

DRAFT



**Who Dat Safe Community Coalition & GNO Traffic Safety Committee
(LHSC Grant / NHTSA Model)
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, November 17, 2010**

The meeting was held at the Regional Transportation Management Center, New Orleans, LA. After lunch was served, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Claude Maher at about noon. Self introductions were held and the following were present:

Jamie Ainsworth, LA Highway Safety Commission, Jamie.ainsworth@dps.la.gov
Dean Behrens, LA State Police, dean.behrens@dps.la.gov
Ken Berthelot, WHNOTV, kberthelot@lesea.com
Richard Brown, Citizen
Ellis Cattan, KCS RxR, elliscattan@yahoo.com
Aaron Chabaud, LHSC, aaronchabaud@bellsouth.net
Carlton Dufrechou, Greater N.O. Expressway Commission, cdufrechou@gnoec.org
Bridget Gardner, LSUHSC, bgardn@lsuhsc.edu
Jeff Haydel, Motorcycle Awareness Campaign, jefhay1967@yahoo.com
John Hellmers, Kenner Fire Department, firechief@kenner.la.us
Beth Inbau, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, beth@metrosafety.org
Dan Jatres, Regional Planning Commission, djatres@norpc.org
Chris Laborde, Regional Planning Commission, claborde@norpc.org
Claude Maher, National Safety Council, South LA Chapter, claudio@metrosafety.org
Michael McKenzie, 34 Ways Foundation, trey_34@yahoo.com
Shawn Michel, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Michel_sd@jpsso.com
Russell Moran, Kenner Police Department, rmoran@kennerpd.com
Neal Morris, Ericksen, Krentel & Laporte CPA Firm, nmorris@ericksenkrentel.com
Vi Nguyen, LA Department of Transportation & Development, vi.nguyen2@la.gov
Nicole Norman, WHNOTV, nnorman@lesea.com
Melissa Sparks, Safety Council of LA Capitol Area, mspark@esafetycouncil.com
Karen Parsons, RPC, kparsons@norpc.org
Don Redman, AAA, dredman@aaamissouri.com
April Renard, Department of Transportation & Development, april.renard@la.gov
Karla Sibille, Department of Transportation & Development, karla.sibille@la.gov
Luke Strack, East Jefferson General Hospital, lstrack@ejgh.org
Brad Tassin, Beverly Industries, bradt@beverlyinc.com
William Triay, Mayor's Military Advisory Committee, bt@actionpress.com
Taussen Valencia, New Orleans Police Department, tvalencia@cityofno.com
Lynn Watson, Office of Public Health, Injury Prevention Program, lynn.watson@la.gov
Lindsey Johnson-White, Office of Public Health, Injury Prevention Program, Lindsey.johnson@la.gov
Ron Whittaker, Department of Transportation & Development, rwhittaker@live.com

Ms. Renard led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Laborde led the group in Prayer.



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Mr. Maher presented a draft of the minutes from last month's meeting. Mr. Triay advised a change in his contact information to the Mayor's Military Advisory Committee. After review, Mr. Laborde made a motion to accept with said correction, second by Ms. Inbau and the motion passed.

Mr. Carlton Dufrechou, our guest speaker, addressed the group and gave the following report concerning the Causeway:

- The number of vehicles that cross the Causeway daily ranges between 16,000 and 17,500;
- During 2009 there were 11 motor vehicle crashes with no fatalities;
- The Causeway is the world's longest bridge that spans entirely over water;
- There are approximately 9,000 pilings used for support and are inspected annually;
- The Causeway was the first bridge in the USA to utilize pre-stress concrete;
- There is a staff of 110-120 employees of which 1/3 are police, 1/3 are maintenance workers with the remaining staffing toll booths and office positions;
- There are 38 cameras used for Motorist Assistance Patrol and 7 crossovers;
- All Police and MAP personnel are trained in water rescue; neither entity is funded from toll revenue;
- The draw bridge is circa 1969. The motor and wiring will be replaced within the next 18 months;
- There are plans to elevate the Southshore lanes and to build a flood wall there;
- The most hazardous area on the Causeway is the drawbridge. Mr. Dufrechou recommends slowing down especially in rainy conditions as the steel grating becomes very slippery.

