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HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE NEWS

Platform Science partners with TAT (Truckers Against Trafficking)

Platform Science, platform for transportation, announced a strategic partnership with TAT (formerly known as Truckers Against Trafficking), a nonprofit organization focused on educating members of the truck, bus and energy industries about the realities of human trafficking and how they can combat it. Through this partnership, the TAT app for ELDs will be installed on tablets provided to Platform Science customers. [Click here](#) to read more.

UNO researchers lead in-depth study on labor trafficking in Nebraska

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline's most recent report, over 7,500 reported cases of human trafficking were verified in the United States last year. University of Nebraska at Omaha faculty in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice are conducting a two-year study on one form of human trafficking, known as labor trafficking, that may be occurring in Nebraska. [Click here](#) to read more.

USDOT praises trucking's efforts in new trafficking report

The U.S. Department of Transportation Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking [has issued a new 175-page report](#) detailing challenges and successes in combating sex and forced labor trafficking in the transportation sector. The report, three years in the making and made public on Sept. 6, lauds the trucking industry for its efforts to join the fight at high-level federal and state government agencies, as well as keeping an eye out for illicit activity at the nation's truck stops and on its roadways. [Click here](#) to read more.

Oregon DOT (ODOT) receives 2024 TAT Champion Award in State Agency Category

TAT honored the Oregon DOT (ODOT) as the winner of its 2024 TAT Champion Award in the State Agency Category at the fall Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) conference in Big Sky, Montana in September.

Each year, TAT recognizes and honors the creative, innovative and generous efforts of specific TAT partners whose actions have significantly furthered their work. TAT Champion Awards are in three categories: association, organization or government agency.

Since 2018, ODOT has brought TAT trainers to the state three times to conduct multiple law enforcement trainings for their officers as well as officers from the Oregon State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies. Through those initial trainings, ODOT began strategically engaging leaders in the trucking, truck stop, bus and transit industries, which paved the way for deeper private sector engagement, including:

- In 2018, they provided a human trafficking awareness presentation using TAT's transit/motorcoach training video at the Oregon Public Transportation Conference.
- The following year, at ODOT's annual mandatory transit training, ODOT spoke to agency directors, transit managers and agency staff about TAT's training resources and provided facilitator guides to the 100+ agency staff in attendance. As a result, over 1,000 drivers and agency staff have received training.
- ODOT's Ken Oke has ensured all elements of the Iowa MVE Model have been implemented in the state and keeps up with material orders to keep everyone stocked.
- ODOT has participated each year in CVSA's Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative, attempting to expand the depth of their outreach annually, including the Oregon Trucking Association, truck stops and other entities throughout their state.
- In 2021, ODOT featured a session on human trafficking at its Fall Forum, a conference for all ODOT employees. This year, they organized a two-day event to build local networks to combat human trafficking, bringing together law enforcement, industry, casinos and tribal nations and invited TAT to speak and share materials.
- In September 2024, ODOT launched a statewide initiative with a co-branded TAT insert going out to every CDL holder in the state providing a QR code for training.



Oregon DOT Program Analyst Ken Oke received the TAT Champion Award in the State Agency Category on behalf of ODOT.

An introduction ODOT facilitated between TAT and Sunset Empire Transportation District (SETD) led to the training of all their bus drivers and terminal staff. Shortly after the training, two 14-year-old girls were reported missing after deciding to travel together to meet an “Internet friend.” Knowing that traffickers and other predators use the internet to recruit victims, law enforcement began their investigation and contacted the SETD staff, who located the girls, alerting the bus driver whose bus they were on. The driver was then able to engage the girls in conversation using a victim-centered approach and keep them calm before law enforcement arrived to safely escort them home. Each person knew what was at stake with these girls and did their part to bring them home unharmed.

TAT Board of Directors elects two new members

In September, the TAT Board of Directors elected two new members: Newel Scoon, vice president of Operations for Coach USA's East Region, and Clay Roach, vice president of Transportation for FedEx.

