



South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans

GNO Traffic Safety Committee Wednesday, March 17, 2010

The meeting was held at the Regional Transportation Management Center, #10 Veterans Blvd., New Orleans, LA. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Steve Strength at about 12 noon. Mr. Exnicios led the group in a prayer and Mr. Strength led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Del Bosarge, Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering, dbosarge@jeffparish.net
Norma Broussard, JP District Attorney's Office, nbroussard@jpda.us
Aaron Chabaud, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, aaronchabaud@bellsouth.net
Dan Champagne, ISH, dan.champagne@ish1.com
Jim Dickerson, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, jim.dickerson@dps.la.gov
Major David DiMaggio, St. Bernard Sheriff's Office, ddimaggio@sbsso.org
John Exnicios, Krebbs LaSalle LeMieux Consultants, jexnicios@kllconsultants.com
Timothy Fitten, Louisiana Department of Public Safety, timothy.fitten@dot.gov
Beth Inbau, President & CEO, NSC South Louisiana Chapter beth@metrosafety.org
Michelle Killian, MAC, michelle.killian@clearchannel.com
Chris Laborde, New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, claborde@norpc.org
Brad McGlothren, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, bradmcclothren@charter.net
Sgt. John Pollard, St. Charles Sheriff's Office, jpollard@stcharlessheriff.org
Don Redman, American Automobile Association, dredman@aaamissouri.com
Captain Carl Saizan, Louisiana State Police Troop B, carl.saizan@dps.la.gov
Karla Sibille, LADOTD, karla.sibille@la.gov
Steve Strength, LADOTD, steve.strength@la.gov
Betsey Tramonte, Federal Highway Administration, betsey.tramonte@fhwa.dot.gov
William Triay, Transportation Research Institute, bt@actionpress.com
Marie Walsh PhD, Louisiana Transportation Research Center, mbwalsh@ltrc.lsu.edu
Lynn Watson, Office of Injury Research and Prevention, lynn.watson@la.gov
Lt. Joe Valiente, New Orleans Police Department, jvaliente@cityofno.com

Mr. Strength described the recent DOTD/LHSC Statewide Summit. He explained that each DOTD district was challenged with developing a coalition to address the major issues identified in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan: increasing safety belt usage, reducing impaired driving, reducing teen crashes and improving infrastructure. The challenge included developing a specific action plan and working on action items. Mr. Strength and Ms. Inbau suggested that the GNO Traffic Safety Committee could be restructured and merged with the Who Dat Safe Community Coalition to meet the challenge. It was suggested that instead of each member giving their agency reports during the meeting, they could submit them in advance electronically. Reports could then be distributed with the meeting minutes. It was also suggested that sub-committees could be formed when needed to address other traffic issues such as distracted or aggressive driving. Such sub-committees could meet before or after the regular meeting. Ms. Broussard agreed to join the coalition, to represent the Southeast Louisiana DWI Task Force and to coordinate efforts with that group (which meets monthly on the 2nd Friday at Troop B at 10 am). The GNO Traffic Safety Committee agreed to the restructuring and merger with the Who Dat Safe Community Coalition. The group suggested the meetings remain on the 3rd Wednesday at lunch time.

Ms. Sibille advised that since the group agreed to the conditions of the Statewide Summit, resources will be made available, such as local crash statistics, analysis of data, Road Safety Assessments, information from the Traffic Records Committee. Mr. Dickerson advised that resources are also available from the National Highway Safety Administration, since the new coalition will model the NHTSA Safe Community initiative. Ms. Sibille reported that during the Statewide Summit, attendees were asked to volunteer to participate on the coalition. She agreed to forward the contact information to Ms. Inbau of those in our region that volunteered.

Ms. Broussard outlined the J.P. DA's Office plan to conduct a "No Refusal Weekend" during the Memorial Day holiday. When someone is stopped for driving while intoxicated and refuses to take the breathalyzer test, the officer will request a search warrant from a judge (who will be on standby) for a chemical test. Upon receipt of the signed warrant, the driver will be brought to JPSO Lockup and blood will be drawn. However, since this a pilot program, the DA's Office does not have funding for the cost of a Registered Nurse or Paramedic to be stationed at the Lockup. She requested that the Who Dat Coalition approve such funding, which would probably be \$3,000 - \$5,000. (The Who Dat Coalition has a grant from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission for such activities. She will make a formal request to the Who Dat Coalition on 3/23/10.)

Ms. Sibille reported that Work Zone Awareness Week is 4/19-23/10. On 4/20/10, LHSC will hold a press conference in Baton Rouge. There were about 22 work zone deaths in Louisiana and 720 nationwide last year.

Ms. Walsh reported that "Click It or Ticket" signs are being produced and will be available soon.

Mr. Dickerson reported that Col. John LeBlanc, LHSC Director, is in Washington DC to try to get federal money released for Louisiana.

Ms. Killian advised that Mardi Gras beads on the roadways has been identified as a hazard to motorcyclists. She also reported that the large ruts in the surface of I-10 near Causeway & Clearview and in New Orleans East also pose significant hazards to motorcyclists. She announced that on 4/25/10, a motorcycle ride from LaPlace to the Capitol will begin at 10 am.

Mj. DiMaggio reported that the Judge Seeber Bridge (AKA Claiborne Ave. Bridge) closure has not been a significant problem. The bridge tender has been supplied with a police radio and can use channel 1 in case of an emergency. Capt. Saizan requested it be changed to channel 3, which all area law enforcement agencies can use.

Action items (remaining & new):

-Ms. Inbau – Develop and distribute form for agency reports.

The meeting adjourned at about 1:15pm. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 4/21/10 at 11:30 am at Troop B located on Williams Blvd. at I-10 in Kenner.**

Submitted by: Beth Inbau