Mr. Laborde advised that an effort is underway to link the cameras of the RTMC to the Causeway.

Mr. Maher asked Mr. Dufrechou about the proposed lake ferry. Mr. Dufrechou replied that the ferry should be in service within 3-4 months. It will shuttle people across the lake where parking will be available and busses will be staged. Round trip cost is approximately \$25.

Mr. Maher reported that the purchase of the commodities for seat belts are being addressed with some information already obtained from one vendor.

Mr. Maher also distributed literature concerning the area's intersections with high crash rates which were obtained from Ms. Renard. Sgt. Michel stated that more crashes occur at the intersection of Causeway and Veterans Blvd, however, that intersection does not appear on the list because of the criteria. Mr. Whittaker asked to have a Road Safety Assessment done at that location to determine what can be done to improve the safety of those who use both Causeway Blvd. and Veterans Blvd. He also stated that funds are available to have information input into the LA Crash data base and to assist in an assessment.

Ms. Gardner stated that the next available training for Child Passenger Seat Technicians will be held in Gonzales from Wednesday-Saturday, 12/15-18/2010. The cost of the training is \$75 per person with 5 available spots remaining in Gonzales. After that, a class will be held in Houma then March in Lake Charles. The cost is \$60 for the training providing you register in advance. Ms. Johnson-White



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suggested brochures about the training be placed at Toys-R-Us and at local hospitals. Mr. Berthelot agreed to investigate the production of a public service announcement about the check-up stations.

Mr. Maher briefed the coalition on the recently held US Army Corps of Engineers Health & Safety Fair which was held on Thursday, 10/21/2010. With the assistance of Motorcycle Awareness Campaign members Jeff Haydel and Roland Belew, they were able to address approximately 250 people. They gave demonstrations on Impaired Driving by using the Fatal Vision Goggles and the Intoxiclock.

Mr. Jatres gave an update on the bike rodeo held on Saturday, 11/13/2010. The Metropolitan Bicycle Coalition gave away 14 helmets to the children who did not have helmets or who had helmets that were not certified. The rodeo was held in conjunction with the annual "Bike Bash." WWL TV Channel 4, covered the event and aired a 3 minute segment concerning French Quarter bike awareness.

Mr. Chabaud gave a report on the SELA DWI Task Force held on Friday, 11/12/2010. The task force is working on Interlock devices being installed into the vehicles of those convicted of DUI. He stated that reporting has become a roadblock. There are plans to identify a retired judge to assist in these efforts.

Ms. Inbau reported on the Aggressive Driving Task Force in which the members are having a difficult time agreeing on the definition of Aggressive Driving. No follow-up meeting has been scheduled.

Ms. Sibille reported on the Impaired Driving Task Force. She stated that the Action Plan has been finalized and will be posted on the SHSP web site.

Mr. Maher reported on the Young Drivers Task Force. He said that the Action Plan has not been finalized, however progress has been made. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12/15/2010.

Mr. Berthelot expressed an interest for WHNO TV to apply for a mini-grant. Further discussions were held with Ms. Ainsworth at a meeting following the Who Dat Coalition meeting.

Ms. Gardner agreed to provide a copy of the Mock Crash Handbook to Ms. Ainsworth so that the coalition may utilize it as a guide to assist in the Who Dat Coalition's efforts. Mr. Triay stated that Action Press could print the books for \$2.50-\$3.00 per copy. Ms. Inbau moved to have 100 copies printed by Action Press, second by Mr. Redman. All in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. McKenzie advised the coalition of the possible events/organizations that we can address to help our efforts with young drivers such as the NFL Alumni Association and the upcoming High School All Star Game to be held on Monday, 12/20/2010 at the Louisiana Superdome.



