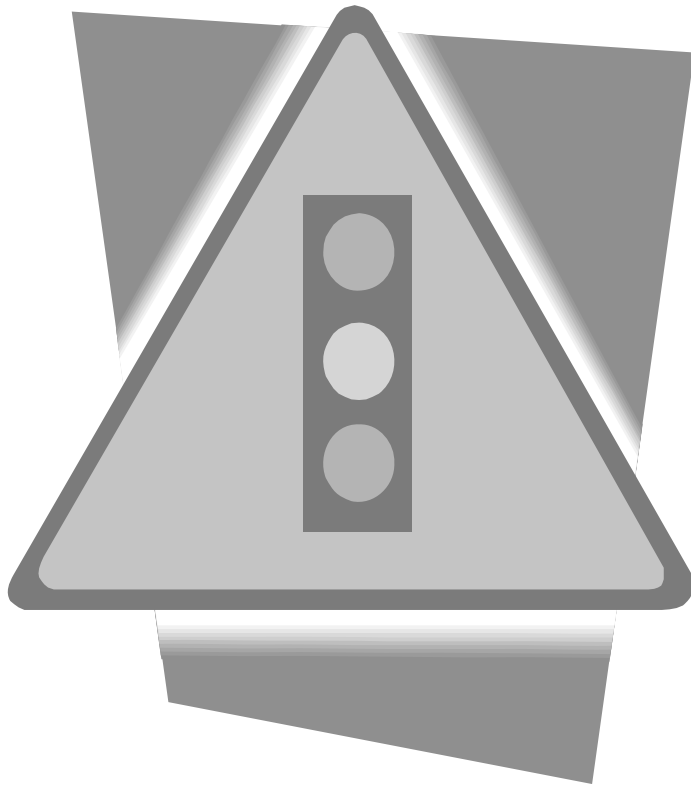


# **Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives**

## **Traffic Safety Awards**



**TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS EDUCATION CENTER**



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# Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives

## Traffic Safety Awards

### **Purpose:**

To recognize those who work in cities that have made outstanding contributions to their community in an effort to increase traffic safety. This competition is a friendly way for municipalities to increase their attention to quality of life through traffic safety activities. Best practices will be shared across the state. Each submission will be recognized.

### **Eligibility:**

Any municipal court in the State of Texas. Entries may be submitted on behalf of the court by the following: Judge, Court Clerk, Deputy Court Clerk, Court Manager, Court Administrator, Bailiff, Marshal, Warrant Officer, City Manager, City Councilperson, Law Enforcement Representative, or a Community Member.

### **Awards:**

Award recipients will be honored at the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC) Traffic Safety Conference that will be held on May 21-23, 2008 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Los Colinas in Irving, Texas.

Nine (9) awards will be given:

- Two (2) in the large volume courts, *servicing populations of 150,000 or more;*
- Three (3) in the medium volume courts, *servicing populations between 30,000 and 149,999; and*
- Four (4) in the small volume courts, *servicing populations below 30,000.*

Award recipients receive for two municipal court representatives, complimentary conference registration; travel to and from the Traffic Safety Conference to include airfare or mileage that is within state guidelines, two night's accommodations at the beautiful Omni Mandalay Hotel and most meals and refreshments.

### **Honorable Mentions:**

If there are a number of applications that are reviewed and deemed outstanding and innovative, at the discretion of TMCEC, honorable mentions may be selected.

Honorable mentions will be provided airfare or mileage that is within state fiscal guidelines to attend the Traffic Safety Conference and will be recognized at the Traffic Safety Conference.

### **Judging Committee and How Entries are Judged:**

A panel of judges made up of TMCEC staff and board members will review each application and assign points based on the materials submitted. After judging, the scores will be averaged and a final score assigned. *There may be categories where no awards will be presented due to a lack of entries.*

Applicants will be judged on the basis of what their court is doing in terms of public outreach in their community to increase traffic safety while decreasing traffic crashes, traffic fatalities, juvenile DUI, child safety seat offenses, red light running, and other traffic related offenses. It may be helpful to review "What Can You Do" on page 19 of this publication.

**Section I:** *A maximum of 50 points can be awarded.*

**What are you currently doing or planning to do to address traffic safety?** Please provide a written report that is no longer than five pages in length. This may include details regarding, but not limited to: monthly or regular articles in local publications; sponsorship of mock trials; community outreach; distribution of written materials and pamphlets; creative sentencing; bilingual programs and initiatives on traffic safety; adoption of the national and state programs such as Click It or Ticket; web-pages addressing traffic safety; presentations to local civic groups and organizations; interaction with youth; outreach with repeat offenders; and community partnerships. Court programs may be represented in conjunction with city departments, local schools, civic groups, and other community programs.

