



**South Louisiana Chapter  
New Orleans**

## **Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 17, 2007**

The meeting was held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Training Room in the ISH Bldg., 4713 Utica St., Metairie, LA. Lunch was served at 11:30 am. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Del Bosarge, Committee Chairman, at about 12:15 pm. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Del Bosarge, Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering, [dbosarge@jeffparish.net](mailto:dbosarge@jeffparish.net)  
Capt. Clay Boudier, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, [Baudier\\_cj@jpsso.com](mailto:Baudier_cj@jpsso.com)  
Millie Brady, Jefferson Parish Human Resource Mgt., [mbrady@jeffparish.net](mailto:mbrady@jeffparish.net)  
Paul Breaux, Gillis Ellis Baker Insurance Co., [pbreaux@gillis.com](mailto:pbreaux@gillis.com)  
Bob Canfield, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, [RRCBRLA@aol.com](mailto:RRCBRLA@aol.com)  
Dan Champagne, ISH, [dan.champagne@ish1.com](mailto:dan.champagne@ish1.com)  
Frank Douglass, New Orleans Regional Bicycle Awareness Committee (NORBAC)  
Marc Ducote, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, [mcducote@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcducote@bellsouth.net)  
Terry Fairchild, Naval Support Activity, [terry.fairchild@navy.mil](mailto:terry.fairchild@navy.mil)  
Larry Gauchaux, Jefferson Parish Human Resource Mgt.  
Angie Larrieu, N.O. Regional Bicycle Awareness Committee (NORBAC), [angielarrieu@cox.net](mailto:angielarrieu@cox.net)  
Sgt. Shawn Michel, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, fax 465-1497  
Sgt. Antoine Rodrigue Jr., Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, [antoine-rodrigue@lpsso.net](mailto:antoine-rodrigue@lpsso.net)  
Steve Strength, LA Dept. of Transportation & Dev., [stevestrength@dotd.la.gov](mailto:stevestrength@dotd.la.gov)  
Lawrence Williams, Naval Support Activity, [Lawrence.williams1@navy.mil](mailto:Lawrence.williams1@navy.mil)  
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, [beth@metrosafety.org](mailto:beth@metrosafety.org)

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](http://www.metrosafety.org).

Sgt. Michel reported statistics for Jefferson Parish. There were 11,552 crashes in 2004, 9,684 in 2005 and 12,979 in 2006 (through mid December). He stated that there were 21 fatalities in 2006 and 6 so far in 2007. This does not include those crashes reported by the State Police. He also stated that since the department is short on staffing, the number of traffic citations will be down but the number of crashes will be up. He also reported that the Parish will be installing approximately 15 "red light running" cameras at major intersections soon. Civil tickets (not moving violations) will be mailed to the registered owners and the photographs will be available on the internet.

Mr. Ducote with the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission reported that the 2006 "100 Days of Summer Heat" was a success and will be repeated in 2007. The enhanced enforcement effort targeted speeding throughout the state.

**National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter**

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Sgt. Rodrigue reported that there were 2982 crashes in Lafourche Parish in 2005 and 20 fatalities. In 2006, his department investigated 3151 crashes with 24 fatalities. These statistics do not include crashes on Airline Hwy. in St. Charles Parish, which is handled by the State Police.

Mr. Williams reported that the Navy is focusing on reducing MVAs by 50-75% this year. Cell phone distraction statistics are under reported. On Department of Defense installations, cell phone use is prohibited, even with an earpiece.

Mr. Canfield reported that Baton Rouge approved 2 companies to compete for the "red light running" cameras. The City of Lafayette also is planning to install them. The state law prohibits camera use for the sole purpose of issuing moving citations, so civil citations will be issued instead.

Mr. Canfield also reported that TRIP, a road information program, rated Louisiana's roads on 5 criteria. Road conditions received a grade of F. He also announced that the SELA DWI Task Force meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday each month at Troop B in Kenner. He invited anyone interested to attend. The group is sponsoring training for law enforcement and prosecutors on impaired driver issued on Friday, March 30. Call 225-343-0171 for more information.

Mr. Canfield also reported that the National Governors' Hwy. Safety Association published "Countermeasures that Work" on their website at [www.ghsa.org](http://www.ghsa.org). If anyone would like statistics for Louisiana, please email Bob at [RRCBRLA@aol.com](mailto:RRCBRLA@aol.com). He will give you the website. Stats are available by parish, as well as the entire state. Mr. Canfield said financial assistance for roadway improvements is available through LA Hwy. Research Center. Email Bob for more info.

Mr. Strength reported on the construction plans for the Causeway interchange. He distributed a map showing the various phases of the plans.

Discussion was held about the recent improvements at Cleary and W. Napoleon. Sgt. Michel asked that the no left turn at that intersection be always instead of only during certain hours. This would be easier to enforce and reduce congestion. Mr. Strength stated that traffic engineers have differing philosophies on intersections with left turns and some anticipated problems with that intersection when it was built. According to Ms. Brady, Mr. Kevin Moore with J.P. Traffic Engineering, would make that decision. She agreed to bring it to his attention. Sgt. Michel also stated that N. Lester at W. Metairie is another problem. The bridge should be removed or blocked.

Mr. Strength reported on the renovation of the Twin Spans to raise the level and increase the shoulders. He reported that the Huey P. Long Bridge project has begun with the pier work in the River. The bridge work will begin this summer and is expected to be completed in 2012. He stated that the Bridge belongs to the railroad company, not DOTD. When asked about the Hwy. 11 Bridge, he said he is not aware of any plans to work on that bridge.

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Page 3

1/17/07 Traffic Minutes

Mr. Douglass reported that bicycling around the City is easier since Katrina because of the lack of traffic. He stated that the bike shops that are left are doing well, as many more people are biking that before. He reported that a bike path along Lafitte St. has been requested. He said that experienced riders want improved road lanes, as dedicated paths have trouble crossing large roads.

Mr. O'Regan asked how to get a large overhanging oak tree trimmed on Utica at Clearview. It obstructs the view of fast-moving traffic. Ms. Brady agreed to refer the request to the proper department.

Ms. Inbau reminded the group that Mr. Canfield had donated several copies of "Bicycle Safer Journey" (an interactive CD-ROM virtual journey designed to increase awareness of bicycle safety for the general public, road user, safety advocates and safety professionals) and "How to Develop a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan" (a book that presents an overview and framework for state and local agencies to develop and implement a plan tailored to their specific problems and needs). Anyone interested can borrow these from the Council.

Mr. Bosarge reported on projects around Jefferson Parish including W. Esplanade at Hudson to Bonabel, which will cause significant congestion in the area. He also reported that Family Gras will be held on the median of Veterans at Severn on Friday – Sunday, 2/9-11. There will be live entertainment and activities. Detours and delays should be expected. He reported on the widening of Destrehan and the construction causing delays along Barataria.

Ms. Inbau announced that the Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation was not held in 2006. The event is scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2007 at the Jefferson Orleans North in Metairie. Information and registration forms are on the website at [www.metro-safety.org](http://www.metro-safety.org).

Ms. Inbau announced that health officials are asking for blood donations, as the area is short. She offered to give anyone from the Traffic Safety Committee 2 free seats in the Defensive Driving Course if they show proof that they donated blood in the next 30 days.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 1:15 pm.

**The next Traffic Safety Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at 11:30 am in the Council's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor training room.**

Submitted by:  
Beth Inbau, President & CEO

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