Mr. Maher announced that the Who Dat Coalition has been asked to participate in another Safety Night at Zephyr Field on Friday, 4/29/2011.

Mr. Redman advised the coalition of a recent study conducted by AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Researchers surveyed more than 2,000 people age 16 and older and found that 41% admitted to having “nodded off” while driving at some point in their lives; 11% admitted to having done so in the last year.

Mr. Cattan stated that the State Police and 3 railroad companies would join efforts to provide an “officer on the train.” The effort will cover several parishes and will be implemented on Tuesday, 11/30/2010. State Troopers will be assigned to intersections and will ride on trains in order to enforce railroad laws.

Ms. Inbau informed the coalition of the National Safety Council’s open house to be held on Wednesday, 12/1/2010 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. She invited all Who Dat members. She added that there usually is no December meeting unless the group decided otherwise. They did not so the next meeting will be in January.

Ms. Sibille distributed “Destination Zero Deaths” pins.

The meeting adjourned at about 2:05 pm.

Action Items:

Ms. Gardner – provide Mock Crash Handbook to Ms. Ainsworth.

Mr. Triay – print 100 copies of Mock Crash Handbook. Cost to be paid by Who Dat grant from LHSC.

Mr. Berthelot – production of a PSA about child safety seat check-up stations.

Mr. Maher – order Buckle Up key-chains for distribution at Who Dat events. Cost to be paid by Who Dat grant from LHSC.

The next meeting of the Who Dat Safe Community Coalition will be the on **Wednesday, 01/19/11 at 11:30 am at the RTMC Building located at #10 Veterans Blvd, New Orleans. RSVP required for complimentary lunch.** Agency report forms can be found at www.metro-safety.org. Please submit them electronically to claudem@metro-safety.org to be attached to the meeting minutes.

Respectfully submitted by Claude D. Maher, National Safety Council.



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South Louisiana Chapter
New Orleans

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

ENGINEERING AGENCY REPORT

MONTH JANUARY YEAR 2011

DOTD District 02 Traffic Operations / New Orleans RTMC

Significant Projects – Huey P. Long Bridge Lane closures and bridge closures continue as structural work progresses. Shifting of traffic to the final configuration on the West Bank approach around LA 18 is taking place this month, and demolition of the East Bank overpasses has begun with Jefferson Highway traffic being handled at ground level with reconfiguration of three traffic signals and addition of two more.

I-10 / Causeway ramp work continues. Northbound exit Causeway to I-10 West has been reopened and the new Westbound to Northbound ramp over Veterans is in operation as well as the temporary entrance to westbound I-10 at Severn. Several weekend closures of Causeway to hang girders are scheduled in the coming weeks.

Striping maintenance project along US 90B (Crescent City Connection) included the reconfiguration of lakebound expressway lanes to give the Superdome entrance its own entrance lane occurred on December 19. This will have a significant positive effect on safety for traffic entering from Claiborne or the Superdome area.

I-10 Twin Span work continues with the connection of approaches on the new westbound span. Three lanes will be available in each direction beginning in July.

Significant Operations Activities – Ongoing meetings with US Army Corps of Engineers regarding truck operations for levee repair, upgrade work. Area has reached peak of 5000+ dump truck trips per day as of November 2010. Permit work to raise levee near Irish Bayou on I-10 is approximately 2/3 complete.

Significant Safety Achievements – Participated in training for Highway Safety Manual implementation in October and December 2010. Participated in 9th Conference on Access Management in Natchez in October 2010. Ongoing meetings with SHSP Implementation Team. LTAP Speed Management Workshop was held September 10 at the RTMC with another scheduled in St. Martinville in early spring 2011.

Scheduled Events – Deep South ITE meets February 24-25 in Baton Rouge (TTEC). Southern District ITE Annual Meeting in Lafayette (Hilton) April 10-13. www.sdite.org

Steven C. Strength, PE, PTOE

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