

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



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

## **Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: St. Paul, MN April 17, 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.

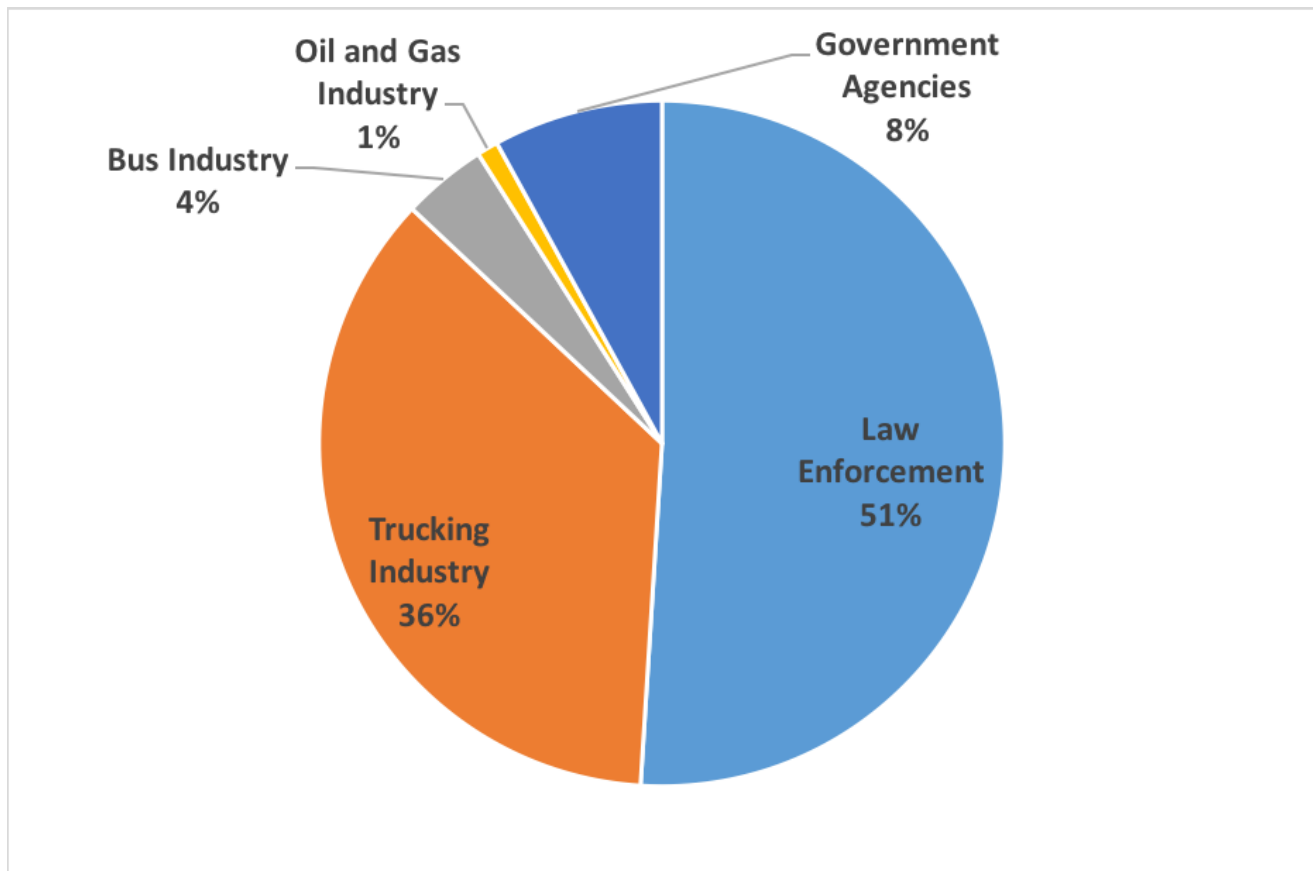
**Long-term goals:**

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.

