

LOUISIANA STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL SAFETY COALITION **Infrastructure & Operations Emphasis Area** **MEETING SUMMARY**

August 17, 2011 • 10:00AM to 11:30AM

Attendees

(See attached Sign-In Sheets)

Welcome and Introductions

Kevin Belanger, CEO-SCPDC, welcomed the attendees and began introductions. He gave a summary of South Central Planning and Development Commission's (SCPDC) efforts for safety and noted that the SCPDC is already seeing successes towards the goals of improving safety and reducing fatalities throughout the region. The SCPDC covers a six parish region of Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. James, St. John, St. Charles, and Assumption. He noted the efforts by law enforcement agencies, advocacy groups, and emergency response teams in the emphasis areas of Education, Enforcement, and Emergency medical Services. The SCPDC is in the process of developing the South Central Regional Safety Plan (SCRSP) and will begin implementing the Plan quickly when complete. The SCPDC began safety efforts in 2003, with Capt. Ralph Mitchell. SCPDC considers safety a high priority and appreciates everyone's efforts in this group. He introduced Dynah Capone as the new SCPDC Safety Coordinator. SCPDC has been working on the Regional Safety Plan and this meeting is to address the emphasis area of Infrastructure and Operations focusing on roadway departures and intersections.

Overview of Statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Terri Monaghan gave an overview of the Statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan. She explained the requirements for the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) under the SAFETEA-LU Act of 2005. Some of the key points to her overview included:

- Each State is required to have a SHSP under SAFETEA-LU.
- SAFETEA-LU requires each State to adopt strategic and performance goals.
 - The goal is Destination Zero Deaths with a short term goal of reducing fatalities by ½ by the year 2030.
- The 4 emphasis areas are: Education, Enforcement, Engineering, and Emergency Medical Services.
- The top 5 causes of deaths on the highways are behavioral.
- Louisiana is currently below the goal for reducing fatalities by ½ for 2010 statewide.
- The next step in the SHSP is the development and implementation of regional plans which will address specific regional safety needs.

Overview of South Central Regional Safety Plan (SCRSP)

Leo Marretta gave a summary of the efforts being done by the SCPDC towards the Regional Safety Plan. Leo indicated that the SCPDC region of six parishes encompasses 3 different DOTD Districts, which consequently poses challenges and opportunities. The SCRSP is a group effort and that the SCPDC is looking for representation from all of the stakeholders in the region, including representatives from each parish and municipality.

Dynah Capone proceeded to give an overview of the existing plan, which included:

- The goal of the SCRSP is the same as the State and National goal to reduce fatalities by ½ by 2030.

- The SCRSP's 4 major emphasis areas are: 1) Alcohol-Impaired Driving, 2) Occupant Protection, 3) Young Drivers, and 4) Infrastructure and Operations.
- Look for representative from each jurisdiction within region.
- Purpose of meeting today is to identify specific road safety needs, develop more actions and hopefully confirm action step leaders.

Evaluation & Analysis

Dynah Capone gave a summary of the accident data in the six parishes for intersection accidents and Roadway departures. Key elements included:

- In 2010 there were 87 fatalities in the region, 18 below the ½ reduction goal of 105 for 2010.
- The four main contributors to fatalities in the region are: 1) Roadway Departures, 2) Unrestrained Drivers, 3) Alcohol-Impaired, and 4) Young Drivers.
- DOTD has provided SCPDC with Hot Spot Maps for Assumption, Lafourche, St. James and Terrebonne. They are still currently working on St. John and St. Charles.
- Reviewed the top 20 Intersections with High Crash Frequency by Collision Type for the region.
- Reviewed data for fatalities caused by roadway departures and intersection crashes for all six parishes.

Review South Central Regional Safety Plan's Existing Strategies and Actions

Leo Marretta gave a summary of SCRSC Infrastructure and Operations Regional Safety Plan. He noted that the goal of halving fatalities by 2030 would reduce Roadway departure fatalities in the region from 58 to 29, and Intersection fatalities from 16 to 8. Key elements of the Plan include:

- Strategy 1.1: Collaborate with DOTD, HTMPO committees, and Safe communities partners to identify safety concerns and address data.
 - Action Step 1.1.1 – Encourage stakeholders to voice out their safety concerns.
 - Action Step 1.1.2 – Coordinate with LTAP for Local Road Safety Program
 - Action Step 1.1.3 – Coordinate safety concerns with DOTD Traffic Engineer
- Strategy 1.2: Organize multidisciplinary RSA team to work with DOTD and consultants to implement low-cost safety improvements in rural and urban areas.
 - Action Step 1.2.1 – Collaborate with DOTD on Road Safety Assessments
 - Action Step 1.2.2 – Encourage participation from non-infrastructure partners such as law enforcement.
- Strategy 2.1: Assist Parish Governments and municipalities in seeking opportunities to improve safety of school routes and intersections.
 - Action Step 2.1.1 – Partner with DOTD's various programs for safety (ie, SR2S, TEP, and LRSP)
 - Action Step 2.1.2 – Partner with DOTD's safety workshops (ie, Update Reflective Signs)
 - Action Step 2.1.3 – Attend all DOTD workshops for implementing infrastructure safety projects to reduce head-on collisions, sideswipes, and run-offs (ie, roundabout design)
- Strategy 2.2: Assist Parish Governments and municipalities in seeking opportunities to improve signs and markings for rural curve roads with high crash records.
- Strategy 3.1: Collaborate with DOTD to implement additional turning lanes, rumble strips, and shoulder markings for improving safety.
- Strategy 3.2: Regional Incident Collection and Management to collaborate with DOTD and respond to incidents (Glen Graham – ABMB)

