



SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
South Central Planning and Development Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

In Attendance:

Greg Hood, ADAC	Steve Tullis, NSU PO	Antoine Rodrigue, MAC
Alicia Toups, ADAC	Bobbie O'Bryan, Houma PD	Warren Broussard, Greater BR SC
Greg Maurin, St. John DA	Beryl LeBoeuf, Bayou Region MAC	Bridget Benoit, Assumption SB
Craig Poche, St. James SO	Linda Savoie, OPH	Mike Nixon, Tri-Parish Times
Earl Geason, St. James SO	Brandy Jarreau, LOSGH	Mike Stack, DOTD
Ray Traigle, Assumption SO	Matt Trahan, LSP Troop C	Lyle LeBlanc, DOTD
Jamey Fontenot, Thibodaux PD	Darrin Naquin, LSP Troop C	Scott Reed, Wal-Mart
Jason Kibodeaux, Terrebonne SO	Bryan Zeringue, LSP Troop C	Leo Marretta, SCPDC
Morris Beverly, LHSC	Scott Silverii, Thibodaux PD	Joshua Manning, SCPDC
Terri Monaghan, DOTD	Gaynell Albert, St. James School Board (SB)	Rudynah Capone, SCPDC
Dan Magri, DOTD	Floyd Benoit, Lafourche SB	Garrick Rose, SCPDC
Ron Whittaker, DOTD	Joey Page, St. Charles SB	

Part I EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chairman Greg Hood called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Approval to Adopt Amended By-laws

G. Hood requested everyone to browse through the Amended By-Laws. Rudynah Capone informed that the By-laws were amended during the meeting last December 16, 2010. Greg Maurin made a motion for the approval to adopt the amended by-laws as stated, seconded by Capt. Craig Poche. Motion carried.

3. Approval to Support Safety Town

Safety Town is an event conducted by Napoleonville Middle School to teach kids about bicycle safety and other safety issues. Linda Savoie, who's actively involved in Safety Town, brought this matter up at the last partnership meeting and G. Hood checked on it further. He said ADAC would support the event by covering expenses for volunteers' lunches (\$300) and miscellaneous (\$150). The event still needs financial assistance to cover bike helmets (\$1,300), presenter's fee (\$900 for 7 days) and bus transportation (\$536). Linda confirmed that the bus transportation cost has been changed from \$1,200 to \$536, as determined at their latest Safety Town meeting. LSP Troop C would take care of presenter's fee.

G. Hood announced that SCSCP has leftover funds from the Sub-grant Budget that can be used to sponsor the event. He then requested the executive committee to vote for approval.

Trooper Bryan Zeringue made a motion for SCSCP to extend financial assistance to Safety Town, specifically covering expenses for bike helmets and bus transportation totaling to one thousand eight hundred thirty-six dollars (\$1,836). It was then seconded by Jamey Fontenot. Motion carried.

4. 2011 Safe Community Action Plan and Sub-grant Update

R. Capone pointed out the following:

On Impaired Driving, the Action Plan states that SCSCP aims to: (1) expand education, prevention and awareness efforts in community outreach or campus-based programs; (2) address issues concerning alcohol-impaired driving at the Traffic Summit scheduled on July 13, 2011; (3) establish alcohol-and-drug-free area or limit alcohol consumption and drug use at a local event; (4) enforce DWI checkpoint; and (5) collaborate with Bayou Region MAC to promote motorcycle awareness.

On Occupant Protection, the Action Plan states that SCSCP aims to: (1) expand technical knowledge on child passenger safety; (2) improve seatbelt compliance through education and enforcement; (3) address issues concerning Occupant Protection at the Traffic Summit; and (4) incorporate seatbelt use in media campaigns and outreach programs.

With emphasis on young drivers, SCSCP aims to educate college students on alcohol and drug abuse prevention as well as encourage youth involvement in campaigning against drunk driving and texting while driving.

