

CHAPTER 4 ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION



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The development of the Waco MPO CSAP involved extensive community engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders across the region. Safety is a shared responsibility, and input from the public, local agencies, and safety partners was critical to identifying priority concerns and building support for recommended strategies.

The planning process included regular updates and discussions at Waco MPO's Policy Board, Technical Advisory Committee, and workgroup meetings beginning November 2023; these meetings were open to the public.

Additionally, a 30-day public participation period for the CSAP was held from March 31 to April 29, 2024. The plan was developed collaboratively with input from the County, Cities, TxDOT, and other key stakeholders in the region, including representatives from area Independent School Districts (ISDs). The table on the right provides a summary of various outreach conducted for the CSAP. Engagement and collaboration activities with respect to the project schedule are shown on the following page.

SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Project Website	<p>Dedicated project website (https://www.wacomposafeststreets.com/) containing overview of the project, project area and map of collisions between 2014 and 2023.</p> <p>A project website on the Waco MPO's official website: https://www.waco-texas.com/Departments/Metropolitan-Planning-Organization/Planning-Programs#section-7</p>
Public Map Input Platform	<p>As part of the project website, an online mapping platform for public and stakeholders to report locations or roadways with known or potential safety issues was created. Responses were accepted until March 24, 2024 to be included in the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.</p>
Stakeholder Meetings	<p>Stakeholder engagement meetings and activities continued from January through April 2024. Two rounds of virtual meetings and discussions were held; first, to gain an understanding of the existing conditions, and second, to finalize safety projects. Two meetings each were organized with the Cities of Bellmead, Hewitt, Lacy Lakeview, McGregor, Robinson, Waco, Woodway, and McLennan County. One meeting with was held with Waco, Midway, Connelly, and La Vega Independent School Districts. Baylor University staff were invited and participated during the meeting with the City of Waco. The meeting agendas and minutes are available as Appendix D.</p>
Safety Action Task Force Meetings	<p>Safety Action Task Force Meetings were held in-person and virtually on the second Monday of each month starting in December. These meetings were attended by the task force members and the MPO. The task force will continue to meet after the adoption of the plan to monitor its implementation. The exact dates of the meetings are given below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Task Force Meeting #1 – December 11, 2023 • Safety Task Force Meeting #2 – January 8, 2024 • Safety Task Force Meeting #3 – February 12, 2024 • Safety Task Force Meeting #4 – March 11, 2024
Public Comment Form	<p>Waco MPO Community Engagement page on the City of Waco website was available during the public comment period March 31, 2024 to April 29, 2024.</p>
Public Information Meetings	<p>Public Information Meeting #1 – April 9, 2024 – 12:00 p.m. (in-person and online) Public Information Meeting #2 – April 9, 2024 – 5:30 p.m. (in-person and online)</p>



ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH TIMELINE



INTER-AGENCY & INTRA-AGENCY COLLABORATION

Coordination between the many agencies and safety stakeholders in the Waco MPO and McLennan County was essential to developing a comprehensive and collaborative Safety Action Plan. An inter-agency Safety Action Task Force was formed at the outset, comprised of representatives from following agencies:

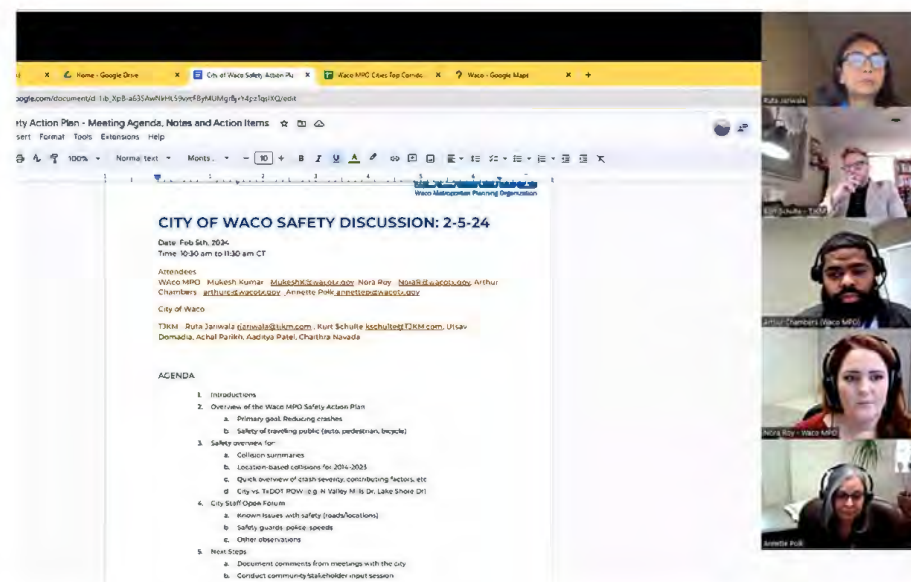
- Waco MPO
- City of Bellmead
- City of Hewitt
- City of McGregor
- City of Robinson
- City of Lacy Lakeview
- City of Waco
- City of Woodway
- McLennan County
- Waco Police Department
- Independent School Districts (within McLennan County)
- TxDOT Waco District

