

Final



**South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans**

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 18, 2009

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. Del Bosarge at about 12 noon. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Del Bosarge, Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering, dbosarge@jeffparish.net
Scott Boyle, Department of Transportation and Development, ScottBoyle@dotd.la.gov
Bob Canfield, Hartman Engineering, RRCBRLA@aol.com
Dan Champagne, ISH, dan.champagne@ish1.com
Patricia Edwards, Operation Lifesaver, www.laoperationlifesaver.org
Tom Ervin, Consultant for DOTD, tom@trafdoc.com, 985-373-0534
John Exnicios, Krebbs, 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
Rene' Nieto, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, rene@metrosafety.org
Les O'Regan, US Customs & Border Protection, NSC Defensive Driving Instructor, lester.oregan@dhs.gov
Donald Redman, AAA, dredman@aaamissouri.com
Sgt. Antoine Rodrigue Jr., Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, antoine-rodrique@lpsso.net
Steve Strength, LA Dept. of Transportation & Dev., stevestrength@dotd.la.gov
Brad Tassin, Beverly Industries, bradt@beverlyinc.com
Dave Tortorich, CCMSI, dtortorich@ccmsi.com
Betsey Tramonte, Federal Highway Administration, betsey.tramonte@fhwa.dot.gov
Evan Williams, Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, evan.williams@lpsso.net

The minutes from the past meeting were distributed and accepted without corrections. Ms. Inbau announced that notices and minutes will be posted on the website at www.metrosafety.org.

Ms. Inbau reported that she spoke with Ms. Suzanne Broussard with the Strategic Oil Reserve. She said that 3 sites will be completely filled by June and the last may not be filled until December or January because it falls under the new administration's prerogative.

Mr. Redman and Ms. Inbau reported on their meeting with Mr. John Young, Councilman at Large for Jefferson Parish, about the red light running cameras. We explained that we were generally in favor of the cameras provided engineering controls and other enhancements were addressed. Mr. Young reported that Causeway @ 17th St. was one of this highest citation locations, as was W. Esplanade @ Division. We asked him if any of the revenues collected from the citations would be re-invested into intersection improvement. He stated that the funds have been dedicated to the 2

**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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area hospitals: East Jefferson General Hospital and West Jefferson Medical Center. Mr. Young agreed to meet again with us and Redflex (the company operating the cameras) and J.P. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Kevin Moore.

Sgt. Michel reported on the citation statistics for Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Traffic Division. He added that there were 2 fatalities in February and one this month. Ms. Tramonte offered to check on the LA Crash software implementation for J.P. Mr. Bosarge stated that the J.P. Traffic Engineering Dept. gets copies of crash reports from JPSO.

Sgt. Rodrigue gave the citation statistics for Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office. There were 3 fatalities last month. He also reported that the report about an airplane crash was unfounded. He added that LPSO will begin using the LA Crash reporting system soon.

Mr. Nieto reported that the National Safety Council has a new Distracted Driving Resource Kit for sale. It includes everything a company needs to implement policies, procedures and training about distractions like cell phones, radios, computers and GPSs.

Mr. Canfield announced that the 511 system can be accessed by cell phone, which may be encouraging drivers to make calls to the system while driving. Mr. Tassin stated that Beverly Industries has a policy that cell phones were not permitted on jobsites. Employees who violate the policy are sent home without pay.

Mr. Redman said that a recent AAA survey verified that 78% of its members believe that highway systems are under-funded but differ on how to fund them. 80% opposed privatizing roads. Also, 76% want to keep 21 as the legal age for consumption of alcohol. 38% admitted being distracted while driving.

Ms. Tramonte reported on the recent Intersection Workshop. 47 attended and thought it was useful. They plan to have another in late summer or fall. It also addressed vehicles unexpectedly leaving the roadways. She also announced the upcoming Work Zone Awareness week 4/6-10/09

Ms. Edwards reported that the LHSC will begin a seatbelt initiative in conjunction with DOTD. It will focus on New Orleans, Lake Charles, Alexandria and Monroe because those areas have the lowest usages in the state. She said that in April they will issue a press release and have media coverage about the "Click It or Ticket It" events scheduled for May.

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Mr. Jatres announced the upcoming Design Workshop 4/20-22/09 at the Regional Planning Commission. RPC will also be issuing a media campaign on pedestrian safety in April. The new building should be completed in June and will also house DOTD. He also mentioned that USDOTD in Washington DC is focusing on more “livable” community planning and that Congress has the “Complete Streets” legislation in committee.

Mr. Strength reported on the I-10 construction project from I-510 to Irish Bayou. He also reported on the I-10 project in Metairie. Phase 1 of the Causeway @ I-10 project has begun and Phase 2 should be let in June. He also reported on the installation of fiber-optics cable along the I-10 over the Spillway. He also reminded everyone about the Ironman Race on 4/5/09 in which over 3,000 have signed up.

Mr. Boyle reported on the signal projects on Jefferson Hwy and LA23 in Belle Chasse. He also reported that the emergency repairs at Causeway @ Jefferson Hwy. have been completed and the road is now open.

Mr. Ervin reported on the Intersection Safety Workshop. He also reported that the revenue from the red light cameras in Lafayette has been dedicated to be re-invested into improving the intersections. They reported that 20% of the tickets are from locals and 80% from visitors. He also reported that they are trying to improve lighting for night roadway work to increase quality while not distracting drivers.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 1:10 pm

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 15, 2009**, 11:30 am. The fee for lunch will be \$10, unless otherwise announced.

Submitted by: Beth Inbau, NSC President & CEO

Upcoming dates:

Wednesday, 5/20/09, 11:30 am at the Council
Wednesday, 6/17/09, 11:30 am at Troop B, LA State Police, Kenner
Wednesday, 7/15/09, 11:30 am at the Council
Wednesday, 8/19/09, 11:30 am at the Council
Wednesday, 9/16/09, 11:30 am at the Council
Wednesday, 10/21/09, 11:30 am at the Council
Wednesday, 11/18/09, 11:30 am at the Council
No meeting in 12/09

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