

Final



**South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans**

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 15, 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 11:55 am. 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
David Broussard, Guest
Kelsey Chauveaux, Guest
Jeffery Doussan, Consultant for DOTD, Jeffery@realsnap.net
Patricia Edwards, Operation Lifesaver, www.laoperationlifesaver.org
Tom Ervin, Consultant for DOTD, tom@trafdoc.com, 985-373-0534
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, beth@metrosafety.org
Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission, djatres@norpc.org
Rene' Nieto, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, rene@metrosafety.org
Donald Redman, AAA, dredman@aaamissouri.com
Steve Strength, LA Dept. of Transportation & Dev., stevestrength@dotd.la.gov
Tim Thomason, Department of Homeland Security
Lawrence Williams, Naval Support Activity, Lawrence.williams1@navy.mil

The minutes from the past meeting were distributed and accepted with one correction on page 3. Ms. Inbau announced that notices and minutes will be posted on the website at www.metrosafety.org.

Sgt. Walker reported the number of citations for Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Traffic Division for March: of the 1634 citations, 28 were for red light running, 781 speeding, 94 signs, 24 insurance, 141 safety belts, 10 child restraints, 35 non-hazardous. They responded to 464 crashes with 80 injuries, 1 fatality, 111 hit & runs, 3 DWIs for a total of 2033 calls for service.

Mr. Strength, Mr. Redman and Ms. Inbau reported on their meeting with J.P. Councilman John Young about the red-light-running cameras. They were told that neither the crash data nor the citation numbers would be released due to the pending legal action. Mr. Strength explained the discrepancy between the definition of the stop line by the MUTCD and that used by RedFlex, the company operating the cameras. He stated that the new MUTCD will re-define the stop line as the intersection and that LA law adopts the MUTCD as their engineering standard. However, enforcement is found in Title 32 of the State statute.

Mr. Redman reported that a bill being introduced by the State legislature would force New Orleans to share some its revenue from the cameras with the state. Another bill would ban cameras altogether.

Mr. Strength stated that the LA DOTD will permit cameras on state roads if the city/parish has a maintenance contract. DOTD now pays the City of N.O. to maintain the signals along the state roads. DOTD maintains the roadways.

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dba National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter**

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Mr. Williams shared a PowerPoint program he developed for the military safety stand-downs for the "101 Critical Days of Summer" which focuses on off-duty mishaps.

Mr. Jatres shared radio ads and signs (which will be displayed on buses and bus shelters) which were developed from a grant from DOTD.

Ms. Edwards distributed CD-ROMs with PPT and other information about the safety belt initiative in the State. She requested everyone to share the information so that the State can increase its safety belt usage before the next count in July.

Mr. Redman reported on a recent report from the Insurance Institute for Hwy. Safety which stated that smaller cars are the most unsafe. Crash tests of mini-cars produced poor results. Fuel efficiency must be balanced with safety concerns of these small vehicles.

Ms. Inbau distributed information about the National Safety Council's June Safety Month initiative. More information can be found on www.nsc.org.

Mr. Strength displayed a sample of the enhanced signs being installed on I-10. The mileage noted on the signs starts at the Texas state line. He also stated that there are plans in place for the Twin Spans in case of a hurricane evacuation. By June, a portion of the new bridge will begin being used.

Mr. Boyle reported that the Twin Spans will have 3 lanes plus a shoulder in each direction when completed. He also reported on the Belle Chasse LA 23 project which will be completed next month, and on the Huey P. Long Bridge project, which is set to be completed in 2012. He also reported that a portion of northbound Causeway @ I-10 eastbound is closed and traffic is being directed to Bonnebel for the next 3-4 months.

Mr. Bosarge reported that J.P. will move Family Gras from the 1st weekend in Carnival to the 2nd. It will run from Sunday to Tuesday Mardi Gras day. Another stage will be erected on Severn at 28th St. He also mentioned that the upcoming N.O. TBC Golf Tournament will coincide with Jazz Fest the last weekend of April. He also reported that a coalition including Northfork Southern and the RPC are trying to get \$400,000-\$600,000 for RXR gates at Metairie Road.

Mr. Ervin agreed to bring a flex post to the next meeting. These posts are used at RxR and are recoverable.

Ms. Inbau agreed to ask Redflex to attend the June meeting.

The meeting adjourned at about 1:20 pm.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 20, 2009**, 11:30 am.

Submitted by: Beth Inbau, NSC President & CEO