

## Houma-based coalition shares regional transportation safety priorities

*Substantial progress seen in high visibility enforcement, public education and road safety assessments*

At its February 21st meeting this year, the Houma-based South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) did an annual assessment of goals and strategies outlined in the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP), the first-ever regional version of the statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). Upon review, program priorities were discussed and some of the strategies were amended.

Although driven by the Zero Destination Deaths mission, the SCRTSP's measurable goal is to reduce fatalities by half in 2030.

Capt. Darrin Naquin, LA State Police Troop C Commander and the new SCSCP Chairman, presided the meeting and later turned over the floor to Nicole Waldheim, a safety analyst from Cambridge Systematics. Waldheim presented the tracking and evaluation tool to the SCRTSP's Emphasis Area Team Leaders (TL) and the rest of the SCSCP members. The SCRTSP's EA's are similar to the ones in the SHSP: (1) Alcohol-Impaired Driving, (2) Occupant Protection, (3) Crashes Involving Young Drivers, and (4) Infrastructure and Operations.

### On Alcohol-Impaired Driving (TL: Sgt. Matt Trahan of LSP Troop C)

Despite limited time at the meeting, the coalition managed to tackle most of the action items and evaluated their individual status ranging from not being started yet to already completed. Most strategies in the Alcohol-Impaired Driving Action Plan such as high-visibility and overtime DWI enforcement, the



Nighttime enforcement (Photo courtesy of Troop C)

No Refusal Policy, Zero for December and holiday weekend sobriety checkpoints, fatal vision goggle demos and tri-media coupled with community outreach efforts have earned substantial amount of progress. They have been going on across the region for the past five to ten years.

The team has yet to do more of the train-the-trainer workshops such as Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Annual Impaired Driving Course for law enforcement officers. Evaluating the impact of DWI trainings was also pointed out as a need. The effort to obtain a DWI Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) Mobile Unit to use for saturation patrols and checkpoints is on its early progress.

*Safety priorities ... continued on Page 2*

### MEETING NOTICE

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) usually meets every third Thursday of the middle month every quarter. But the next meeting is in time for the Annual **Regional Traffic Safety Summit** on Wednesday, **May 15, 2013** at Nicholls State University (NSU). Email [rudynah@scpcdc.org](mailto:rudynah@scpcdc.org) or call (985) 851-2900 for questions..



### Older drivers dying more in crashes

The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) shares new data showing drivers 75 or older are more likely to die if involved in a vehicular crash. There's an increasing issue about yielding when making turns.

Spokeswoman Elaine Rougeau says figures from last year indicate that fatal crash rate for older drivers aged 75-84 was 21% higher than that of 55-to-64 year-olds. She adds that driving abilities often decline gradually and family members or friends can look for signs of unsafe driving.

Errors such as failure to yield right of way or see oncoming traffic and a higher tendency to turn or shift lanes improperly are common in these age groups. "Left turns at intersections are among the most frequent places where crashes involving older drivers occur," Rougeau specified. (LHSC PR) ✦

**On Occupant Protection** (TL: Capt. Jamey Fontenot of Thibodaux PD)

The region's belt usage is still at 76%, slightly lower than LA's 79% and USA's 86%. To improve this rate, the SCSCP's police agency partners will increase daytime and nighttime seatbelt enforcement at high-traffic rural locations.

A growing team of SCSCP's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technicians will continue to hold more child safety seat inspections in local communities. Working with schools and private businesses (to expand "Buckle Up" and Click it or Ticket" awareness campaigns) is keeping its momentum high. Also getting a lot of progress is the coalition's media outreach. The safety stakeholders also agreed to improve partnerships with school superintendents or principals to implement school zone checkpoints and other public info activities where the unbelted drivers are ticketed and the belted ones are incentivized. The plan to purchase a checkpoint lift was changed to getting more portable light trailers to be used for nighttime checkpoints.

