



**South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans**

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 17, 2007

The meeting was held in the 2nd 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 12:05 pm. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Del Bosarge, Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering, dbosarge@jeffparish.net
Bob Canfield, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, RRCBRLA@aol.com
Dan Champagne, ISH, dan.champagne@ish1.com
Landry Dixon, Office of Addictive Disorders, ldx621@msn.com
Ray Giacontiere, New Orleans Traffic Court
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, beth@metrosafety.org
Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission, djatres@norpc.org
Les O'Regan, US Customs & Border Protection, NSC Defensive Driving Instructor,
lester.oregan@dhs.gov
Sgt. John Pollard, St. Charles Sheriff's Office, jpollard@stcharlessheriff.org
Sgt. John Simmons, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, fax 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 with corrections. Notices and minutes will be posted on the website at www.metrosafety.org.

Sgt. Pollard reported that a vehicle collided with a train recently. The driver survived but the vehicle caught fire. There were no traffic fatalities last month in St. Charles Parish.

Sgt. Simmons reported that 2796 violations were issued in Jefferson Parish last month. Of those, 94 were for running red lights, 1583 for speeding, 194 for violating signs, 297 for hazardous materials, 45 for insurance, 67 for seatbelts, 13 for child restraints, 522 for non-hazardous materials and other violations. JPSO Traffic Division responded to 358 crashes with no injury, 81 with injuries and 3 fatalities. They also investigated 119 hit-and-runs and 5 DWIs for a total of 3199 complaints. He also reported that the State Police has separated its Field Sobriety and Intoxicology training from 40 hours total to 16 hours for Field Sobriety and 24 hours for Intoxicology.

Mr. Giacontiere reported that New Orleans Traffic Court is still operating from temporary quarters in Algiers until an additional trailer can be installed. He added that the office remains short-staffed.

National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter

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Mr. Canfield distributed and discussed "Status Report" containing articles about mini cars and teen crashes. He also distributed the 2006 LA statistics. He reported that Jefferson Parish has installed 8 red-light-running cameras and has issued 5,000 warnings in the first 2 weeks, most of which at the intersection of Veterans and Clearview in Metairie. He added that Lafayette is investigating speed enforcement via the cameras mounted in vans. A private company will probably get the contract to implement the program.

Mr. Strength emphasized the need for traffic engineering to get involved in the placement and timing of the red-light-running cameras to avoid complaints of entrapment. He also reported on the progress of several DOTD projects: Rigolets Bridge should open in December; signal project for the West Bank of Jefferson Parish should be let in November (which will be the last major upgrade to allow for remote signal communication, although timing must be changed manually); Spillway re-stripping will be finished at night and should be completed by Thanksgiving; Causeway work will be done at night if lane closure is needed and is still on schedule to be completed by Fall 2008; Airline at Alliance signals need timing correction;

ACTION
ITEM

Officer Simmons repeated his concern about the signals at Veterans and Clearview. Mr. Canfield agreed to investigate.

ACTION
ITEM

Mr. O'Regan asked Mr. Strength to look into the turning lane on US 90 at LA 18 where the sensor does not recognize motorcycles. Mr. Strength asked that any traffic concerns involving the DOTD be emailed to his attention.

Mr. Bosarge reported on scheduled lane closures on West Esplanade at Clearview and on the projects on Lapalco at Grand Cross Canal. He added that a study was underway concerning the Manhattan Blvd. on ramp.

Mr. O'Regan reported that the Customs Department has not had any traffic fatalities in the past few months. However, they did have a helicopter crash which killed the pilot as he was chasing aliens.

There was a discussion concerning DWI tests. Most drivers refuse the test, according to the law enforcement agencies present. Some agencies arrest the driver, some just issue citations. If a citation is issued, the driver must park the vehicle and call a taxi or friend to pick them up.

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Mr. Jatres reported that the Regional Planning Commission has begun a bicycle and pedestrian safety radio campaign. There will also be a training seminar from 11/1-6/07. He also reported that New Orleans is continuing to pursue installing 20 red-light-running cameras, which will also have the capability of upgrading to detect speeding vehicles. Installation should begin in the spring 2008.

Mr. Dixon with the Office of Addictive Disorders reminded everyone that this was Red Ribbon Week which is awareness of drug prevention. He distributed a "Research Report" which contained an article about heroin. He also distributed an updated list of clinics in the area. He added that he has not had an office since Katrina and continues to work from his car. He said he would be happy to share any information with anyone. He can be contacted at 504-361-1015, fax 361-1616, ldx621@msn.com or ldixon@dhh.la.gov.

Ms. Inbau advised the group about the designation from the World Health Organization (WHO) to the National Safety Council as the United States Safe Communities Affiliate Support Center. She asked everyone to visit our website for more information at www.metro-safety.org. She added that she has begun the application process to get the Safe Communities designation awarded to Jefferson Parish. She distributed "Buckle Up" key chains.

It was decided to skip the November meeting because it was too close to the Thanksgiving holiday. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 19, 2007**, 11:30 am. The fee for lunch will be \$10. The meeting adjourned at about 1:35 pm.

Submitted by: Beth Inbau, NSC Chapter President & CEO

Mark your calendars now for upcoming meetings:

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

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