Leo Marretta added that the action plan that's being worked on is in conjunction with the Regional Safety Plan which will be discussed at the Subcommittee meeting at 12 noon today. He invited everyone to join the meeting "to help solidify the regional goals and identify performance measures to determine how well we are affecting the things that we are trying to correct or help to promote". He reminded everyone to write on the sign-in sheets. He later commended R. Capone for doing a great job in outreach campaigns as evidenced by the number of people attending the meeting.

5. Other Business

L. Marretta announced that the Transportation Division of SCPDC is kicking off a bicycle and pedestrian regional planning effort to cater to the bike-pedestrian needs of the Parishes served by SCPDC. An initial Active Committee (Bike-Pedestrian Committee) meeting was held last February 9, 2011. R. Capone will be closely involved with it. Folks who are interested in this planning effort are welcomed to join the committee.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Greg Maurin, seconded by Earl Geason. It was adjourned earlier than usual at exactly 9:20 a.m. Motion carried.

Part II PARTNERSHIP MEETING

1. Call to Order

G. Hood immediately started the Partnership Meeting earlier than usual and called it to order at 9:21 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer

C. Poche led the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer. G. Hood requested everyone to take a moment of silence in honor of Joseph Suitt, the 30-year-old Nicholls State University Police Officer who got killed in a car crash a few weeks ago. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

G. Hood brought up to everyone's attention that the number of police officers not wearing a seatbelt has gone up. He spoke highly about how important it is to wear a seatbelt.

3. Approval of the Minutes of October 21, 2010 Meeting

J. Fontenot made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held last December 16, 2010, seconded by L. Savoie. Motion carried.

Meanwhile, G. Hood shared that J. Fontenot has recently been promoted to being Captain of Thibodaux PD. This was followed by introduction of attendees as this was not done earlier.

4. Guest Speaker: Antoine Rodrigue, Retired Lafourche Sheriff's Deputy

Topic: Department of Public Safety (DPS) Motorcycle Operator Training Courses

This course is in partnership with Bayou Region Motorcycle Awareness Campaign (MAC).

- 4.1 A. Rodrigue has been teaching the course for 15 years. He spoke about how the course is helping reduce the fatality rates throughout the state. The course requirements include attendance in all sessions, minimum score in written test and skills evaluation. The courses offered in Thibodaux (Nicholls State University parking lot) are offered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The schedules are February 18-20, March 18-20, April 8-10, May 13-15 and June 10-12.
- 4.2 In the said course, participants go over the different motorcycle parts, participate in the risk awareness session, view some videos, browse through their handbook and interact among each other. They'll also be preparing the ride by going through protection gear, what helmet to wear, purpose of the gear, architecture of footwear, etc.
- 4.3 Among the highlights in the course are: learning the control system of the motorcycle, how it actually turns differently as compared to a car, equipment benefits and risks, basic rider skills, how to sit on the motorcycle, shifting process from gear to gear, and breaking. So, basically, the first day of the course is classroom instruction. Then, on Saturday morning, they come out on the nicely painted range for a ride. He mentioned about the "Crawl, walk and run" Theory in the training process. Crawl before you do anything, you walking and then actually ride out there!
- 4.4 Following the ride is another classroom instruction where the instructor and participants go over topics like street strategy, rider radar, riding behavior, common riding situations, maximum breaking and swerving, special situations, impairments, blood alcohol concentration and the types of intervention that can be done to prevent drunk driving.
- 4.5 Besides Thibodaux, the courses are also offered in Zachary, Hammond, Lake Charles, Lafayette and West Monroe. They're also going to do them in New Orleans and Gonzales.
- 4.6 A. Rodrigue said that his classes held at NSU are relatively small with 6-7 people in a class. He also does one-on-one a couple of times a month. Interested parties can register online through www.lsp.org and click on Training. Application and waiver forms are to be mailed in with money order to DPS. You'll be notified as to the date of the classes and where they are available around the state.
- 4.7 He asked everyone to spread the word out and added that Bryan Zeringue of Troop C will help them do press releases for MAC courses. He concluded the talk by saying, "You can do it if you put your heart to it!" For more information on MAC campaigns, visit www.macorg.com.