The Safety Action Task Force held monthly meetings throughout the planning process to provide technical guidance, feedback on analysis findings, identification and prioritization of potential safety projects, and strategies. Task Force members also facilitated broader engagement within their respective agencies. The Safety Action Task Force meeting agendas and minutes are available as **Appendix D**.

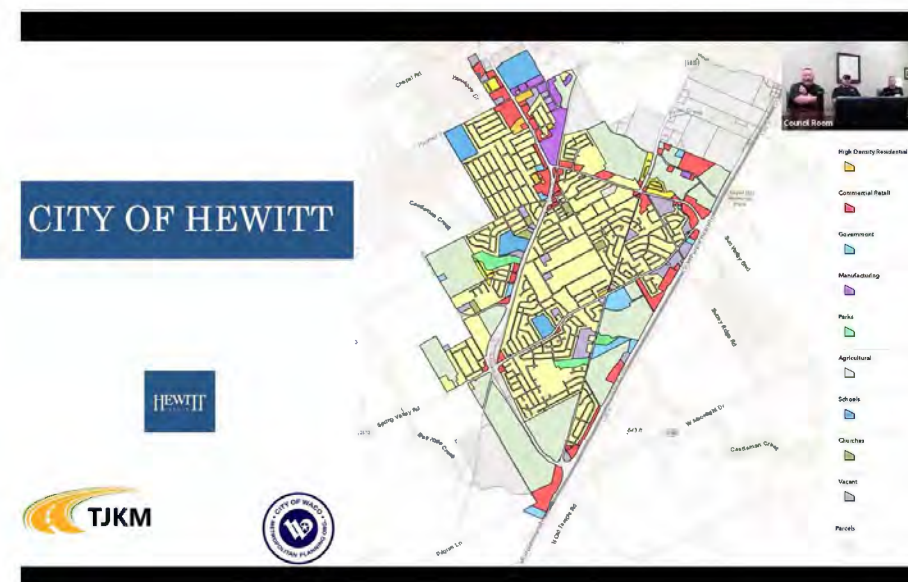
In addition to the regional partners above, the planning process involved intra-agency collaboration between departments within the City of Waco, including Public Works, Traffic Engineering, Police, Fire, and Planning. This helped ensure the plan's consistency with related City policies, identify opportunities to advance safety through processes like development review, and facilitate intergovernmental implementation.

The engagement process and stakeholder collaborations were instrumental in building understanding of key safety issues in McLennan County. More importantly, it established a foundation of regional partnership and shared commitment to the strategies and priority projects outlined in the CSAP. Continued engagement and collaboration will be vital as the plan moves into implementation over the coming years.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT #1 - WACO



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT #2 - HEWITT



PROJECT WEBSITE & PUBLIC MAP INPUT PLATFORM

Public engagement for the CSAP took place online through a dedicated project website (WacoMPOSafeStreets.com) which included a map-based questionnaire platform. The website gave a brief overview of the project, project area, and map of collisions between 2014 and 2023. The public was invited to report areas of concern through the map-input platform with directions on how to use the collision history map and map-input platform provided in the website. The website and platform were shared with the residents, city staff, school districts, and other stakeholders on the Waco MPO and the City of Waco websites. The image to the right displays the landing page of the website.

A total of 176 public comments were collected until March 24, 2024 through the interactive map platform. The map on the right displays the locations identified by the comments on the platform. Safety issues mentioned in these comments were classified into 10 categories: bicycle-related, lighting, pedestrian safety, roadway related, school safety, sign and signal related, traffic, unsafe speed, and unsafe turns. The Cities of Bellmead, Waco, and Hewitt received the most comments. The table below summarizes the number of comments received by jurisdiction. Top commented streets are US-84, Hewitt Drive, and Concord Road, while the top commented intersections are US-84 at SL-340/Airbase Road, and Bagby Avenue at S 4th Street. All comments are included in **Appendix E**.

