



**South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans**

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 16, 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 noon. 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
Carol Champagne, Jefferson Parish Special Events, fax 736-6778
Dan Champagne, ISH, dan.champagne@ish1.com
Marc Ducote, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, mcducote@bellsouth.net
Terry Fairchild, Naval Support Activity, terry.fairchild@navy.mil
Ray Giacontiere, New Orleans Traffic Court
Dorothia Halligan, Jefferson Parish Carnival/Mardi Gras, dhalligan@jeffparish.net
Mark Hebert, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, beth@metrosafety.org
Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission, djatres@norpc.org
Connie Pogue, AT&T, cp1680@att.com
Sgt. John Pollard, St. Charles Sheriff's Office, jpollard@stcharlessheriff.org
Donald Redman, AAA, dredman@aaamissouri.com
Sgt. Antoine Rodrigue Jr., Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office
Ronnie Schmitt, Beverly Industries, ronnies@beverlyinc.com
Steve Strength, LA Dept. of Transportation & Dev., stevestrength@dotd.state.la.us
Fred Terluin, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, fterluinj@cox.net
Lawrence Williams, Naval Support Activity, Lawrence.williams1@navy.mil
Karen Kraak Wood, Jefferson Parish Carnival & Special Events, kwood@jeffparish.net

The minutes from the past meeting was distributed and accepted after corrections. Ms. Inbau announced that notices and minutes will be posted on the website at www.metrosafety.org. Ms. Inbau urged everyone to RSVP by Monday prior to each meeting and thanked those who did.

Ms. Inbau announced that she would begin collecting \$1 per occurrence from anyone who referred to roadway crashes as "accidents."

Officer Hebert reported that the Traffic Division of JPSO issued 1686 traffic citations, investigated 282 crashes without injury and 89 with injuries, including 3 fatalities during April. They also investigated 21 hit-and-runs and made 9 DWI arrests.

Sgt. Pollard reported that St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office investigated 2 fatalities in the last 3 weeks.

Mr. Canfield reviewed his handout concerning upcoming traffic legislation of interest to the LHSC. He also distributed the first page of the News Observer and recommended everyone review the entire series of articles on www.newsobserver.com concerning violations, enforcement and prosecution.

National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter

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There will be 4 articles in the series. He added that there is a group who developed a website soliciting support to revoke all speed limits. (He will bring the site address to the next meeting.) He also reported on the "100 Days of Summer Heat" enforcement efforts that will be repeated again this summer during which money will be available to police departments for traffic enforcement. However, even with last year's success and other enforcement efforts, the state experienced over 1,000 fatalities in 2006.

Mr. Strength reported on the construction projects DOTD has in the area. He said the traffic signals on Jefferson Hwy. at the Huey P. Long Bridge are now being monitored and can be adjusted remotely from their office. He added that striping activities have been contracted out for the past few years, which has been difficult to get small projects completed. DOTD is in the process of purchasing their own equipment and staff to return the activities in-house by 12/07. Mr. Strength also reported that the Workzone Task Force has been conducting training for police and contractors. They will begin to conduct training for DOTD maintenance department, cities and parishes. He also reported that the Intelligent Transportation Center is scheduled to be let by 6/07. The Motorist Assistance Patrol (MAP) costs about \$86,000/month for 4 vans, 14 hours per day. In March, they assisted 2,387 incidents or about 77/day at a cost of about \$37/incident. Adding an additional lane of travel would cost about \$3-10 million/mile. MAP can also remove debris from the road.

Mr. Canfield asked everyone to instruct drivers involved in minor crashes (without injury) to move their vehicles off the road. It was suggested that DOTD install signs along the interstates as in other states. Mr. Strength agreed to investigate the suggestion. Mr. Ducote said the Illinois workzone laws are strong and that vans with video cameras are used to catch speeders.

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Strength about DOTD's requirement for training. Beverly Industries had a problem getting a class for their superintendents at a reasonable price. Ms. Inbau asked Mr. Strength to give her the contact information of the person(s) responsible for approving such training, as the National Safety Council's course is not on the DOTD's approved list.

Mr. Bosarge reported that the red-light running cameras are still delayed because of legal issues. He agreed to forward the proposed list of intersections to the Traffic Safety Committee. Jefferson Parish is using the number of crashes and the volume on Parish roads to determine which intersections should be considered. (At the last meeting, Mr. Redman with AAA recommended that each intersection be thoroughly evaluated to determine if engineering controls, markings and light timing could be upgraded instead of cameras.) Mr. Bosarge said the J.P. Council is considering as much as \$100 for the tickets.

Mr. Bosarge reported on the many construction projects in the Parish. The Lapalco project is completed. There are 80 locations where the USDA is paying to refurbish drainage canals. Eastbound W. Esplanade is completed and the westbound side has begun. He added that contractors must have a traffic control plan approved by J.P. prior to beginning work. He said he has been contacted by St. John Parish officials about using the cameras to catch speeders in neighborhoods.

Mr. Williams asked if anything could be done about frequent violations on Baratavia where drivers turn right from the center lane near WJMC and at Lafayette St. Mr. Strength will check the locations.

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Final



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Another frequent violation is on Veterans Blvd. when drivers coming from the side streets drive against traffic to get to the U-turn lanes. Mr. Williams asked about mini-scooters. Sgt. Rodrigue stated that State law prohibits any vehicle on public roadways that does not have an inspection sticker, which makes these electric scooters illegal. He added that if the driver is under 17, the parent can be cited.

Mr. Williams reported that from May 11-13, military personnel experienced 5 fatalities, 4 of which involved motorcycles. All military installations will emphasize traffic safety, even though the Marine Corps had a 9% reduction in traffic crashes and the combined Navy & Marine Corps had a 10% reduction. When asked about cell-phone use, he said some military facilities ban their use altogether, some require hands-free only and some ban Bluetooth devices. Mr. Fairchild said he frequently observes school bus drivers using cell-phones while driving children.

Mr. Giacontiere reported that N.O. Traffic Court is still in the satellite office in Algiers. They are working on opening a satellite office at 813 N. Broad in N.O. Their new telephone system has been installed. The number is 504-364-4060, with 8 lines. They have also begun processing expungements and are now getting Crash Reports from NOPD.

Mr. Jatres distributed information about the Design Workshop. He said that they are working with N.O. and DOTD on a road reconstruction project which will be paid by the Federal Hwy. Administration. They have identified about 60 local roads that could be used as primary evacuation routes, mostly in New Orleans and some in Jefferson and St. Bernard Parishes, that could be eligible for federal aid.

Mr. Terluin reported that LHSC funded sobriety checkpoints held by Troop L in St. Tammany and Troop B in St. John Parishes. 700 vehicles were inspected in St. John, which resulted in 13 tests and 4 DWI arrests.

Mr. Champagne stated that Murphy Refinery had a spill this morning, so gas prices will probably go up slightly today.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at about 1:35pm. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 20, 2007**, 11:30 am. The fee for lunch will be \$15.

Submitted by:
Beth Inbau
NSC President & CEO

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