5. Discussion on Traffic Summit 2011

- 5.1 R. Capone announced that the Traffic Summit has been officially scheduled on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at the Nicholls State University's Cotillion Ballroom.
- 5.2 Suggested topics are: Regional Safety Plan, Media Campaigns on Impaired Driving and Occupant Protection, Education/Enforcement Strategies in Transportation Safety, and New Transportation Safety Data Solutions. She asked the body to suggest more topics.
- 5.3 Terri Monaghan of DOTD suggested that they do a presentation updating the Over-all Strategic Highway Safety Plan in conjunction with the Regional Safety Plan. G. Hood asked if DOTD would also present what they've been doing to make the roads safer. T. Monaghan agreed to do so.
- 5.4 L. Marretta suggested that attention-getters should be put out at the summit. For instance, an agency can bring equipment such as motorcycle or trailer to get the attention of students and people driver into the campus. Warren Broussard said that their Safe Community in Greater B.R. has a trailer and 53-foot drive van that's got a good pectoral of where not to be around traffic trailer.
- 5.5 L. Savoie said that the DWI goggles used for Fatal Vision Training were a big hit in the past. A lot of students in campus came in to participate. She also segued that the CPS training in Houma had a really good outcome, with 100% accuracy rate. It would be great to highlight Occupant Protection campaigns at the summit.
- 5.6 G. Hood encouraged that whoever is interested to do attention-getting displays at the summit should get in touch with R. Capone so that NSU can be notified of our requirements. B. Zeringue said that Troop C will come up with something. Bobbie O'Bryan of Houma PD said they have banners that can be displayed. L. Marretta suggested that SCSCP should get a banner with a date that can be detached/changed, something similar to what ADAC has.

6. Safe Community Commodities Update

R. Capone said that the weekly calendars are in but the monthly calendars, Silicone bracelets and cellphone carriers are not. They should be delivered by the end of the month, though.

She later commended St. James and St. Charles school board representatives for their presence. L. Marretta said that SCSCP started out to be focused on Lafourche-Terrebonne-Assumption parishes but now seeks to expand its reach to the River Parishes.

7. Crash Report by Joshua Manning, SCPDC's Transportation Planner II

J. Manning announced that DOTD has given him access to their crash database. His summarized crash report is focused on Impaired Driving-related crashes in the past several years in each Parish. The data are broken down to how many of those crashes are fatalities and how many are injuries. Anyone interested to obtain crash data can get it through him or DOTD. He emphasized that SCPDC Transportation Division is drafting the South Central Regional Safety Plan. The obtained crash data will be used to make sure that what we're doing is a data-driven process. These data will aide all agencies in their respective transportation safety efforts. Copies of the summarized data that J. Manning put together were then distributed.

8. Feedback on Events

8.1 Transportation Conference held last January 9-12, 2011 at the River Center in Baton Rouge

L. Marretta asked Dan Magri to deliver his feedback impromptu. D. Magri said that over 1,800 transportation professionals attended the event, 600 of them are DOTD employees. Topics tackled range from planning to traffic engineering, highway safety, red light running, road cameras, roundabouts and a lot more. National speakers were brought in. There were also attendees from 24 different states who came in. DOTD got excellent feedback! Roundabouts are what DOTD is strongly recommending for intersection safety improvements. A possible roundabout on Canal-Jackson St. in Thibodaux is being currently worked on by HTMPO. In both the statewide and regional safety plans, one of the Emphasis Areas that are addressed is the Infrastructure and Operations. A lunch meeting will follow the Partnership Meeting to draft the Regional Transportation Safety Plan for the South Central Region.

8.2 Child Passenger Safety Training

SCSCP will be sponsoring participants to the trainings scheduled on March 23-26, 2011 in Lake Charles and on May 4-7, 2011 in Lafayette. Houma PD will be sending four police officers and St. John will send someone from LSU Ag Center. L. Savoie raised the matter on what agencies would like to have a seat fitting station and how many seats are needed. In this way, SCSCP can distribute safety seats evenly. Funds to purchase safety seats are available.

8.3 Lifesavers Conference

At the last SCSCP meeting, Greg Maurin was chosen to attend the Lifesavers Conference on March 27-29, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona. Registration, travel and hotel accommodation arrangements have already been in place. G. Maurin said that the event is expected to cover safety issues from A to Z.

