



**South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans**

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 15, 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 12:15 pm. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Del Bosarge, Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering, dbosarge@jeffparish.net
Terry Fairchild, Naval Support Activity, terry.fairchild@navy.mil
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, beth@metrosafety.org
Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission, djatres@norpc.org
Chris Landry, National Safety Council Defensive Driving Instructor, clandry222@bellsouth.net
Les O'Regan, US Customs & Border Protection, NSC Defensive Driving Instructor
lester.oregan@dhs.gov
Bea Parisi, Jefferson Parish 1st Parish Court, bea@jeffparishcourts.com
Sgt. Antoine Rodrigue Jr., Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, antoine-rodrigue@lpsa.net
Sgt. John Simmons, JPSO
Steve Strength, LA Dept. of Transportation & Dev., stevestrength@dotd.state.la.us
Lawrence Williams, Naval Support Activity, Lawrence.williams1@navy.mil

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

Mr. O'Regan reported that the US Customs & Border Protection use the National Safety Council's Online Defensive Driving Course for all GSA drivers.

Sgt. Rodrigue reported on the insurance compliance checkpoints recently held in Lafourche Parish. At one checkpoint, 973 vehicles were checked, 2 insurance violations were issued, 1 vehicle was towed. At another, 527 vehicles were checked, 2 insurance violations were issued, one driver was cited for no license and one other minor violation was issued. The Sheriff's Office thought the events were a great success.

Sgt. Simmons reported that Jefferson Parish Traffic Division issued 2114 citations in July, investigated 491 crashes with 69 injuries and arrested 6 for DWI. He also reported that a bicyclist was killed on West Napoleon when the driver rode in front of a vehicle. There was no indication of drugs, alcohol or speeding.

National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter

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Ms. Inbau announced that the National Safety Council will be releasing a new Parent's Program to compliment the Alive at 25 (driver improvement for 15-24 year olds). It will be a 2 hour course and she will share more details when available.

Mr. Strength reported that the rumors about the unsafe condition of the Twin Spans is completely false. He suggested that the older bridges are perhaps safer than the new ones because, due to the lack of engineering techniques, many older bridges were "over-engineered." He also reported that the recent newspaper article about the signals at Shirley and DeGaulle was inaccurate. The City of NO pays to maintain the signals and DOTD is available for backups when needed. The City's contractor should complete the work by Monday and the Crescent City Connection Police will be there every morning until the work is completed.

Mr. Strength also reminded the group that when signals are flashing red in all directions, the intersection should be treated as a 4-way stop. On multi-lane roadways, however, this gets tricky.

Mr. Landry asked Mr. Strength if the area at Hwy. 22 in Mandeville could be reviewed. Lanes merge just before a major intersection, causing congestion. If the lanes could merge after the intersection, the traffic could flow smoother. Mr. Strength agreed to look into the situation, but it might not be in DOTD's jurisdiction.

Mr. Strength also reminded everyone that Hurricane Season is upon us. DOTD is trying to get manual "hand" controls for signal lights, which would eliminate the need for so many officers to control lights during an evacuation.

Ms. Parisi reported that red-light-running cameras are being installed in Jefferson Parish. During September, warnings will be issued. Starting October 1, tickets will be issued at a cost of about \$95. 3 photos will be taken of the vehicle's license plate. Violators will be able to see the photos via a secure website. Temporary plates in back windshields, no plates and film over plates are a problem. Non-payment of tickets will be referred to a collection agency.

Sgt. Simmon reported that the signals at Clearview and Veterans may have a problem with timing. Mr. Bosarge agreed to look into it.

Mr. Williams reported that the Naval Support Activity is focusing on back to school and motorcycle safety by sending notices to all. They recently experienced a fatality when a motorcyclist was rear-ended by a car. Sgt. Rodrigue suggested tat Larry Orso with the Department of Education be contacted regarding motorcycle safety classes at 225-342-3484.

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Mr. Jatres reported that RPC is trying to include bike lanes in the District 2 DOTD renovations. He also reported that a pedestrian “countdown” signal is being demonstrated at Poydras in front of City Hall. RPC hopes that more will be installed in the CBD.

Mr. Jatres also reported that the Safe Routes To School Conference will be next week. The only local city was Kenner to apply for one of the 10 grants, but they were not chosen. Applications are being streamlined and the funds can be used for infrastructure improvements, education or both. DOTD has a contract engineer to coordinate the projects. RPC hopes more applications will be submitted and more local awards will be made in the next cycle. DOTD is inventorying eligible schools for signage and marking upgrades.

Mr. Bosarge reported that JP is trying to repair as many streets as possible before elections.

Mr. Landry reminded the group that the new DWI law increases the penalty for 1st refusal from 180 days to 1 year. Sgt. Rodrigue reminded the group that 1st DWI and hardship licenses will require an interlock device for 1 year. It was suggested that a guest speaker be invited to discuss the new changes to the DWI laws. Ms. Inbau agreed to look into it.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 1:30 pm.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 19, 2007**, 11:30 am. The fee for lunch will be \$10.

Submitted by: Beth Inbau, NSC President & CEO

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