



LOUISIANA STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN NON-INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEES

(Alcohol, Seatbelt and Young Drivers)

Implementation Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 9, 2012 • 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
South Central Planning & Development Commission, Houma, LA

Attendance (14)

Leo Marretta, SCPDC
Rudynah Capone, SCPDC
Capt. Jamey Fontenot, Thibodaux PD
Capt. Bruce Prejean, Assumption SO
Greg Maurin, St. John DA
Alicia Touns, ADAC
Morris Beverly, LHSC

Dan Magri, DOTD
Karla Courtade, DOTD
Greg Hood Sr., TPCG/ADAC
Krista Goodin, Fenstermaker
Nicole Waldheim, Cambridge Systematics
Susan Herbel, Cambridge Systematics
Sgt. Matt Trahan, LSP Troop C

Welcome and Introductions

Rudynah Capone welcomed everyone and expressed the main purpose of the meeting, which was to go over the programs listed in each of the 3 non-infrastructure Action Plans. The coalition's hope is to identify which programs are currently being funded and which ones still need or lack funding. She then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Project and Program Priorities

Nicole Waldheim suggested that the members review the programs by emphasis areas (EA) and determine which ones are effective and/or funded so that prioritization is determined. Susan Herbel pointed out some criteria to consider when prioritizing projects—effectiveness, commitment level and funding availability.

- **Alcohol (AL) Impaired Driving**

AL Team Leader Sgt. Matt Trahan led the discussion on this area.

RANK	Program & Description	FUNDING	Recommendations
I	No Refusal Weekends (Holidays & Year-Round) Suspected drivers can't say NO to a breathalyzer test. This started in Alexandria. LSP Troop C, LPSO and TPSO are undertaking this. There's not really a lot of cost associated with it. It's just a matter of getting the judges on board with the program. Started out to be done during holidays; Lafourche does it year-round. It's up to the Parishes' Judges to adopt it. Sgt. Trahan noted that the law enforcement officers in the region pretty much coordinate between each other and have established a good relationship.	No Cost to conduct the campaign itself (LSP) <u>Workshop Costs:</u> Time to attend, meals, marketing, meeting coordination (i.e. facilitator, agenda, notes).	Public Opinion Survey??? Present this program to the LA Sheriff's, Judges & DA's for more support. Possibly set a <u>half-day regional conference</u> to discuss on the benefits of No Refusal and how it can be accomplished in other parishes. Improve coordination efforts.

2	Sudden Impact Program Ongoing. No funding needed. Would like to continue. It takes a whole day to do so. The only issue is TIME: School boards do not welcome an all-day workshop because they don't want kids out of school for so long. They aim more attention on curriculum. A few minutes or hour of doing this doesn't guarantee a total impact on the students.	No Cost (LSP & Charity Hospitals)	Identify how to deliver this program more efficiently (more attendees and less time) plus no travel coordination needed. Review its effectiveness data. Cambridge Systematics is working with Bridget Gardner to determine additional options.
3	Publicize regular DWI checkpoints Whichever agency is hosting the checkpoint or saturation detail, the PIO is the one responsible in sending info to the media.	No Cost (PIO of law enforcement agencies)	
4	Zero to December All Parishes in Troop C are doing this.	No Cost (Mostly Media/PSA)	Set a big press conference to kick it off!
5	Overtime DWI Enforcement (4th of July) Requires funding to cover manpower hours. SCSCP funds \$2,000 to Assumption SO through LHSC's Safe Community mini-grant. M. Beverly announced that LHSC will soon open application for agencies to get direct funding to do DWI enforcement. <u>St. John SO, LPSO, Houma PD, Thibodaux and TPSO are getting funded by LHSC already.</u> Capt. Fontenot shared that the City of Thibodaux allocates \$50,000 just for 2012 DWI enforcement along with a funding match from LHSC. He noted the program to be very effective (27 DWI arrests in 2009 to 190 arrest in 2011). They do checkpoints every month and saturation patrols every Thurs-Fri-Saturday nights.	Needs Funding LHSC offers \$2,500 to agencies who'll do DWI enforcement	Encourage other agencies to apply for \$2,500 funding directly from LHSC. Application should be opened in March. (Cambridge Systematics offered to help with the paperwork.) Check with LHSC as to which agencies are currently funded and not funded. Determine level of interest/resources needed.
6	Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Enforcement This is a 2-day course given to officers who are already certified in field sobriety and Intoxilyzer. It updates their knowledge and best practices on what to key up for drug impairment enforcement. Sgt. Trahan said that a lot of times, the drug impairment are missed and officers may be unsure on what to look for.	No Cost (LSP through LHSC Grant)	
7	Fatal Vision Demonstrations (Goggles) Goggles are used at school presentations, driver's education classes and community events. Sgt. Trahan noted that LSP Troop C has goggles. Capt. Fontenot said Thibodaux PD has two sets @ Drug Abuse Center in Downtown. LHSC used to have funding for the purchase of goggles but not anymore. G. Hood said that agencies are like one big happy family and they willingly let other agencies borrow goggles when needed. K. Courtade announced that DOTD is giving away goggles as major prize for the poster making contest they're conducting at the upcoming Safety Summit on April 3-4, 2012.	Needs Funding (for agencies that don't have goggles) Agencies have their own goggles and can borrow from each other if necessary.	Coordinate with agencies that may need to purchase or replace goggles Encourage the coalition members to join the DOTD's poster contest on April 3.