9. Upcoming Parish Events

9.1 Get In The Zone by ADAC

Alicia Toups said that they're promoting the event throughout the newspapers. A designated area in Houma, which is the Good Earth bus station on LA 24, will be an alcohol-and-tobacco free zone during Mardi Gras parades on the West side of Houma. They're partnering with TPCG and enforcement officers to carry on this tradition. A. Toups then distributed promotional flyers to everyone and encouraged them to spread it to their relatives, colleagues and friends. She also shared T-shirts to all. At the zone, they will be distributing thumb rings that contain a safety message that says "TXT + DRV = RIP". The campaign is spreading out and the number of people enjoying the zone has gone up for the past years. A Reverend from Slidell contacted A. Toups to have the same designated zone in their place. ADAC hopes to expand the initiative to Thibodaux area.

9.2 Safety Circus by Lady of the Sea General Hospital

Brandy Jarreau of LOSGH announced that Safety Circus is on May 7, 2011 at the Cut Off Youth Center. At the event, stations are set up with different safety topics such as bicycle safety, car seat safety and railway safety. She solicited help in pulling off a car safety seat checkup with the expertise of newly certified CPS technicians. She distributed promotional cards to all and invited those who'd like to participate the circus may reach her anytime. L. Savoie added that Safety Circus is a good time for agency interaction to expand safety efforts throughout the region.

9.3 MAC Training

W. Broussard shared that as the national president of Motorcycle Awareness Campaign, he believes in the power of expanding training and education efforts for riding motorcycles. He also mentioned that Terrebonne is ranked No. 1 for having the highest number of alcohol-related motorcycle crashes. MAC is granted to educate the motorcyclists and raise the level of awareness on motorcycle safety. Billboards and signs are put all over the state. Bayou Region MAC can be reached through Beryl LeBoeuf at bayouregionmac@bellsouth.net.

10. Media Campaigns

R. Capone said that SCSCP hopes to push for what NHTSA is campaigning for based on their 2011 Calendar. April is the National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. May is the Motorcycle and Bicycle Safety Awareness Month. Also, Click It or Ticket Mobilization will take place by end of May 2011. For February and March, media campaigns revolve around Impaired Driving wherein during Super Bowl Sunday, Mardi Gras parades and St. Patrick's Day, we encourage people to designate a driver before even kicking of their festivities or parties.

R. Capone thanked Trooper B. Zeringue for helping SCSCP do the radio campaigns. One was done in KLEB-Larose last February 7 and one in KTIB-Thibodaux last February 14. We'll do another one in KCIL Houma. Schedule is yet to be determined. She mentioned that SCSCP's press releases have been published on different newspapers like Daily Comet, Houma Today, Tri-Parish Times, The Bayou Journal, Assumption Pioneer, The Enterprise and News Examiner.

L. Marretta spoke of how hyperlinks are placed at the bottom of SCSCP's press releases. One can click on the logo of interest and be redirected to the agency's website.

W. Broussard said that MAC will kick off their Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month on May 1, 2011 at the Baton Rouge State Capitol at 12:00 noon.

Discussion ensued on how Breathalyzer tests should be done at schools, restaurants and bars before people leave the premises. This is a good approach to avoid drunk driving.

11. Possible Safety Seat Checkup

R. Capone told the body that she spoke with Jamie Ainsworth of LHSC regarding the Click It or Ticket Mobilization in May. SCSCP thinks that conducting a child safety seat checkup would be a perfect fit to coincide with CIOT mobilization period. The Partnership can tap the expertise of the newly certified CPS technicians since they are required to do a certain number of checkups anyway. L. Savoie suggested that seat checkups should be done in River Parishes as none was done there except in St. John last year. She said that she has previously done checkups in Lafourche (Thibodaux), Terrebonne (Houma) and Assumption. G. Hood asked how the statistics on use of child safety seats in the lower bayou areas is. L. Savoie said that the folks' alibi in those locations is that they never leave the bayou.