**On Young Drivers** (TLs: Bryan Zeringue of Weatherford and Lt. Bobbie O'Bryan of Houma PD)

The SCRTSP is heavy on tackling underage drinking through increased education among 15-24 year olds and heightening involvement from parents and educators. Some of the programs that are gaining momentum are fatal vision goggle demos at various high schools and colleges, the "TXT+DRV=RIP" and "Think Before You Drink" programs at Nicholls State University, the new Teen LA Highway Endangerment Awareness Training (HEAT) and other safety lectures. While Sudden Impact Program has been done in

other parts of the state, the SCRTSP Team is challenged over getting a hospital willing to offer its facility as a training venue, but the good news is that there's a potential partnership hopefully getting sealed soon. Two other programs that are yet to start are: (1) opening a local Think First chapter in Houma in order to initiate more young driver safety outreach to ages 21 to 24; and (2) hosting a photo or video safety contest for all high schools to educate the 15-to--20 year olds.



*Holding RSAs is one of SCRTSP's priorities.*

**On Infrastructure and Operations** (TL: Perry Blanchard of Terrebonne Parish)

Based on the tracking tool used, it appears that the IO Plan is 53% completed. Among the strategies materialized are: conducting the Road Safety Assessment (RSA) workshop; forming the RSA Teams that will implement RSA visits on high-crash state highways and local streets; encouraging participation from the non-infra partners; and conducting curve analysis of Top 10 Hot Spots. Dissemination of valuable safety information to partners and participation in safety forums are equally progressing. Other efforts underway are intersection analysis, traffic management and travel advisory system, sidewalk assessments, and signage projects on horizontal curves. ★



**Traffic Safety Grants available for FFY 2014**

The LA Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) announces the availability of traffic safety related grants for law enforcement and non-enforcement for FFY 2014. State and local agencies as well as non-profit groups, hospitals, schools and other highway safety entities are encouraged to apply. Deadline is on **March 19, 2013**. Eligible programs are those that address issues relating to alcohol, seatbelt, motorcycle, speed, railroad, young drivers and pedestrian safety. Application packages may be downloaded online. Just visit <http://www.lahighwaysafety.org>. For more info, email [LHSCweb@dps.la.gov](mailto:LHSCweb@dps.la.gov), or you can call (225) 925-6991.

Also, the LA Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD), through the multi-agency Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Implementation Team, offers the same opportunity for funding a highway safety program. To be eligible, a project has to be part of a coalition's adopted regional safety plan that specifically identifies programs related to the vision of "Destination Zero Deaths" and the goal of fatality reduction by 50% in Year 2030. There's no deadline for submission but agencies and safety coalitions are urged to submit applications sooner than later.

For more info, you may visit <http://www.destinationzerodeaths.com/strategic/> or email [Autumn.Goodfellow-Thompson@la.gov](mailto:Autumn.Goodfellow-Thompson@la.gov). ★



**SCSCP's new chair, vice chair**

The SCSCP is pleased to announce that it has elected its new set of officers for federal fiscal years 2013 and 2014 during a Special Executive Board Meeting on December 11, 2012. LA State Police Troop C Commander Captain Darrin Naquin (left) is the new Chairman while Assumption Parish SO's Operations Commander Captain Ray Traigle (right) is Vice Chairman. Both have been active members of the coalition and are continuously supporting the implementation of highway safety programs in the Bayou Region and River Parishes.



# Safety Partners in Action



## Martin Luther King, A Day of Service – January 11 & 19, 2013

In commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. and a Day of Service, two Child Passenger Safety (CPS) car seat inspection events were put together by the Catholic Charities' Foster Grandparent Program and the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council for South Louisiana (ADAC). The first one was on January 11 at the Holy Rosary Church in Houma; the other one was on January 19 at the Sacred Heart Church in Morgan City. Both events were supported by the LA State Police Troop C, Houma Police Department, Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, Weatherford, Lady of the Sea General Hospital and the South Central Safe Community Partnership. Left photo was taken at the January 11th event where ADAC's executive director Alicia Toups (second from right) was flanked by members of the Foster Grandparents Program, namely: (from left) Lena Hunter, Mary Packer, Heloise Howard, Edward Powell and Effie Bennett. Right photo shows an old and expired car seat that was replaced during the January 19th event.