Scoon joined Coach USA through one of its companies, One Bus, Inc. in 1999. From a starting position as an accounting clerk, his



career steadily advanced, including working as an assistant controller, moving into multiple operations positions and then becoming Safety director at the Coach USA Elizabeth, New Jersey facility. Scoon spent three years in that position, receiving a promotion to assistant general manager at Suburban Transit in 2008. Four years later, he transitioned to Service Development manager at Megabus.com. In this role, he ensured Coach USA delivered proper service standards to customers throughout the Megabus.com network. From 2015 to 2021, he served as general manager of Community Coach, and then general manager of Shortline, Coach USA’s largest operation. He began his current role in 2021, with responsibilities for delivering services safely and efficiently to customers, while meeting internal fiscal expectations and managing company policies and procedures.

Newel Scoon

“I’m very excited about this opportunity to continue building a strong relationship between Coach USA and TAT,” Scoon said. “We’re fully committed to ensuring that our front line staff is trained, vigilant and prepared to take the necessary action to make a significant difference.”

Roach began his tenure with FedEx in 1994 as a package handler and ascended in the operations organization through a series of station, hub and linehaul management positions before becoming director in 2014. He assumed his current role in 2020, where he oversees the transportation and logistics of the FedEx Surface Network, which includes the strategy planning and execution of surface linehaul operations, along with the customer experience and pickup coordination teams across the U.S. and Canada. He is a member of the Supply Chain and Transportation Management Executive Advisory Board for the University of Reno, Nevada and Customer Advisory Board for Norfolk Southern Railway. He’s received multiple awards for the company and is a two-time recipient of the prestigious FedEx Five Star Award.



Clay Roach

“I am truly honored to serve on the Board of Directors for TAT,” Roach said. “TAT’s commitment to education and innovation has proven its effectiveness in combating human trafficking, a cause of undeniable importance. I look forward to working with such a talented and accomplished board. In my role at FedEx, I am eager to leverage our resources and team efforts to further enhance our shared commitment to eradicating human trafficking.”

TAT provides a keynote address at Amazon’s RelayCon 2024

Esther Goetsch, TAT executive director, delivered one of two keynote addresses at a general session of Amazon’s RelayCon 2024 event in mid-September in Las Vegas, Nevada. RelayCon is Amazon Relay’s two-day conference specifically held for its carriers. This year, it brought in 658 people, 505 of which were carriers.

Speaking at the session titled *Delivering for Our Communities: Empowering Community and Social Responsibility*, Goetsch presented to



a mix of fleet owners, owner-operators and industry leaders, numbering several hundred.

TAT Executive Director Esther Goetsch gave one of the keynote addresses at a general session of Amazon's RelayCon 2024.

She spoke on TAT and the critical role trucking plays in the fight against human trafficking.



The Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) with FDP Director Brandy Belton also received attention in the conference's Expo Hall, with 95 people touring the FDP during the two-day event. Alex Silverman, Amazon's North America regional leader for Social Responsibility with the Business Strategy and Integration team volunteered at the FDP throughout the event.

Belton reported, "I spoke with one gentleman who told me he cried while hearing Esther present. We had a long conversation about his family and daughter and the importance of keeping them safe. He then toured the FDP, thanked us for being there, and said the FDP was the highlight of the whole event for him."

Alex Silverman, Amazon's North America regional leader for Social Responsibility with the Business Strategy and Integration team, volunteered at the FDP throughout the event, working alongside TAT FDP Director Brandy Belton as they interacted with conference participants.

Protect Georgia Lunch and Panel Discussion on fighting human trafficking includes TAT

Annie Sovcik, TAT senior director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, took part in a Protect Georgia Lunch and Panel Discussion on fighting human trafficking Sept. 17 in Atlanta.

Georgia Attorney General (AG) Chris Carr moderated the panel, which included, along with Sovcik, Kendis Paris, director of Grantmaking Strategy for UPS; Hannah Palmquist from the AG's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit; and Erica Sarkissian, program director for Employee Engagement/Anti-Human Trafficking at Delta Air Lines.