12. Parish Reports

- 12.1 Steve Tullis of NSU said that they're preparing for the Mardi Gras Parades.
- 12.2 Lt. O'Bryan of Houma PD said that this year, they've taken their motorcycle training officers to offer refresher courses to agencies in preparation of escorting the floats. It was held at the Houma Civic Center last February 16 with 15 different participating agencies. They also do the Motorcycle Operator Training courses for local law enforcement agencies. They intend to do two to three trainings every year alongside their continuous recertification courses.
- 12.3 Jason Kibodeaux of TPSO spoke of how he enjoyed the Child Passenger Safety training in Houma. He said it was a very informative course. He learned so much about things that parents may learn of as well in terms of ensuring their kids' safety in the vehicle. He encouraged everybody to go through to the training because it is very helpful.
- 12.4 A. Toups reminded everyone to get copies of the ADAC flyers that promote the alcohol-free zone during Houma parades this month and early March. Any help in spreading the word is appreciated. All newspapers except Times Picayune willingly expressed their support to publish the campaign. Their excuse is that they don't cover the Houma area.
- 12.5 Earl Geason of St. James Parish SO shared they're also preparing for the Mardi Gras and conducting their safety seatbelt campaign. Their agency sent two participants to the CPS Training in Houma. Capt. Poche echoed his feedback.

- 12.6 Greg Maurin of St. John DA's Office announced that they're doing 25-mile and 40-mile Bicycle Tour on March 12, 2011 at the San Francisco Plantation in Garyville, LA.
- 12.7 Trooper Zeringue announced that Troop C will be holding their 1st Annual Bayou Region Public Safety Expo on April 16, 2011 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at Nicholls State University Stadium. They've done the open house in the past but they'll do it differently this time. At the expo, Troop C will put up a CPS fitting station while NSU will have DWI goggles for Fatal Vision Driving program. It is a great activity not only to show off safety equipment but also to get the word out and reach out to the public. Troop C is also getting ready for the Mardi Gras parades and the so-called "Teenage Driving Academy" targeted to young drivers. Parents will also be involved during the last day of the training so that they're informed about what their children have learned. Zeringue is one of the lead instructors. Two trainings are scheduled. Updates on how the course progresses will be determined later.
- 12.8 J. Fontenot introduced Thibodaux PD's Chief of Police, Scott Silverii, who spoke of their continued partnership with the sheriff's offices to address safety issues. J. Fontenot said that they're also preparing for the Mardi Gras parades wherein outside agencies from Opelousas and Natchitoches are pitching in their efforts. TBD is also currently working on their LHSC's grant on Occupant Protection. As of the last meeting, TBD has participated in two of the seatbelt checkpoints. Fontenot works closely together with Morris Beverly of LHSC. He also reported that he participated in the Alive at 25 Program by National Safety Council. He said this program should be integrated into the driver's education class especially geared toward teens to reduce alcohol-impaired driving fatalities.
- 12.9 Morris Beverly of LHSC said that there's been a reduction of fatalities for 3 years. One of the big problems we still have is child restraint. A lot of money is put into seatbelt enforcement. He appreciated everyone's efforts.
- 12.10 L. Savoie spoke on behalf of Bridget Benoit (Safety Town coordinator). She announced it'll be a 7-day event scheduled on May 3-11, 2011 (excluding Saturday and Sunday) at Assumption Parish. She reiterated that LSP Troop C, ADAC and SCSCP have all approved to provide financial assistance to cover what they needed as follows: food and Miscellaneous, \$450 (ADAC); bike helmets and transportation, \$1,836 (SCSCP), and speaker's fee, \$900 (Troop C). The participating Kindergarten students are expected to learn about booster seatbelt use (Occupant Protection), bicycle and railroad safety, observing traffic signs, etc. They will also get bike helmets at the end of the event. A 911 simulation will also be highlighted. L. Marretta, G. Hood and R. Capone all agreed that Safety Town is a worthy cause.
- 12.11 Beryl LeBoeuf of Bayou Region MAC announced that they'll be at Cycle World of Houma for the Bike Night (tonight, Feb. 17) selling out MAC shirts. MAC will also have a float parading for Mardi Gras in Thibodaux and a booth/station at Troop C's upcoming safety expo on April 16, 2011.
- 12.12 Ray Traigle of APSO said they're also preparing for the Mardi Gras parades on March 5 and 7. He asked for everyone's contribution for safety commodities/donations/flyers that can be handed out to 3rd graders to senior high school students who took initiative in putting up a church group campaigning for teen driver death prevention awareness. He thanked the agencies supporting Safety Town. In the next few weeks, APSO will do seatbelt checkpoints.
- 12.13 B. Jarreau of LOSGH reminded everyone about the Safety Circus on May 7, 2011. She's also working closely with the public libraries to do child safety seat checks for a whole day for each library.
- 12.14 L. Marretta passed around SCPDC's Transportation Calendar of Meetings and then introduced Transit Planner Garrick Rose. SCPDC is coming up with the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Plan. G. Rose told everyone that the Active Subcommittee (tasked to draft the said plan) had the first meeting last Feb. 9, 2011. It was a good mix of cyclists and government agencies to basically look at safety issues as well as potential locations for bike routes, pedestrian walks and sidewalks. The attendees identified these locations by color-marking on giant maps provided by SCPDC. Maps that display potential bike routes will be produced later. L. Marretta added that AARP and DOTD will be joining in the bicycle-pedestrian efforts. DOTD has acted upon the Complete Streets Policy which is in conjunction to Bike-Pedestrian plan.