## Traffic Signalization Workshop for Local Agencies – January 30, 2013

As part of the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP) Infrastructure and Operations Emphasis Area (EA Team's support for local road safety project implementation, a Traffic Signalization Workshop was conducted by the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Team on January 30, 2013. LTAP's safety manager Jason Taylor (rightmost) provided an interactive and hands-on workshop that covered topics on rudimentary understanding of traffic controller logic and familiarization with signal controller box. Among the participants as shown in photo are: Josh Lucas and Josh Bourgeois (right) from the City of Thibodaux; and Michael Alvis and Allen Theriot (left) from the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government.

# Events and Campaigns

## Child Passenger Safety Technician Course

March 20-23, 2013, Houma, LA

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP), in cooperation with LA Passenger Safety Task Force (LPSTF) and the LSU Public Hospital Level 1 Trauma Center in New Orleans, will hold the Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician Course on March 20-23, 2013 at the South Central Planning and Development Commission, 5058 West Main St., Houma, LA 70360. This 4-day course is open to individuals who are interested in educating the public about proper installation of child restraints. Misuse of child car seats remains to be high in Louisiana. Through CPS educational outreach, you can make a difference. If your vision entails making a huge impact on traffic safety, then be a certified CPS tech! For more information, contact Patty Clesi at (504) 903-4296 or email [pdough@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:pdough@lsuhsc.edu)



Download the registration form by here: <http://www.scpdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013-03-20-SCPDC-CPS-Class-Invite.doc>

## Road Safety Assessment on High-Crash Local Roads

March 7 and 28, 2013



The South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan's (SCRTSP) Infrastructure and Operations (IO) Subcommittee will be conducting two sets of Road Safety Assessment (RSA) this month. This is part of the SCRTSP's regional systemic approach to reduce the number of crashes in local streets identified as high-risk (based on crash data from 2007 to 2011). The St. John the Baptist's RSA Team along with SCRTSP members will assemble on March 7, 2013 at St. John the Baptist Parish Government's EOC, 1801 West Airline Hwy in LaPlace to assess local streets of Carrollwood, Cambridge and Madewood. On March 28, 2013, the St. Charles' RSA Team will meet and assess Ormond Blvd., Primrose Avenue and Paul Frederick Street. Meeting venue will be advised later. Both RSA teams will endorse their findings and recommendations to their respective jurisdictions as well as to the Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) Team for possible funding so that projects can be done to make the roads safer.



## South Central Regional Traffic Safety Summit

May 15, 2013, Thibodaux, LA

The SCSCP encourages its federal, state and local safety partners and the public to attend this year's Regional Traffic Safety Summit on May 15, 2013, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Cotillion Ballroom of Nicholls State University's (NSU) Student Union Building. Plenary and breakout sessions as well as hands-on safety demos addressing seatbelt, impaired driving, teen driver safety and infrastructure issues are lined up. The public is also invited for the outdoor demos and selected breakout sessions. Registration will open soon. *For questions, please email [rudynah@scpdc.org](mailto:rudynah@scpdc.org) or call (985) 851-2900.*

## Click it or Ticket Mobilization

May 20 to June 2, 2013

The SCSCP and its partners are in full support for the yearly National Click it or Ticket Mobilization created by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Crash data show that people are buckling up more during the day but not enough at night. This campaign is created to crack down on unbelted drivers 24/7 but a high visibility enforcement is conducted by police agencies between 6pm and 5:59 a.m. from May 20 until June 2, 2013. The LA State Police Troop C as well as the sheriff's office and police departments in the Bayou Region and River Parishes are on the lookout for those who do not wear their seatbelts. Buckle it up, or get ticketed! Click it or Ticket, please! Also, a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) seat inspection will be conducted by the SCSCP's team of CPS technicians. More details will be announced later. Visit [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov) for campaign materials.



### 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>
- Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Plan <http://www.destinationzerodeaths.com/strategic>

**HOW TO REACH US:** If you want to join the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) and attend our future meetings and programs, you may contact SCPCD'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  
[www.scpdc.org](http://www.scpdc.org)

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