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**South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans**

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 18, 2009

The meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Regional Transportation Management Center, #10 Veterans Blvd., New Orleans, LA. Complimentary lunch, provided by the National Safety Council, was served at 11:30 am. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Beth Inbau, Acting Chairman, at about 11:45 am. Ms. Inbau led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Lt. Dean Behrens, LA State Police, dbehrens@dps.la.gov
Sgt. Kevin Cannatella, LA State Police, Kevin.canatells@dps.la.gov
Nichole Dupree, LA Office of Public Health, Injury Research, nichole.dupree@la.gov
John Exnicios, Krebs, LaSalle, Lemieux Consultants, jexnicios@kllconsultants.com
Jeff Haydel, Motorcycle Awareness Committee, hayjeff@yahoo.com
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, beth@metrosafety.org
Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission, djatres@norpc.org
Chris LaBorde, Regional Planning Commission, claborde@norpc.org
Chris Landry, National Safety Council Defensive Driving Instructor, clandry222@bellsouth.net
Boa Le, Department of Transportation and Development, boa.le@la.gov
Claude Maher, National Safety Committee, claudem@metrosafety.org
Wilburn McDowell, Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, wilburn-mcdowell@lpsso.net
Sgt. Shawn Michel, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, fax 465-1497
Rene' Nieto, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, rene@metrosafety.org
Judy Otto, Certified Driver Rehab Specialist Touro Infirmary, judy.otto@touro.com
Karen Parsons, Regional Planning Commission, kparsons@norpc.org
Laura Phillips, Safe Routes to School Program/UNO, Phillips@gmail.com
Sgt. John Pollard, St. Charles Sheriff's Office, jpollard@stcharlessheriff.org
Donald Redman, AAA, dredman@aaamissouri.com
Don Robinson, AARP, donmargaret@bellsouth.net
Sgt. Antoine Rodrigue Jr., Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, antoine-rodrigue@lpsso.net
Chelsa Shelling, Regional Planning Commission, cshelling@norpc.org
Michelle Tuggle, Motorcycle Awareness Committee, michellekillian@clearchannel.com
Lynn Watson, LA Office of Public Health, Injury Research, lynn.watson@la.gov
Ron Whittaker, Department of Transportation and Development, rwhittaker@live.com

The minutes from the past meeting was distributed and accepted without corrections. Ms. Inbau announced that notices and minutes will be posted on the website at www.metrosafety.org. She also announced that there will be no meeting in December. She advised all members will receive two gift certificates for the Defensive Driving Course as Christmas presents from the National Safety Council. Ms. Inbau informed the committee that there will be a Traffic Safety Summit held in Baton Rouge on March 2nd & 3rd 2010.

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

4713 Utica Street, Metairie, LA 70006

Tel: 504-888-7618, 800-N-SAFETY, Fax: 504-888-7612, 866-698-1685

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Sgt. Michel addressed the Jefferson Parish ordinance pertaining to school buses and they are in agreement with the state's laws of motorists not having to stop on divided roadways. Sgt. Michel also reported that for the month of October there were 6,431 red light citations issued; 1,185 tickets; 305 crashes; 67 crashes with injury; 120 seat belt violations; 112 hit and run; and 3 DWI's. The JPSO is planning a DWI Checkpoint this coming weekend at an undetermined location on the Westbank. He reported on the ongoing repairs of the Lapalco Bridge, no completion date given.

Sgt. John Pollard stated that St. Charles Parish has been having computer issues and that he had no information to report.

Lt. Behrens reported the following violations for the month of October: 556 crashes; 221 crashes with injury; 2 fatalities; 67 hit and run; 770 all hazards; 180 DWI; 2,774 speeding; 969 seat belt; 48 child restraint.

Mr. Jatres reported that Louisiana has twice the national average for pedestrian fatalities. Lafayette, LA has a pedestrian fatality rate that is 5 times that of the national average. New Orleans ranks 15th out of the top 50 metropolitan areas in the U.S.

Mr. Maher reported on the two grants that are underway in Jefferson Parish. The first, Safe Communities America, is dealing with all safety issues. He announced the next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3 at 9:00 am, Suite 405 of the Yenni Building. The second grant Safe Community Coalition is for traffic safety. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3 at 2:00 pm to be held at the RTMC. He asked for volunteers to serve on the steering committee.

Ms. Dupre gave an update of the Safe Communities America, Hammond. She advised of the progress made and announced the next meeting will be on Monday, December 14 at 10:00 am.

Mr. Robinson distributed free coupon books for local industries.

Mr. Redman reported that automobile travel is expected to be up this holiday season due to the decrease in air travel. He said that drivers are expected to travel 33.8 million miles this season causing an increase in drowsy driving concerns especially during the hours of 2:00-4:00 am and 2:00-4:00 pm. His advice is that if you are feeling drowsy to park your vehicle, get out and walk around to refresh yourself.

Ms. Otto informed the group that Touro Hospital trains persons with disabilities to drive. Through bi-optic training they are fit with eyewear that enables them to see more clearly and farther. Their "Car-fit" program fits the vehicle to the driver, especially useful for elder drivers. In October their group of 40 technicians assisted participants in distance from steering wheel, height of seat, proper adjustment of mirrors, and the use of seat cushions.

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Mr. Haydel reported that motorcycle crashes are down for the year and that MAC is changing its slogan from "Please Watch for Motorcycles" to "Thank You for Watching for Motorcycles." He announced that they will sponsor a motorcycle run on December 13th. The participants will meet at Manolia School in Avondale then travel across the Luling Bridge to River Road. He said they are anticipating 800-1000 motorcycle participants.

Ms. Phillips advised of her responsibilities for the Center for Urban Studies at UNO. The Safe Routes to School Program's goal is to get children to walk or ride their bikes to school. She said that they are in the process of re-organization statewide. They also hope to have transportation, public health and other safety industries involved with their efforts as there is grant money available. At the present time they are working with the city of Gretna.

Mr. Nieto stated that the NSC is in the process of interviewing bi-lingual candidates for instructors of the Defensive Driving Courses.

Mr. Whittaker reported that new features of the LA Crash System will allow users to query data for assistance to help implement Crash Reduction Program. Also, the FARS System is used for tracking fatalities in LA.

Mr. LaBorde announced that the dedication of the new RTMC building will be held on Monday, December 7, 1009. He also advised of a mock disaster exercise that will take place on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. The disaster will include the Huey P. Long Bridge as the closest bridge that is similar is located in Memphis, TN. Mr. LaBorde is concerned with the upcoming construction on the Causeway exit from I-10 and the number of dump trucks that will be on the roadways within the next 24 months.

The meeting adjourned at about 1:00 pm.

Submitted by: Claude D. Maher, Marketing Director, NSC

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