries to effectively combat it. Immediately following the coalition build, TAT heard from the colonel of the Montana Department of Transportation Motor Carriers Services, inviting TAT to come train all MCS officers. The Department of Justice is working on implementing TAT's Iowa MVE model, through getting TAT wallet cards added with CDL issuance and renewals, as well as working with the Motor Carriers of Montana to get TAT's training added to CDL school curriculum. Through the follow-up done for the coalition build, TAT learned that the first bus company to become BOTL trained has already had an employee report a potential trafficking case. The trucking industry was enthusiastic about re-engaging with TAT and hopes to have TAT speak at their next annual conference. The coalition build created an effective platform for moving this important work forward in Montana.

