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**South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans**

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 18, 2009

The meeting was held in the 2nd floor Training Room in the ISH Bldg., 4713 Utica St., Metairie, LA. Complimentary lunch (sponsored by the Council) was served at 11:30 am. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Del Bosarge at about 12 noon. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Del Bosarge, Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering, dbosarge@jeffparish.net
Aaron Chabaud, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, aaronchabaud@bellsouth.net
Dan Champagne, ISH, dan.champagne@ish1.com
Patricia Edwards, Operation Lifesaver, www.laoperationlifesaver.org
John Exnicios, Krebs, LaSalle, Lemieux Consultants, exnicios@kllconsultants.com
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, beth@metrosafety.org
Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission, djatres@norpc.org
Sgt. Shawn Michel, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, fax 465-1497
Sgt. John Pollard, St. Charles Sheriff's Office, jpollard@stcharlessheriff.org
Donald Redman, AAA, dredman@aaamissouri.com
Steve Strength, LA Dept. of Transportation & Dev., stevestrength@dotd.la.gov
Betsey Tramonte, Federal Highway Administration, betsey.tramonte@fhwa.dot.gov

The minutes from the past meeting was distributed and accepted with 2 corrections. Ms. Inbau announced that notices and minutes will be posted on the website at www.metrosafety.org.

Mr. Redman reported that the price of gasoline was on the rise. It has risen about 30 cents since the first of the year mainly due to reduced production and less leisure travel. The national average is about \$1.96/gal. In LA it is now about \$1.86.

The group asked Ms. Inbau to check with the representative with DynMcDermott and ask if the strategic oil reserve has been replenished while the price of gas is down.

Sgt. Michel gave the traffic stats from last month and last year in Jefferson Parish (JPSO Traffic Div. only). He reported that there have been 3 fatality crashes since the first of the year.

Mr. Bosarge agreed to ask for the crash statistics for Jefferson Parish, particularly at intersections with red-light-running cameras.

Ms. Inbau agreed to ask for a meeting with Jefferson Parish Councilman John Young about the revenue from the cameras. Mr. Redman reported that several red-light-running tickets have been received by AAA alleging drivers of AAA company-owned vehicles ran the lights. However, upon reviewing the pictures, the vehicles were clearly not those of AAA. He telephoned Redflex and was told to simply ignore the tickets.

Sgt. Pollard reported that St. Charles Sheriff's Office has issued 835 citations in January, including 99 for stop signs, 7 for child safety seats, 47 for seatbelts & 479 for speeding. He also reported that the work on the Huey P. Long Bridge is causing traffic to back up on I-310.

**Metropolitan Safety Council of the New Orleans Area, Inc.
dba National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter**

4713 Utica Street, Metairie, LA 70006

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Mr. Champagne reported on recent and future turn-arounds at oil refineries. Cytec is down now.

Mr. Exnicios reported on the projects Causeway on the North Shore. He also reported on the complaints being received about the flood wall repair in Harvey impeding traffic on Peters Road.

Mr. Strength reported on the I-10 work in Metairie. The final overlay should be completed in May. He also reported on the difference between how the traffic engineering/state law define "intersection" and that of the Jefferson Parish ordinance/Redflex (red-light-running cameras), which may be adding to the confusion of drivers at intersections. He also mentioned that the city of Lafayette is using 3/10th of a second delay to issue a camera-ticket and Jefferson Parish is using 1/10th.

Mr. Strength also reported on the Huey P. Long Bridge project and the re-striping of I-10 on the Bonne Carre Spillway. He reported that the projected date for the opening of the new Traffic Control Center is June. It was suggested that the Traffic Safety Committee meeting move to the facility when opened.

Ms. Tramonte asked that if any city or parish conducts a study of traffic-related issues, to be sure to send a copy to the Federal Highway Administration. She said grants are available to use LA Crash system. There will be an Intersection Safety Workshop 3/11-12/09, which will outline how to improve safety using low-cost measures. Money from the economic recovery package may be distributed to LA.

Ms. Edwards reported on the seatbelt initiative with DOTD and LHSC. She mentioned that April is Workzone Awareness Month and agreed to bring more information on activities to the next meeting. She also reminded everyone that Operation Lifesaver continues to present information on RxR safety at no cost. Anyone needing a speaker or interested in becoming certified to make such presentations should contact her.

Mr. Jatres reported on the annual Design Workshop scheduled for 4/20-22/09 in N.O. He also reported that the AARP wants LA to pass the "complete streets" bill which would take into consideration pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users, bus riders and other, when designing streets. (Visit <http://www.completestreets.org/> for more info.)

Mr. Bosarge reported that J.P. had no significant problems with Mardi Gras or its new westbank route. However, an injury occurred during the Cleopatra parade when a rider fell from the top deck. He also reported on the intersection upgrade project and bike route project (from Lake Pontchartrain to Pontiff Playground in Old Metairie). He also reported that new speed limit signs with solar-powered yellow flashing lights are being installed and that school zone signs with similar lights are being considered for Ames Blvd.

Ms. Inbau reported on the upcoming 58th Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, Wednesday, 4/1/09 in Metairie. Visit www.metro-safety.org for details.

Mr. Bosarge announced that the next meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 18, 2009**, 11:30 am. The fee for lunch will be \$10, unless otherwise announced. The meeting adjourned at about 1:30 pm.

Submitted by: Beth Inbau, NSC President & CEO

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