



South Louisiana Chapter  
New Orleans

## Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 19, 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 11:55 am. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Del Bosarge, Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering, [dbosarge@jeffparish.net](mailto:dbosarge@jeffparish.net)  
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)  
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, [beth@metrosafety.org](mailto:beth@metrosafety.org)  
Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission, [djatres@norpc.org](mailto: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](mailto:jpollard@stcharlessheriff.org)  
Sgt. Antoine Rodrigue Jr., Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, [antoine-rodrique@lpso.net](mailto:antoine-rodrique@lpso.net)  
Steve Strength, LA Dept. of Transportation & Development, [stevestrength@dotd.la.gov](mailto:stevestrength@dotd.la.gov)  
Fred Terluin, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, [fterluinj@cox.net](mailto:fterluinj@cox.net)

The minutes from the past meeting were distributed and accepted with corrections. Ms. Inbau announced that notices and minutes will be posted on the website at [www.metrosafety.org](http://www.metrosafety.org). Minutes will be marked "Draft" until corrected, then marked "Final."

Ms. Inbau issued a copy of the National Safety Council's **Family Guide to Teen Driver** book to the first 10 to arrive. Copies can be purchased from NSC for \$10 each at <https://secure.nsc.org/onlinecart/product.cfm?id=1437>.

A discussion was held about the recent revision of the DWI laws which may be responsible for an increase in driving with a suspended license. Since jails are over-crowded, many violators do not serve jail time. Impounding vehicles is not an option if the vehicles are financed. The law enforcement officers also stated that refusals (to take the sobriety tests) are so confusing, it makes enforcement difficult.

Mr. Terluin reported that the LA Highway Safety Commission contracts for 2007-08 fiscal year are final and will be starting in October. 48 law enforcement agencies will participate by targeting various offenses.

Sgt. Pollard reported that St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office investigated 3 fatalities in August on Airline Hwy.

National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter

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Sgt. Michel reported that JPSO investigated 26 fatalities to date this year, which surpassed last year to date. However, there does not appear to be a clear trend. The department is sending more officers to training to investigate traffic crashes.

Ms. Inbau reported that the National Safety Council's Alive at 25 driver improvement course for young drivers is being adopted by several state police departments. It is the only nation-wide program addressing this vulnerable age group. It is a 4½ hour program for 15-24 year olds and now has a 1-2 hour parent program. Modeled from the success in Colorado, only law enforcement officers are trained to present the class. It was suggested that Ms. Inbau contact the SROs (officers assigned to the schools) to determine interest. She distributed a flyer about the new parent program.

Mr. Canfield distributed a copy of the article ***Please! Stop Blaming the Driver*** published in 10/03 ***World Highways*** magazine. The article suggested that roadway engineering, design and maintenance may be just as much at fault in the number and seriousness of crashes as driver error. Countries in Europe and elsewhere are concerned and will be addressing the issue. Efforts may be directed less at reducing the total number of crashes and more at reducing the consequences.

Mr. Canfield also distributed information about a website entitled ***We Don't Serve Teens*** by the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.dontserveteens.gov> and a brochure from LA Motorcyclist Safety & Awareness Committee on motorcycle safety. Their website is <http://www.lamcsafety.org>.

Mr. Canfield distributed copies of the ***Safety Management System News*** newsletter. He asked Ms. Inbau to post it on the Traffic Safety Committee page on the website. She agreed. Visit <http://www.metro-safety.org/traffic/traffic.htm>. The newsletter featured an article about Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office initiative ***Tipsy Taxi***. This voluntary program relies on local taxi services, bars and restaurants to provide vouchers for a free ride home to intoxicated patrons. For more information, contact Ms. Amy LaFranc at 337-236-5657 x31. The ***Safety Management System News*** also contained information about the ***Crash Course Program***. This is another initiative of the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office as part of a DWI prevention and education program. For more information, call 337-232-9211.

Mr. Strength reported that DOTD is allowing cities to install red-light-running cameras on state signals and/or on state right-of-ways in those areas that have full maintenance agreements (about 6 cities). DOTD will enter into permits for same.

Mr. Strength also said the Safe Routes to School Conference was interesting. Mr. Canfield added that traffic engineers have a dilemma: engineering roadways to best accommodate vehicles or pedestrians. Meeting the needs of both is difficult.

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Mr. Strength announced that the Work Zone Task Force revised DOTD work zone rules to incorporate the new federal rules. Training will be available to law enforcement officers who work on construction details by mid-October. The rules involve utility companies and anyone who gets permits to work adjacent to DOTD roadways that might close lanes.

Mr. Canfield stated that all cities and parishes must follow MUTCD Part 6 rules on any road open to public travel. Mr. Strength said that it is difficult to enforce.

Mr. Strength reported that half of the Twin Spans will be open by summer 2009. The current phase of the Causeway @ I-10 project will finish by fall 2008. The ground breaking has not started for the Traffic Management Center but should soon.

Mr. Jatres reported that the RPC's Safety Media Campaign on bike and pedestrian safety will end 10/07. The Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce will hold a Tour of Jefferson on Saturday, November 10 and will include a bike safety rodeo.

Mr. Champagne reported that some of the refineries in the area will begin minor turnarounds this month. Major outages will begin next year and into 2009. They stagger major turnarounds so that all are not out at the same time and because of the number of specialized workers needed.

Mr. Bosarge reported on several projects in Jefferson Parish: Airline Bridge replacement; Lapalco @ Bayou Segnette; Patriot @ Destrehan; Destrehan @ Lapalco; Edwards @ Mounds; Edwards @ Pepsi; W. Metairie @ Bridgedale (replacement of pedestrian bridge). They are trying to get as much major roadwork done before the holidays as possible.

Sgt. Michel reminded the group that the red-light-running cameras are operational at Veterans and Clearview. Warnings will be mailed during September and violations will be mailed beginning October 1.

Mr. Bosarge reported that he checked the intersection and found that there was no problem with the timing of the signal lights at that intersection. (This concern was reported at the August meeting.)

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

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 17, 2007**, 11:30 am. The fee for lunch will be \$10. The meeting adjourned at about 1:15 pm.

Submitted by: Beth Inbau, NSC President & CEO

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