The event audience included a mix of approximately 100 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, NGOs, elected officials and representatives of Atlanta-based businesses.



At September's Protect Georgia event, (L to R) Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr moderated a panel discussion on human trafficking with Kendis Paris, director of Grantmaking Strategy for UPS; Erica Sarkissian, program director for Employee Engagement/Anti-Human Trafficking at Delta Air Lines; Annie Sovcik, TAT senior director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives; and Hannah Palmquist from the AG's Human Trafficking Prosecution

The purpose of Protect Georgia, Inc. is to inform Georgians on important public safety topics and highlight the work of constitutional officers like AG Carr and other State of Georgia officials. This event's particular discussion focused on the prevention, education and prosecution of human trafficking.

UPS and Delta shared their commitment to raising awareness about human trafficking among their frontline workers and throughout their companies. They also spoke about ways they invest in job and skills training for survivors as well as in organizations, like Wellspring Living, which provide direct services to survivors and consult with other organizations looking to develop restoration programs.

The Attorney General and his head of human trafficking prosecutions spoke about vulnerabilities to human trafficking, emphasizing the risks to runaway youth in particular, and strategies they have employed to target child sex traffickers, especially through the effective use of technology that allows their prosecutions to be less dependent on victim testimony and, consequently, much less retraumatizing and more victim-centered.

Beyond training and awareness and the need to invest in restoration services for survivors, the panel highlighted the importance of addressing demand through enhanced awareness about the connection between purchasing commercial sex and sex trafficking, strong corporate anti-trafficking policies with a demand-reduction focus, and arresting and prosecuting buyers of commercial sex.

Finally, all panelists talked about the importance of partnerships and collaboration and how strong public-private partnerships are essential to an effective counter-trafficking strategy.

"It was an honor to join Attorney General Carr and our partners at UPS for this Protect Georgia event," said Sovcik. "Learning about the many innovative strategies being employed in the state of Georgia to combat human trafficking was inspiring. I appreciated the opportunity to share information about TAT and ways we can help enhance the great work being done there, including through the free training resources we share with companies and law enforcement and the successful Coalition Build model we use to facilitate the development of public-private partnerships to combat human trafficking."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 1-4 – FedEx Summit, Orlando, FL

Oct. 2 – Harriet Tubman Award presentation, Florence, SC

Oct. 9-11 – Domestic Violence Extremism Symposium, South Lake Tahoe, Nevada

Oct. 9 – School Transportation on the Lookout, virtual

Oct. 10 – Alliance to End Human Trafficking – Addressing Demand webinar, virtual

Oct. 11-12 – 2024 RFX/REFE Annual Meeting and Celebration, Houston, TX

Oct. 11 – TAT Board of Directors Meeting, Nashville, TN

Oct. 11 – Regional Advocates meeting for the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Springfield, IL

Oct. 12-15 – American Trucking Associations Management Conference and Exhibition, Nashville, TN

Oct. 16 – TAT and Platform Science eTAT, virtual

Oct. 17 – Bridgestone, US Ventures and Breakthrough, FDP, Green Bay, WI

Oct. 17 – Marathon Petroleum's Combating

Oct. 21-23 – Hospitality Saskatchewan's Human Trafficking Summit, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Oct. 22-23 – Pennsylvania Moving and Storage Associates Annual Conference, Gettysburg, PA

Oct. 22-23 – Linde's FDP events, Chicago, IL

Oct. 23 – Coalition Build, Joliet, IL

Oct. 25 – Broker-Carrier Summit, Ft. Worth, TX

Oct. 29 – North Dakota Energy Coalition Build, Dickinson, ND

Oct. 30 – Public Safety Preparedness Summit, San Francisco, CA

Human Trafficking: How the Energy Industry
Can Make a Difference, virtual
Oct. 18 – Bridgestone, US Ventures and
Breakthrough, FDP Appleton, WI



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