13. Safety Concerns to refer to LADOTD

- 13.1 T. Monaghan of DOTD announced that April 4-8, 2011 is the National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. She introduced their District 2 Administrator, Michael Stack. She gave a report on the concerns addressed during the last SCSCP meeting (Dec. 16, 2010). The Report is attached to this Meeting Minutes. The yellow sheets are given out to everyone so they can write their local concerns to refer to DOTD. She said that they'd entertain issues concerning both state and local roads. Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) is one of DOTD's reimbursable programs that may resolve transportation concerns. She also spoke of the four emphasis areas in the regional SHSP which are: Occupant Protection, Impaired Driving, Young Drivers, and Infrastructure and Operations L. She showcased a map and pointed out the locations with bad S-curves that require infrastructure improvement, highest number of unbuckled drivers and highest number of alcohol-related crashes. The hours that require alcohol-related education and enforcement are 6-9 p.m., 9-12 midnight and 12 midnight to 6 a.m.
- 13.2 Marretta thanked Terri for reporting back on how DOTD is addressing the concerns. He emphasized the fact that all transportation processes that SCPDC does is data-driven. He invited interested parties to join the Regional Transportation Safety Plan meeting that was scheduled right after this meeting. He suggested that DDACTS should be in the agenda at the next meeting. S. Silverii agreed to do an expanded presentation on it. TBD is going to do DDACTS.
- 13.3 L. Savoie announced that they'll have a Child Death Review on Feb. 23rd where they'll be reviewing four children fatality crashes (3 of them are from St. John Parish and one from Terrebonne).
- 13.4 L. Marretta took the privilege to speak about how SCPDC/HTMPO has expanded the scope of transportation safety. It's not just on the behavioral modification but also hard side through infrastructure improvements with DOTD. He asked Lyle LeBlanc of DOTD to speak a little about the local situation and what improvements have been done so far.
- 13.5 LA 311, where numerous rear-end accidents happen, is one of the big projects that L. LeBlanc is actively working to put turning lanes. L. LeBlanc said that DOTD is always looking for ways on how to improve roadways such as right-turn and left-turn lanes. When an opportunity arises, they slip it in on their maintenance overlays. He mentioned LA 308 and 316 as two of the problem areas that require infrastructure improvements. DOTD's efforts in the region include: closing ditches where there are pedestrians in Thibodaux on 308; center lining road strips on two-lane roadways; asphalt resurfacing on LA 1; and maintenance overlays. D. Magri added that they're working on a project with FHWA to purchase striping and signing materials.

14. Other Business

There's none on the table.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at exactly 11:22 a.m.