



American Planning Association
Texas Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

Chapter Officers

Chance Sparks, AICP, CNU-A
President
512.312.0084
Chance.Sparks@freese.com

Heather Nick, AICP
President-Elect
903-245-4459
hnick@tylertexas.com

Gary Mitchell, AICP
Treasurer
(281) 721-4105
gary@kendigkeast.com

Christina Sebastian, AICP
Secretary
972.941.5760
christinas@plano.gov

Doug McDonald, AICP
Past-President
214.801.7792
president@apatexas.org

Lee Battle, AICP
TML Affiliate
214-509-4163
lbattle@cityofallen.org

Executive Administrator

Mike McAnelly, FAICP
9629 Fallbrook Drive
Dallas, Texas 75243
214.850.9046
administrator@apatexas.org

APA Texas Chapter
www.txplanning.org

Thank you, Chairman Cann, for the opportunity to present the following information from the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter (APATX). My name is **Chance Sparks** and I am the President of the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter. We are testifying **in favor of HB442**. APATX represents public and private sector planners, planning academics and students, elected officials, and citizen planners in the great state of Texas.

According to the TxDOT Crash Database, from 2015-2020 there were 20,400 roadway related deaths reported in Texas. Of those deaths, 1,508 were on roadways with a 30MPH posted speed limit, while only 47 were on roadways with a 25MPH posted speed limit. Clearly, speed is the most direct factor in determining whether a person hit by a vehicle dies, is injured, or walks away unharmed. Even this seemingly small reduction in speed limits makes a difference. Similar to Texas statistics, a national study from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety analyzed in Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 2011). A person is about 70 percent more likely to be killed if they're struck by a vehicle traveling at 30 mph versus 25 mph.

Permitted vehicle speed for a roadway should recognize the land use context. The way to do this is by balancing the number of vehicles on a roadway with the potential lives lost: the more people in the area, the more careful we should be in their presence. Streets in residential neighborhoods are prime candidates to reduce the risk to residents by reducing the prima facie speed limit to 25 mph.

Once again, I'd like to thank the Legislature for working together to make roadway safety a priority. Roadway safety is an important goal for all of Texas and we should come together and address the issue at the state level. APATX stands ready to assist the State in achieving this goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chance Sparks, AICP, President
American Planning Association - Texas Chapter

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