



# South Central Safe Community Partnership

The Official Transportation Safety Newsletter of the South Central Region of Louisiana

Funded thru LHSC and LADOTD Safety Grants

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## Traffic Safety Summit '12 expands program scope, sets record in attendance

For the first time in a decade, the members of the Houma-based South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) expanded the program scope of this year's Traffic Safety Summit held on September 27 at the Houma Terrebonne Civic Center. New outdoor safety demos were showcased and more breakout sessions were conducted.

Not only did the coalition partners discuss the usual seatbelt and alcohol-related programs in addressing highway safety issues, they also touched on engineering initiatives like road safety assessment and bike safety planning that are designed to benefit all road users, including the bicyclists, pedestrians and the elderly. The traditional classroom-style event evolved into being more interactive with the addition of hands-on demonstrations that taught blind zone safety, bike safety, seatbelt use, motorcycle safety, sober driving, etc.



Around 113 safety partners (18% increase from last year's 95 attendees) and almost 15 high school students joined the summit. It was SCSCP's goal to not only educate the partners with best safety practices and bring them all on the same page towards realizing the state's vision of Destination Zero Deaths, it also hoped to teach young drivers aged 17 to 24 who, based on statistics, are most likely to get distracted by cellphone use and impaired by alcohol or drugs. Hence, the attendance of some high school students from Assumption High School, Evergreen Junior High School and H.L. Bourgeois High School.

Moderated by SCSCP Chairman and Terrebonne Councilman District 3 Greg Hood, Sr., the summit was formally opened by South Central Planning and Development Commission's (SCPDC) CEO Kevin Belanger. He thanked all the partners for all the efforts they've been doing to keep the roads safer. SCPDC provides the staff to coordinate for the regional implementation of two safety grant programs: Louisiana Highway Safety Commission's (LHSC) Safe Communities and Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's (LADOTD) Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

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### MEETING NOTICE

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) meets every third Thursday of the middle month every quarter.

Next meeting is on November 15 at 9:30 AM at the LA State Police Troop C Squad Room, 4047 West Park Avenue, Gray, LA 70359.

The Launch of **Zero for December Campaign** and **MADD's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** will follow immediately after the meeting.

For more info, call (985) 851-2900 or email [rudynah@scpsc.org](mailto:rudynah@scpsc.org).



### Drive Sober on Halloween

This Halloween, everyone is advised to keep the scary-freaky party off the road. If you think your costume will disguise your impaired driving, think again! You can't escape from getting apprehended if caught. The state troopers and local police officers in the Bayou and River Region will be out on the roadways especially at night, from October 25 to November 4, to catch drunk drivers. Nighttime is always dangerous time on the road, but Halloween can be utterly scary if someone gets behind the wheel drunk. It is best to plan ahead, designate a driver if you intend to drink at Halloween shindigs. This nationwide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" effort is conducted to reduce roadway fatalities.





## Zero for December kickoff, MADD's Xmas tree lighting ceremony set

The SCSCP has set to kick off LA State Police Troop C's long-running Zero for December Campaign and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Bayou Region chapter's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in time for its quarterly partnership meeting on November 15, 2012, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the LSP-Troop C Squad Room in Gray. A press briefing will be held prior to lunch.

Reflective of the LADOTD's vision of Destination Zero Deaths, the Zero for December campaign aims for no fatality during the month. Last year, however, there were six wrecks that resulted in one death. Even if the goal has so far remained elusive, Troop C and SCSCP's partners are hopeful to attain zero deaths this year. Law enforcement officers won't give up on enforcing. Extra patrols will be out to catch drunk drivers in Terrebonne, Lafourche, Assumption and parts of St. John and St. James during the holiday season.

Meanwhile, the MADD Christmas Tree will be lit and adorned with photos of drunk-driving crash victims. This local advocacy effort supports the nationwide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign and SCSCP's aim to reduce alcohol-related deaths.

### Opening Ceremony

LADOTD Sherri LeBas addressed the coalition about how her department has been strategically looking at safety improvements to help us reach Destination Zero Deaths. "One death is too many," she exclaimed. She proudly shared that Louisiana's fatalities dropped from 993 in 2007 to 677 in 2011.