**Section II:** *A maximum of 30 points can be awarded.*

**Attachments/Samples.** Seeing is believing. Show us samples or digital photos of your materials. This may include, but is not limited to: **copies** (*these will not be returned*) of photos, news articles, press releases, materials you distribute, copies of your web-pages, flyers, and letters of support.

**Section III:** *A maximum of 20 points can be awarded.*

**Neatness, organization of materials, and following submission guidelines.**



## General Tips on a Winning Submission:

- First impressions count. A neat, well-organized submission that is easy to understand during the judging makes big difference.
- Make sure that all of the information you want the judges to see is securely attached.

## Entry Rules:

- **Three copies** of the application packet must be submitted.
- Provide a completed application packet that includes the application form.
- All typed pages should be 1.5 or double spaced, printed single-sided in at least a font size of 12, *excluded: attachments and samples do not have to follow these guidelines.*
- Each application packet cannot contain more than thirty pages or documents, including attachments, pictures, and supporting documentation. You may include letters of support as long as you do not exceed page limitations. If, for example, you create a four page handout on Juvenile DUI to distribute to your local schools, this will count as one document.
- Applications are divided into three (3) categories:
  1. *Large Volume Courts are those serving populations of 150,000 or more;*
  2. *Medium Volume Courts are those serving populations between 30,000 and 149,999; and*
  3. *Low Volume Courts are those serving populations below 30,000.*
- Please provide copies only, **no originals, as your submission will not be returned.**
- No late submissions will be considered.

## Deadline:

Entries must be postmarked no later than **Thursday, January 31, 2008.**

Send applications to:

TMCEC – Traffic Safety Awards  
Attn: Lisa Robinson, CFLE  
TxDOT Traffic Safety Grant Administrator  
1609 Shoal Creek Boulevard, Suite 302  
Austin, TX 78701

**For more information, please contact:**

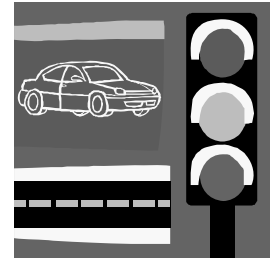
**Lisa R. Robinson, CFLE**  
TxDOT Traffic Safety Grant Administrator  
512/320-8274 or [robinson@tmcec.com](mailto:robinson@tmcec.com)

## Presentation:

Award recipients and honorable mention winners will be notified by February 29, 2008 and will be honored during the Traffic Safety Conference to be held May 21-23, 2008 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Los Colinas in Irving, Texas.

## Best Practices:

Information submitted will be compiled and shared statewide for community networking, collaboration, and examples of best practices.



**Traffic law enforcement benefits can go far beyond the traffic stop!**

## What Can You Do?

- Get involved
- Add traffic safety materials to your city's and court's web-sites
- Host a warrant round-up with nearby cities
- Invite school groups into your court
- Start a proactive fine collection program
- Recognize situations where a "fine is not fine"
- Join the TMCEC listserv on traffic safety
- Approve adequate funding, staff, and support for your municipal court
- Speak to local civic groups on the importance of traffic safety
- Build community partnerships
- Ask law enforcement officers and prosecutors to work together to identify at-risk drivers in your community
- Create meaningful sentencing alternatives for repeat offenders, especially juveniles and minors using deferred disposition
- At the close of a trial after sentencing, remind jurors and court observers of the importance of compliance with traffic laws
- Adopt a seat belt policy for all city employees
- Participate annually in Municipal Court Week

# Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives



## TMCEC Traffic Safety Award Application Deadline: January 31, 2008 (postmarked)

*Please print all information as you would like to appear on the award*

Name of Person Submitting & Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Court Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Category (please check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ *Large Volume Court: serving populations of 150,000 or more*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Medium Volume Court: serving populations between 30,000 and 149,999*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Low Volume Court: serving populations below 30,000*

Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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### DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA:

Section I: Written Report: Maximum of 50 points: \_\_\_\_\_

Section II: Attachments/Samples: Maximum of 30 points: \_\_\_\_\_

Section III: Neatness, Organization of Materials,  
& Following Submission Guidelines: Maximum of 20 points: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_