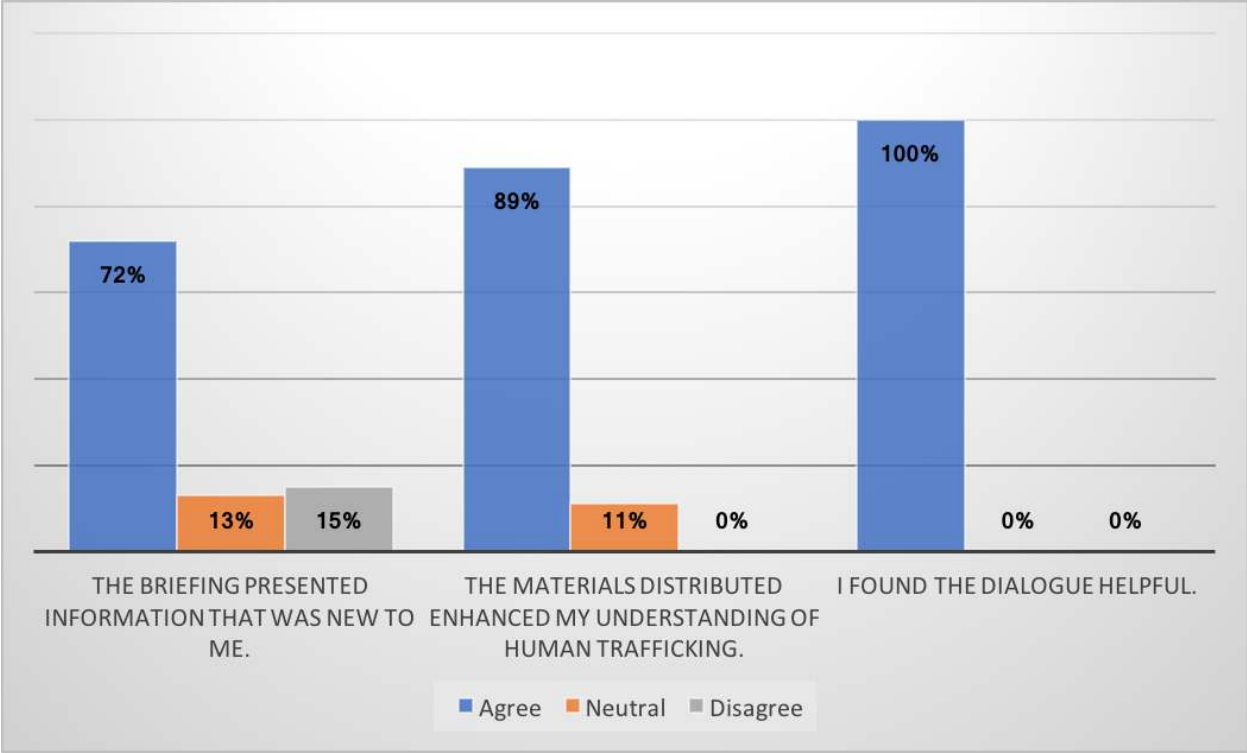
## Same-day impact:

***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 Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Minnesota Trucking Association. Participants included 13 trucking companies, seven truck stops, two bus companies and one oil and gas company. Law enforcement represented five sheriff's offices, eight local police departments, Minnesota State Patrol, FBI, HSI, the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Wisconsin Department of Justice. There were 81 participants at the meeting, and the following results are based off the survey gathered, which 57% 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.**



**98% 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.**

**85% 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:**

*“A lot of good information provided by all the presenters. I'm hoping the additional law enforcement training tomorrow will help identify some indicators to recognize trafficking for patrol officers.”*

*“The presenters seemed very in-tune with this issue and are the best people for this format.”*

*“I love the fact that victims are speaking out. It was very moving.”*

*“All presenters made this real. I have watched TAT grow since the first presentation I attended in 2013. I am impressed.”*

*“I felt the presenters were engaging and kept the group entertained. The topics presented were helpful to me.”*

*“We as a trucking company will continue educating our drivers at orientation and promote the literature in our offices. Let's get these criminals behind bars.”*

*“The information provided today will be shared at our company. Trucking touches so many different lives and locations; this is a great connection.”*

*“Very powerful, nice job.”*

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

- Styer Transport has now trained and registered as TAT-trained.
- Lawrence Transportation Company has now registered all 100 drivers as TAT-trained.
- Manning Transfer, Inc. has now trained and registered all drivers.
- Midwest Motor Express has now registered 147 drivers as TAT-trained. They have also invited TAT to two potential future events in Minnesota.
- Brenny Transportation, Inc. and Brenny Specialized, Inc. has now registered all drivers as TAT-trained.
- Dart Transit has offered the training to its drivers as optional. They have updated their TAT-trained numbers since the coalition build, totaling 534. As a result of the coalition build, TAT was interviewed for the Dart Network Podcast and will be featured in a five-part series, highlighting

TAT and the coalition build in St. Paul. The goal is to bring more awareness to the important work that TAT does.