LHSC Executive Director John LeBlanc shared some important legislative updates and future plans. He said that LHSC hoped to continue supporting existing grant programs, with additional focus on distracted driving and Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) which the Thibodaux Police Department's (TPD) Detective Jacob Thibodeaux and Lt. John Sutton, Jr. did a presentation on during the last part of the opening ceremony.

TPD currently uses DDACTS as a tactic to reduce roadway crashes. Both Thibodeaux and Sutton expressed how DDACTS initiative saw a tremendous effect on deterring crime and roadway crashes in Thibodaux. It helped them increase DWI arrests of 27 in 2010 to 183 in 2011. This year they've issued 196 DWI arrests already so far; their goal is 200.

LADOTD Highway Safety Administrator Dan Magri presented on the statewide SHSP's accomplishments and plans. SHSP's goal is to reduce fatalities to 483 in 2030. He mentioned that the new highway bill, MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) supports their aggressive safety agenda and increases the safety budget of \$18 million to \$45 million.

Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC) Director Dr. Marie Walsh updated everyone that her Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) team is working with SCPDC to do road safety assessments (RSA) and implement low-cost safety improvements in the six-parish region (up to \$500,000). Her team also conducted the impaired driving workshop last October 10, 2012 at SCPDC which taught the law enforcement officers techniques on processing impaired drivers.

### Breakout sessions

Between 10 AM and 2:45 PM, various one-hour breakout sessions were held. Morning sessions tackled topics on: nighttime seatbelt enforcement benefits presented by TPD special operations commander Capt. Jamey Fontenot; child passenger safety updates, issues and recalls by Lexlee's Kids executive director Crystal Pichon; and putting bike safety at the forefront of regional planning by New Orleans RPC pedestrian and bicycle program manager Dan Jatres. Held after lunch were sessions on Sudden Impact Program by LA Passenger Task Force (LPSTF) program director Bridget Gardner; No Refusal Policy & DWI Search Warrant Procedures by Jefferson Parish assistant district attorney Norma Broussard; and Safety for Older Drivers by American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) district coordinator Wade Hebert. The last set of sessions were on Road Safety Assessment (RSA) presented by LADOTD law enforcement consultant Ron Whittaker and Distracted Driving by FHWA safety program coordinator Betsey Tramonte.

### Closing Ceremony

Highway Safety Research Group's (HSRG) System Analyst Mark Verret showed how to navigate around the crash data dashboard which was developed to support SHSP implementation. He also announced the availability of the crash fact book, agency web portal and the GIS web portal. A quick update on the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP), which is SCPDC's regional version of SHSP, was done by Team Leaders Sgt. Matt Trahan of LSP Troop C, Lt. Bobbie O'Bryan of HPD, and Terry Arabie of Lafourche Parish Government. The teams hoped to continue its ongoing efforts and embark on new initiatives that support the statewide SHSP. SCPDC's Transportation Planner Joshua Manning informed all that SCPDC's Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan was targeted to be completed by November 2012. Included in the plan are existing and proposed infrastructures that would provide better connectivity, accessibility and safety such as sidewalks, bike lanes, bike paths and recreational facilities. In closing, Troop C Commander Captain Darrin Naquin commended everyone's collaboration to bring the fatality numbers in the right direction. ✦

# Safety Partners in Action

**Traffic Safety Summit 2012— September 27, 2012 @ Houma Terrebonne Civic Center** *See full story on Page 1-2.*

(1) SCPDC CEO Kevin Belanger, (2) LADOTD Secretary Sherri LeBas and (3) LHSC Executive Director John LeBlanc deliver their welcome remarks; (4) Thibodaux PD's Capt. Jamey Fontenot spoke on the "Benefits of Nighttime Seatbelt Enforcement"; (5) SCSCP Chairman Greg Hood Sr. (right) and Vice Chairman Capt. Craig Poche (left) pose after the Awarding of Certificates; (6) DOTD's Regional Safety Coalition Consultant Ron Whittaker (left) and LSP Troop C Commander Capt. Darrin Naquin (right) stand by for the breakout sessions; (7) LPSO's Capt. J.P. Degraeves shows the features of their Mobile Command Center to Operation Lifesaver's new executive director Claude Maher; (8) Houma PD officers gear up to demonstrate some bicycle and motorcycle safety patrol scenarios; (9) Wal-Mart displays their "Committed to Safety" trucks and gives a hands-on blind spot demo to participants.