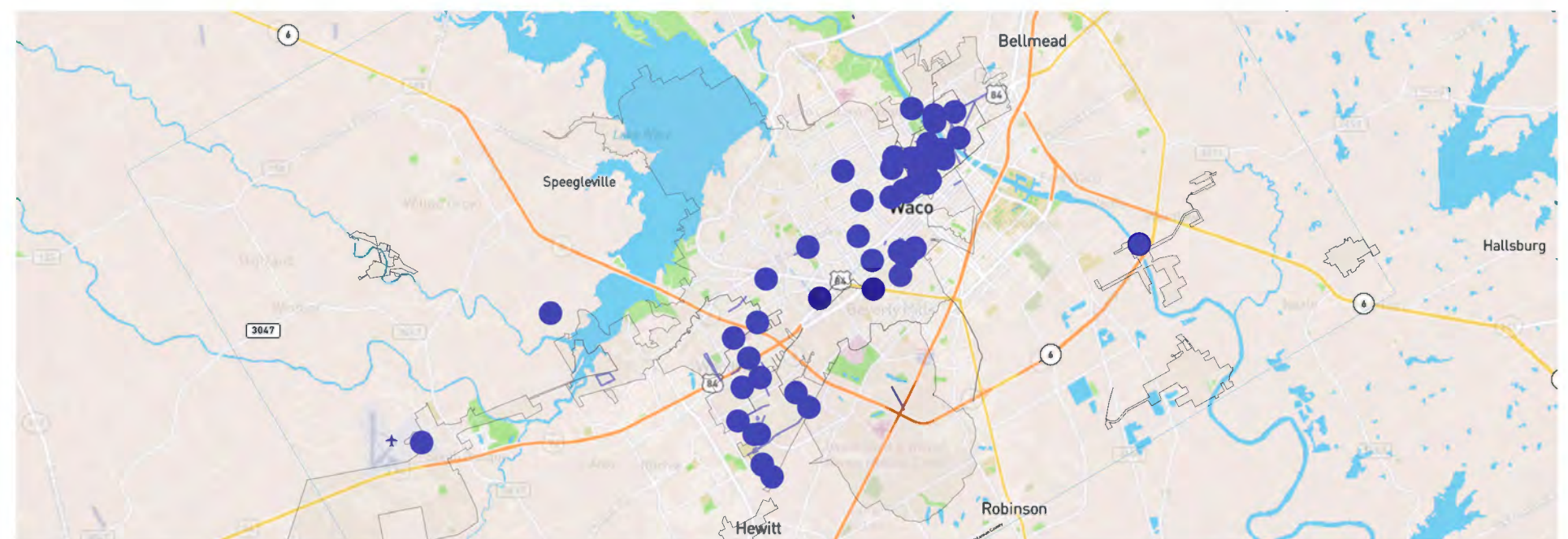
NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED BY CITY

CITY	# MENTIONS
Bellmead	93
Waco	46
Hewitt	28
Lacy Lakeview	2
Woodway	2
Hallsburg	1
Lorena (Unincorporated)	1
McGregor	1
Robinson	1
Unincorporated McLennan County	1
TOTAL	176