Open Discussion

Open Discussion began with Marie Walsh from LTAP giving an overview of the Local Road Safety Program and Road Safety Assessment (RSA) Program. She invited the stakeholders to look at their local roads and work with LTAP for LRSP projects that will resolve local road issues. Low-cost intersection design packages are offered. Key points included:

- Local data is not typically good
- Need to look at a regional approach
- An example is to look for low radius curves and develop a program to make system wide improvements to reduce roadway departures.
- Ball Bank analysis could be used to analyze curve radii under a certain limit.
- DOTD is currently identifying curve radii in Terrebonne Parish and Lafourche Parish and will request to expand to include all parishes within the SCPDC region.
- Intersection analysis was also mentioned as one of the initiatives that DOTD and LTAP are collaborating on. Local jurisdictions may be of help in identifying intersections that need safety improvements.
- Mr. Johnny Pizzolatto, Councilman Terrebonne Parish, indicated he needs the money now on road improvements, but applications aren't due until Jan 12, 2012. He identified the need for a project at Hollywood Road / Park Avenue, where there is a 6 foot ditch and striping is needed.
- Marie Walsh indicated the LRSP is a long process because they have to follow Federal procedures, but they would be willing to look at the project.
- Sheriff's Office and State Police are encouraged to be involved in the process for infrastructure and operations improvements to help identify areas of high concern.
- Mr. Pizzolatto indicated his concern to be pro-active to crashes and not reactive. To address known problem areas before there are crashes and not just fix areas that have high crash data.
- LA 308 in Lafourche is a dangerous area with lack of striping and shoulders.
- St. Charles identified issues with cross culverts and drainage creating safety issues on State roads. Ms. Walsh indicated that the LRSP only covers non-state routes so those improvements would go through the DOTD Districts. She did indicate that the program could cover the local road improvements at intersections of state and local roads.
- Encourage participation from law enforcement.
- Leo Marretta noted that land use planning and the integration of transportation plans and access management policies can influence safety throughout the region.
- Parish has request for residents to request speed bumps.
FHWA has Traffic Calming link: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/tcalm/>
- St. James – First meeting and SCPDC appreciates participation.

ACTION ITEMS

- Representatives to fill out Safety Concerns Form for LADOTD "Yellow Sheet" and return to SCPDC.
- Parishes, stakeholders, and partners can contact Dynah to be included in Safety efforts. Entities should identify a representative to serve as primary contact.
- Encourage more law enforcement folks to join the SCRSP Subcommittee especially from LSP Troop B, St. Charles and St. John.
- Next Meeting – October 2011 (Date and Time to be determined)
SCPDC hosts quarterly meetings on the South Central Regional Safety Plan.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL SAFETY PLAN Infrastructure & Operations

Open Discussion Meeting - August 17, 2011 @ 10:00-11:30 AM

Pelican Room, South Central Planning & Development Commission, 5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70360

SIGN-IN SHEET

Initials	NAME	AGENCY	JOB TITLE	CONTACT NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
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	Belanger, Daniel	Houma PD			
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<i>R.E.C.</i>	Capone, Rudynah	SCPDC			
	Gilmore, Kathy	St. John Parish Gov't.			
	Graham, Glen	ABMB			
<i>DA.</i>	Hebert, Dennis	LADOTD			
	Henderson, Mike	St. John Parish Gov't.			
	Hymel, Dale Jr.	St. James Parish Gov't.			
	Kibodeaux, Jason	TPSO			
<i>TML</i>	Ledet, Tina				
<i>LeBlanc</i>	LeBlanc, Lyle	LADOTD	<i>ADA Operations</i>		
<i>Man</i>	Manning, Joshua	SCPDC			
	Marousek, Kim	St. Charles Parish Gov't.			
<i>Mar</i>	Marretta, Leo	SCPDC			
<i>Mon</i>	Monaghan, Terri	DOTD			
<i>Na</i>	Naquin, Darrin	LSP Troop C			
<i>O'Bryan</i>	O'Bryan, Bobbie	Houma PD			



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	TRACY MONAGHAN	LA DOTD			
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