*The summit was sponsored by LHSC and supported by LADOTD, TPCG, LTRC, LTAP and HTCC. Special thanks to Wal-Mart for the certificate frames.*

# Events and Campaigns



## DOTD Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation Meeting—November 8

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) Highway Safety Section will meet with agency partners from across the state for the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Implementation Meeting on November 8, 2012, 10 AM to 1 PM at the Transportation Training and Education Center in Baton Rouge. This meeting aims to discuss the MAP-21's (new highway bill) implications to traffic safety planning, SHSP's proposed funding process and application, and tracking and evaluation system that will aide regional safety coalitions in evaluating the effectiveness of safety programs and projects. If you have any questions, please email Autumn.Goodfellow-Thompson@LA.gov or call (225) 379-1838.

## Thanksgiving Holiday Travel November 12-26

The SCSCP reminds all travelers to buckle up whether they're traveling across the country or just across town for the long Thanksgiving weekend. It is during this holiday when more motorists are on the roadways to visit families and friends and celebrate Turkey Day. Sea belts save lives, so please buckle up, every trip, every time, and so you can give thanks this holiday season and enjoy the time with your loved ones. You may visit [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov) for some campaign materials.



**BUCKLING UP COULD  
SAVE YOUR GIBLETS.**

## Child Passenger Safety Class in Kenner November 28 to December 1

A Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician Class is scheduled from November 28 to December 1, 2012 at the LSP Troop B Headquarters, 2101 I-10 Service Road, Kenner, LA 70065. This is a 40-hour course for individuals interested in educating the public about proper installation of child restraints. For a limited time, the course is offered free. Class size is up to 30 seats, so register as soon as possible. For more info, please contact Bridget Gardner at (504) 903-3181 or email [bgardn@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:bgardn@lsuhsc.edu).



## Zero For December Kickoff & MADD Christmas Tree Lighting November 15



LSP-Troop C's "Zero for December" campaign kickoff and Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony are both taking place on the same day as the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) Meeting on November 15, 2012 at LSP-Troop C Headquarters in Gray. The SCSCP Meeting is at 9:30 AM, followed by the two events at 11:00 AM. The SCSCP partners are encouraged to attend. Members from different newspapers, radio and TV stations are invited for the press briefing at 11:30 AM. For more info, you may contact LSP-Troop C's PIO Evan Harrell at (985) 855-0241 or email [evan.harrell@dps.la.gov](mailto:evan.harrell@dps.la.gov).

## SCSCP Mini-Grant Application Period November 19 to December 14

Applications for SCSCP's mini-grants for FFY 2013 will be accepted from November 19 to December 14, 2012. Local agencies from Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John and Terrebonne that have attended 50% of the SCSCP meetings in FFY 2012 are eligible to apply. Proposed projects must support either alcohol or seatbelt-related goals and campaigns. This is a reimbursable funding process that is made possible through the LHSC's Safe Communities Grant. Submitted proposals will be evaluated by the SCSCP Executive Board; winning grants will be announced sometime in January 2013. The mini-grant guide will be made available via the SCSCP page on [www.scpdc.org](http://www.scpdc.org) soon. Or you may directly email [rudynah@scpdc.org](mailto:rudynah@scpdc.org) to get a copy.

### HELPFUL LINKS:

- Louisiana Highway Safety Commission: <http://www.lahighwaysafety.org>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/safecommunities>
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development: <http://www.dotd.la.gov>
- NHTSA Traffic Safety Marketing: <http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov>
- South Central Planning and Development Commission's Safe Community Page: <http://www.scpdc.org>

**HOW TO REACH US:** If you want to join the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) and attend our future partnership meetings and projects, you may contact SCPDC's Transportation Safety Coordinator Rudynah Capone at (985) 851-2900 or email [rudynah@scpdc.org](mailto:rudynah@scpdc.org). LIKE us on Facebook and FOLLOW us on Twitter.



## SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

South Central Planning & Development Commission

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