

Draft

**Metropolitan Safety Council of the New Orleans Area Inc.
dba National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter**

4713 Utica Street, Metairie, LA 70006
Tel: 504-888-7618, 800-N-SAFETY, Fax: 504-888-7612, 866-698-1685
Website: www.metrosafety.org Email: info@metrosafety.org

**Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 17, 2009**

The meeting was held in the conference room of State Police Troop B, 2101 I-10 Service Road in Kenner, LA. Complimentary lunch was served at 11:45 am. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Del Bosarge at about noon. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Del Bosarge, Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering, dbosarge@jeffparish.net
*John Broemmelsiek, Federal Highway Administration, john.broemmelsiek@dot.gov
Aaron Chabaud, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, AaronChabaud@bellsouth.net
Dan Champagne, ISH, dan.champagne@ish1.com
Jeffery Doussan, Consultant for DOTD, Jeffery@roadsnap.net
*Rachel East, DOTD New Orleans Regional TMC, rachel.east@la.gov
Patricia Edwards, Operation Lifesaver, patricia.edwards@la.gov
Tom Ervin, Consultant for DOTD, tom@trafdoc.com, 985-373-0534
John Exnicios, Krebs, LaSalle, Lemieux Consultants, jexnicios@krebsslalalle.com
*Glen Graham, ABMB Engineers, Inc. ggraham@abmb.com
Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission, djatres@norpc.org
*Barry Lacy, DOTD Construction Section, barry.lacy@la.gov
Sgt. Shawn Michel, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, fax 504-465-1497
*Adam Moncivaez, DOTD ITS Statewide Operations, adam.moncivaez@la.gov
Les O'Regan, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Lester.oregan@dhs.gov
Sgt. John Pollard, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, jpollard@stcharlessheriff.org
Donald Redman, AAA Louisiana, dredman@aaamissouri.com
Sgt. Antoine Rodrigue, Jr., Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, antoine-rodrigue@lpsso.net
*Jeff Roesel, Regional Planning Commission, jroesel@norpc.org
*Jason Sappington, Regional Planning Commission, jsappington@norpc.org
Steve Strength, LA Dept. of Transportation & Dev., stevestrength@la.gov
Betsey Tramonte, Federal Highway Administration, betsey.tramonte@dot.gov
*Ron Whittaker, DOTD Traffic Safety, rwhittaker@live.com
*Allen Yrle, City of New Orleans Traffic Engineering, amyrtle@cityofno.com

(* New attendees)

The minutes from the meeting of May 20 were not available for review at this time.

Sgt. Michel reported the number of citations for Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Traffic Division for May, including 27 for red light violations, 1063 for speeding, 105 for signs, 271 for other hazardous violations, 19 for insurance, 167 for seat belts, 5 for child restraints, and 358 for non-hazardous violations. There were 68 injury crashes and one fatal crash investigated, and there were two DWI arrests. In addition, 8019 citations were issued by Redflex under the automated red light running program.

Sgt. Rodrigue reported on activities in Lafourche Parish and Sgt. Pollard discussed activities in St. Charles Parish.

Ms. Edwards thanked the law enforcement agencies for their support of the recent successful "Click It Or Ticket" seat belt campaign. Her group is planning a Highway Safety Conference to be held in February 2010. She also reported on activities of Operation Lifesaver and indicated that they would welcome volunteers to present OL programs.

Mr. Champagne discussed the work going on at area refineries as well as the effects on fuel prices for Louisiana motorists.

Mr. Redman reported on recent activity in the Legislature. A new law requiring all occupants of a motor vehicle to wear seat belts is headed for final passage. Two laws, one to prohibit automated enforcement and another to specifically authorize its use, do not appear to be headed toward passage. A bill to ban the use of cell phones while driving is still being considered.

Mr. Strength reported on the progress of several construction projects in the New Orleans region. Eastbound I-10 traffic will be shifted to the new Twin Span Bridge after July 4. Shortly thereafter, the westbound traffic will be shifted to the old eastbound bridge, allowing for the abandonment of the old westbound bridge, and eliminating the need for lane closures during the week to do bridge maintenance. The I-10 work at Causeway is proceeding on half the interchange, and the bid opening was held today for the other half. The Huey P. Long Bridge work is proceeding; the next major activities affecting traffic will involve hanging of trusses over the roadways in August and removal of the East Bank overpasses on Jefferson Highway starting in September. Mr. Strength also reported that DOTD policy is being revised to allow more use of Dynamic Message Signs for State-sponsored safety campaigns.

Mr. Glen Graham is the facilitator of the New Orleans Regional Traffic Incident Management Team, which held its bimonthly meeting just prior to this meeting. Mr. Adam Moncivaez reported on Incident Management programs and the role of the Statewide Traffic Management Center which he manages. Ms. Rachel East will be relocating to New Orleans to manage the Regional Transportation Management Center. She reported that the new Center will be ready in October. DOTD District 02 Traffic Operations and the Regional Planning Commission will also be housed there. The National Safety Council Traffic Committee will be hosted there for their monthly luncheon meetings as well.

Mr. Allen Yrle, the City of New Orleans Traffic Engineer, reported on several traffic signal upgrade projects scheduled for this year. There will also be a lot of street construction beginning soon under the Submerged Roads Program funded by FHWA.

Ms. Tramonte reported on recent statistics from the Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS). Through June 16 there have been 372 fatalities in 2009 compared with 463 for the same period in 2008. There were 337 fatal crashes so far this year and 47 fatal motorcycle crashes, accounting for 13 percent of the total crashes. Of the total fatal crashes, 18 percent involved alcohol. Although the statistics reflect a significant reduction in fatalities and crashes, Ms. Tramonte reported that the final figures often increase because FARS will not close out its records for 2009 until the end of 2010 to account for any resulting death which might occur up to one year after a crash. She reminded the group about the free Roadside Departure Workshops being taught by the LTAP center in four locations around the State in July. She also introduced Mr. John Broemmelsiek, who is the Intelligent Transportation Systems/Traffic Operations Engineer for the FHWA Louisiana Division in Baton Rouge.

Mr. Bosarge reported on Jefferson Parish projects, including the reconstruction of 18th Street, which is affecting traffic in the Fat City area. He reported that a project is underway to convert 10 intersections on Veterans Boulevard from span wire to mast arms. Mr. Bosarge also indicated that the Parish is waiting for a response from the Federal Railroad Administration regarding the "Quiet Zone" proposal involving quad gates on Metairie Road. A discussion ensued regarding ways to keep the tracks clear so the gates will be effective without trapping motorists on the crossing itself.

The meeting adjourned at about 1:05 pm. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, July 15, 2009**, 11:30 am at the ISH Building on Utica Street in Metairie.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven C. Strength, PE, PTOE
Recorder