



**South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans**

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 19, 2007

The meeting was held in the 2nd floor Training Room in the ISH Bldg., 4713 Utica St., Metairie, LA. Complimentary lunch was served at 11:30 am. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Steve Strength (in the absence of Committee Chairman Mr. Del Bosarge) at about 12:10. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Bob Canfield, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, RRCBRLA@aol.com
Landry Dixon, Office of Addictive Disorders, ldx621@msn.com
Marc Ducote, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, mcducote@bellsouth.net
Tom Ervin, Traffic Solutions, workzonete@aol.com
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, beth@metrosafety.org
Chris Landry, National Safety Council Defensive Driving Instructor, clandry222@bellsouth.net
Sgt. Antoine Rodrigue Jr., Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, antoine-rodrigue@lpsso.net
Sgt. John Simmons, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, fax 504-465-1497
Steve Strength, LA Dept. of Transportation & Dev., stevestrength@dotd.la.gov
Fred Terluin, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, fterluinj@cox.net

The minutes from the past meeting was distributed and accepted without corrections. Notices and minutes are posted on the website at www.metrosafety.org.

Sgt. Simmons reported that during the month of November, the JPSO Traffic Division issued citations for the following violations: 54 red lights, 1256 speeding, 91 signs, 297 hazardous citations, 48 insurance, 103 seatbelts, 15 child restraints, 420 other for a total of 2288. They responded to 323 crashes without injury, 76 with injury, 1 fatality, 124 hit-and-runs, 16 DWIs and 75 assists for a total of 2562 complaints.

Sgt. Rodrigue reported that the numbers of crashes for 2007 year-to-date have decreased by 89 compared to 2006, 20-l (crash with injury) are down by 48 and fatalities down by 4. So far there have been no fatalities in December. He also announced that Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office will conduct a check point on 12/29/07.

Mr. Canfield added that the State Troop in that area is conducting a campaign to have no fatalities during December.

Mr. Strength reported that State Police Troop B will have check points on 12/27 and 12/30/07.

National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter

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Mr. Terluin reported that LHSC has issued many grants to law enforcement agencies to hold sobriety check points, especially between Christmas and New Years. They also recently held a press conference to explain the new law requiring ignition interlock devices for first time DWI convictions and described the new impaired driver initiatives and explained how the interlock devices operate.

Mr. Canfield distributed LHSC 2008 calendars and a schedule of upcoming events: 2/27/08 Highway-Rail Safety Summit, 2/28/08 Highway Safety Summit, both in Baton Rouge. Call LHSC for more details at 225-925-6991.

Mr. Canfield also reported that a federal legislation, called the Energy Bill, will go into effect in 2012 and will require auto manufacturers to produce cars with an **average** of 35 mpg efficiency. This may result in lighter, smaller cars which may compromise safety.

Mr. Dixon reported on his work with students and counselors in the Orleans Parish schools. He distributed the "Research Report" with a feature article on heroin.

Mr. Ervin reported on his work with the State's Work Zone Task Force. They are re-writing DOTD's handling of work zones, including training of employees and contractors. Mr. Ervin is representing the contractors on the team. He added that the American Traffic Safety Services Association will be holding its annual conference in New Orleans from 2/10-12/08. Visit <http://www.atssa.com/cs/atssa-2008-traffic-expo> for more information. He said that Tuesday, 2/12/07 will be Public Employee Day on which the Expo will be open free to fire, police, emergency responders and other public employees. All the latest technology on roadway safety will be on display.

Mr. Strength stated that DOTD will limit the amount of road closures during the holidays. He also reported on several ongoing projects including I-10 in Metairie which will result in westbound lane closures from mid-January to February. He said several bridges are closed for extended periods because repair parts are no longer available and have to be specially made. Vandals stole parts on the DesAllemands Bridge. The Judge Seber Bridge is only open a few hours a week. The Twin Spans project is moving along.

A discussion about the operation of the "rolling weigh station" near the westbound Twin Spans was held. Mr. Strength said he would try to find out if staffing is preventing the station from operating. The station is designed to prevent over-weight vehicles from damaging the temporary repairs on the Twin Spans.

ACTION
ITEM

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Mr. Strength and Mr. Canfield observed the timing of the signals on Clearview at Veterans. They agreed that the timing can be adjusted to prevent confusion. Mr. Strength said he would contact the Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering Department. Although the timing may be within specifications, based on driving standards, the timing could be improved.

ACTION
ITEM

Mr. Strength also stated that he checked the area on US 90 at LA 18 and the road sensors should detect motorcycles. However, he needs a motorcycle to check it. Sgt. Simmons stated that he could provide one whenever needed. They agreed to get together.

Ms. Inbau distributed a poem about drinking and driving written by her friend who lost 2 family members in a car crash recently. She asked everyone to share it with co-workers and family. Ms. Inbau also reported that the Chapter was awarded a grant to help Jefferson Parish through the process of submitting an application to the World Health Organization as a Safe Community. The first meeting of the steering committee will be on Wednesday, 1/30/08, 9 am at the Yenni Bldg. She said more information is on the website at www.metro-safety.org.

The group thanked Ms. Inbau and the Council for the free lunch.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 16, 2008**, 11:30 am. The fee for lunch will be \$10. The meeting adjourned at about 1:30 pm.

Submitted by: Beth Inbau, NSC President & CEO

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