WACO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN PROJECT WEBPAGE



INTERACTIVE MAP COMMENT RESPONSES

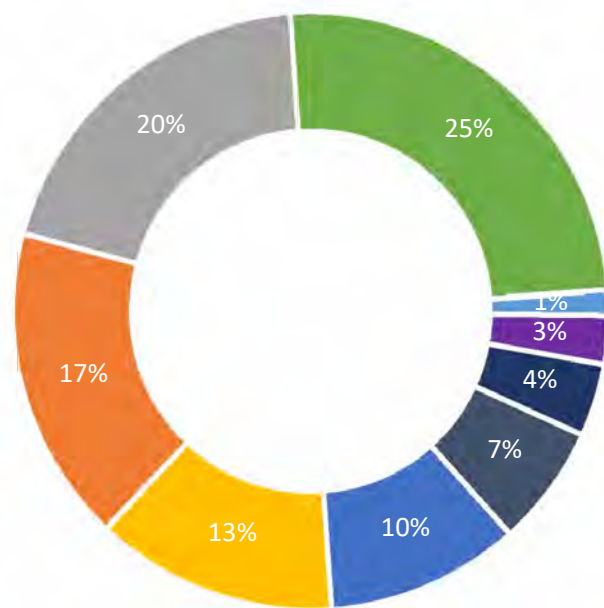


TOP CORRIDORS

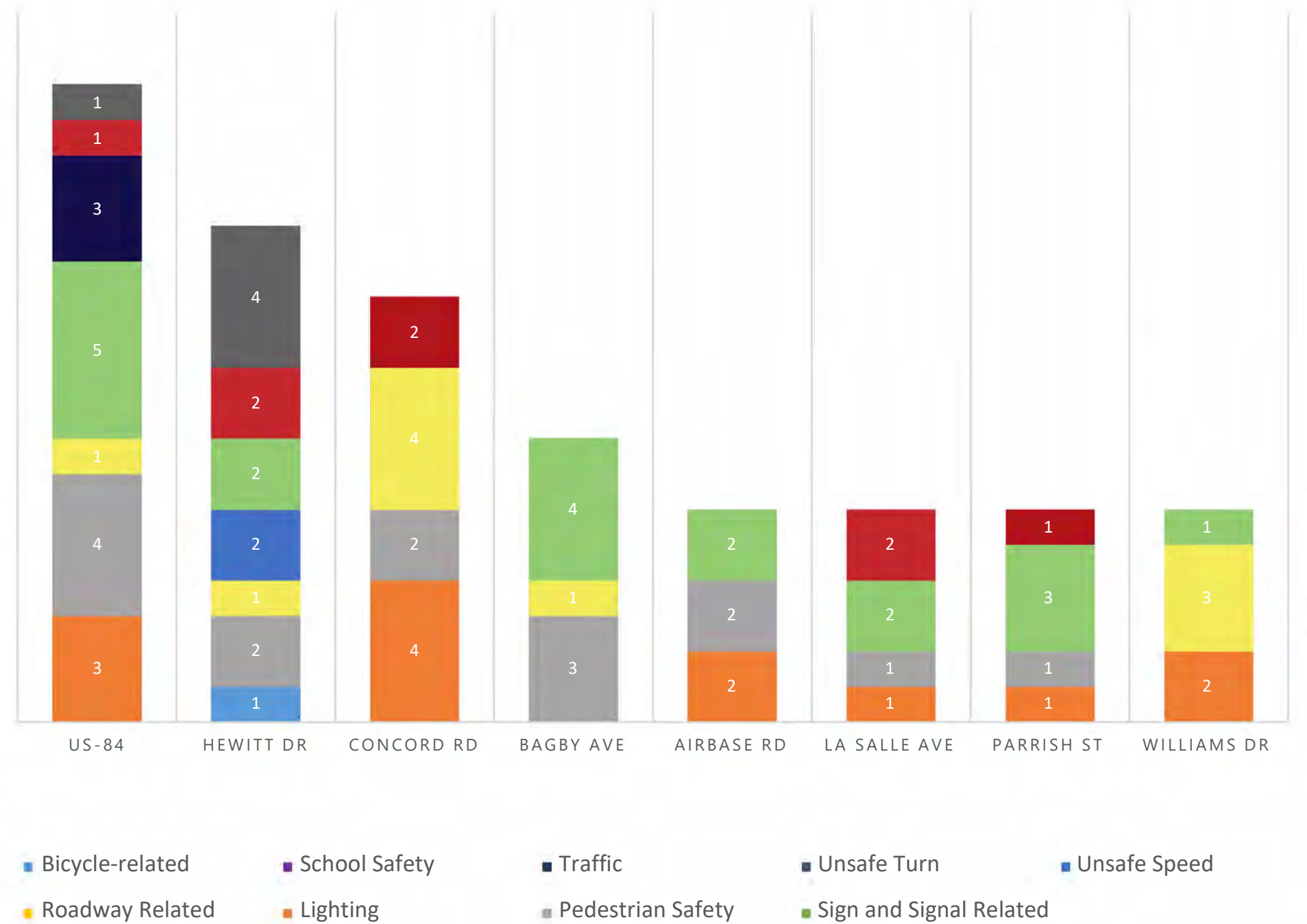
This section includes an analysis of the comments received regarding the eight corridors that received the highest level of public input. These corridors are US-84 in the Cities of Bellmead and McGregor; Hewitt Drive in the Cities of Hewitt and Waco; Concord Road, Airbase Road, Parrish Street and Williams Drive in the City of Bellmead; and Bagby Avenue and La Salle Avenue in the City of Waco. The comments highlighted safety several safety issues. Primary issues are: sign and signal-related concerns such as requests for sign upgrades and new signals; pedestrian safety issues such as crosswalks, sidewalks, and pedestrian-involved collisions; and a lack of adequate street lighting.

Roadway-related concerns reported by the public include narrow lanes, pavement and shoulder rehabilitation, striping, and drainage. The bar chart to the right summarizes safety issues identified through public input for each of the eight corridors. 63 percent of the comments across the eight corridors were related to motor vehicles, 36 percent pertained to issues faced by pedestrians, and one percent pertained to issues faced by bicyclists. Among these, Bagby Avenue, Airbase Road, and La Salle Avenue the highest number of reported pedestrian safety issues. Bicycle safety issues were reported for Hewitt Drive.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON TRAFFIC SAFETY BY ISSUE



PUBLIC COMMENTS ON TRAFFIC SAFETY BY LOCATION AND CONCERNS



Note: Both graphs cover the safety-related issues highlighted for the top 8 corridors. Comments relating to an intersection are assigned to the major road for the purpose of analysis.