- Enbridge's Duluth office has now trained and registered all their employees with TAT materials and is advocating the program among their carriers by becoming a TAT Shipping Partner.
- Jefferson Lines was very impressed with the coalition build and has now put the BOTL training into their new employee orientation for all new hires. Between now and mid-July, they will train all of their current employees, approximately 200. They have included information about BOTL in their most recent company newsletter, and they are making introductions between BOTL and student transportation in Minnesota.
- The City Manager of Greyhound Lines Inc. attended the coalition build and is working to promote BOTL internally at Greyhound. He will be presenting on BOTL to the regional and management team.

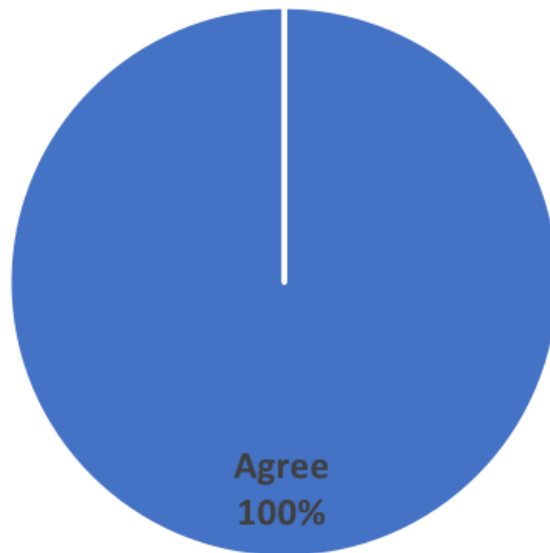
***Goal #4: Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.***

- A truck stop general manager that attended the meeting said her employees were very interested in all the information provided. They did have a situation in which they called local law enforcement, who determined it was not a trafficking situation.
- A district manager with Travel Centers of America will be holding a meeting, including locations in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The meeting will be store-wide and include all departments and employees. He expects around 150 participants. At the meeting, he plans to show the full-length TAT training video, go over the wallet card and show the Kevin Kimmel video.

***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.

## Hearing the survivor speak was powerful.



### Here is what respondents had to say about the presentation by Beth Jacobs:

*"She shared her real-life experience, showing that trafficking can start from anywhere, small towns, rural areas or the kids next door. Someone you least expect can become trafficked. Working north of the metro area, many officers don't realize this is a problem."*

*"There were a couple of potentially sensitive questions, and she had great responses."*

*"A lot of information was given, and it was very informative."*

*"It's so hard to understand how a girl can be arrested so many times and not trust law enforcement enough to ask for help. Brainwashing is real."*

*"It was nice to hear from an actual survivor's perspective and give an idea of trafficking from their side. It gives an idea of what a victim goes through, how law enforcement can help and what the struggles are for them while being trafficked and when getting out."*

*"It was raw and heartfelt."*

*“She did a great job! Thank you for sharing; it opened my mind.”*

*“Beth's story is powerful and so important for us to hear here today. Beth did great and maintained the audience's attention. Thank you, Beth, for sharing your story.”*

### **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 Federal Motor Carriers Association is presenting with Michigan State Police on TAT and human trafficking at the National Conference of State Transportation Specialists annual conference.
- The Minnesota Trucking Association is working towards a 100% participation goal for the board. They plan on every board member ensuring their companies are TAT trained. This will be the first state trucking association to accomplish this goal.

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

- Minnesota Department of Transportation has already implemented significant portions of the Iowa MVE model. They attended the meeting and will continue to ensure TAT materials are distributed and stocked at key locations.

### **Assessment:**

The Minnesota coalition build brought significant progress in promoting TAT's message and training throughout the trucking and busing industries. Almost all of the companies in attendance have become TAT trained and registered. The meeting created significant and strategic inroads for BOTL in the busing industry and also led to a TAT Shipping Partner in the oil and gas industry. The coalition build was followed by two days of in-depth law enforcement training, which was also very well received. There was extensive local press coverage of the coalition build, and because of that coverage, TAT received interest from law enforcement in other states about having a coalition build. Dart Transit was so pleased with the five-part series podcast on TAT and human trafficking, that they will be putting out a press release about the series and distributing it to media and association outlets. The meeting successfully brought attention to the problem of human trafficking in Minnesota, and gave viable strategies for industry professional and law enforcement to get involved, work together and make a difference.