8	DWI/Substance Abuse Classes Alicia Toups informed that ADAC holds Substance Abuse Classes on Saturdays for DWI offenders. Requires funding to pay the addiction counselors. Greg Maurin shared that St. John DA gets funding of \$2,000 through the SCSCP Safe Community Mini-Grant (to cover instructor's fees). He said that the fees vary from parish to parish. He further suggested that we come up with an informational survey to ask other parishes if they do these classes and if there's a need. A. Toups brought up the idea of "scholarship" to be offered to underprivileged offenders and young drivers at risk.	Needs Funding to modernize the program materials and pay counselor's fees, and classes for underprivileged kids & parents.	Informational Survey - Check with other parishes if they do these classes and whether or not they want to do this & how much cost is associated with it.
9	Think Before You Drink Program (NSU) NSU does this program to college drivers. Sgt. Trahan noted that the young drivers in Troop C area aren't the top of the list. Adult males aged 35 to 45 are the front runners in fatalities. In 2011, 35 fatalities (19 were alcohol/drug related)	Previously funded through SCSCP Mini-Grant	Check with NSU if this program is effective and if there's a need to continue. Identify a champion and determine resources needed to implement.
10	Get In The Zone- Don't Drink and Drive (ADAC) A. Toups said they designate a drug-and-alcohol free zone during Mardi Gras every year. They get \$1,500 funding through the SCSCP Mini-Grant from LHSC. They use it to purchase safety commodities.	Needs More Funding (minimal amount funded by LHSC)	Explore on other funding sources (local businesses) to reach out to and possibly replicate this program in other areas, not just Houma.
11	Annual Intoxilyzer Operator Training & Refresher Courses	LSP administers	Continue implementation
12	40-Hour Standard Field Sobriety Test	LSP administers	Continue implementation
13	Impaired Driving Workshop L. Marretta expressed how our programs are implemented utilizing mostly local matches by our agency partners in the region without tapping the state budget. Can we use these programs as leverage? He suggested that we document the number of hours and determine how much money is spent on each of the programs implemented. D. Magri said that with DOTD's grant, the agency match gets higher & they take this into consideration.	LSP Headquarters administers Also offered through LTRC	Document hours and amount spent on programs. Come up with a funding plan proposal that details what program is done, what's supported or funded, what's not funded and whether we need more funding to implement them.
14	DWI Court Reps and Cops Regional Workshop Sgt. Trahan suggested that we organize a workshop that's not in conjunction with any summit or conference. K. Goodin commended this idea to be a great one! It should be a powerful initiative. She said that the Statewide Alcohol EA (headed by Norma Broussard) should take upon this. L. Marretta offered SCPDC to be a venue to this workshop and other meetings.	Needs Funding (materials and lunch)	Organize a regional workshop to be attended by law enforcement officers, sheriffs, judges and district attorney's. (In conjunction with Rank I – No Refusal Policy Recommendations)
15	"Ride-alongs" No cost. It's just a matter of getting approval through the chain of commands. LSP invites DA's and judges.	No Cost (LSP)	Continue implementation
16	Press Releases and Newsletter Circulation	No cost	

17	Purchase DWI Van or Portable Breath Testers to process DD's Sgt. Trahan said that the plan is to have a regionalized van equipped with breath testers/intoxilyzers & have officers do the tests and paperwork in it. This costs much. This equipment will be shared by all agencies in the region especially when they do the DWI checkpoint or saturation detail. M. Beverly told that LHSC has funded vans for other Parishes (Lafayette and Jefferson have them.) Maintenance responsibility is on the agency, not LHSC.	Currently shared across parishes. Needs Funding For future consideration	Develop a plan to show how all the Parishes will support the program and participate in the enforcement and education campaigns. Need to establish responsibility for maintenance. Submit a grant application to LHSC. If LHSC does not fund, DOTD will consider using transfer funds.
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- **Occupant Protection (OP) EA**

OP Team Leader Capt. Jamey Fontenot led the discussion on this area.

RANK	Program & Description	FUNDING	Recommendations
1	Daytime and Nighttime Seatbelt Checkpoints Capt. Fontenot noted that law enforcement agencies hope to hold more daytime and nighttime checkpoints. Sgt. Trahan said they've started doing night checks lately and they've been very successful. They're done on shifts. (63 seatbelt checkpoints done by Troop C so far). Existing stats show effectiveness of this program. Discussion ensued on DDACTS. Capt. Fontenot said DDACTS works! Chief Scott Silverii does DDACTS presentations for NHTSA nationwide. Thibodaux PD dedicates two hours a day, three days a week to do this.	Needs Funding for multijurisdictional checkpoints (Agencies just cover cost on their own.) LHSC offers grants.	Develop a regional plan for multijurisdictional/combined efforts for checkpoints. Appoint a person in charge to coordinate with all parishes—if they will participate and coordinate among each other. Determine budget for overtime hours. Apply for LHSC grant for this one. Conduct DDACTS workshop. Get with all chiefs and sheriffs from all six parishes
2	Hold Click it or Ticket Event yearly	(Funded by LHSC)	
3	Child Passenger Safety Checkups	(Funded by LHSC)	
4	Buckle Up presentations and seatbelt use incentive program at schools	No cost	
5	School Zone checkpoints and incentive Programs	Agencies do this on their own	
6	OP Social Media/Radio/Newspaper/PSA's		
7	Promote "Be a Hero" at Safety Town and Safety Circus Safety Town is geared toward kids. It was previously funded by Dow Chemical. Last year, LHSC gave minimal funding through SCSCP Mini-Grant. Safety Circus is currently funded by SCSCP but with minimal amount for safety commodities.	Minimally Funded Needs More Funding	Find corporate sponsors for these types of events. Modify Safety Town to target teenage drivers, not kids.

8	Driver Training Discounts to Would-Be Driver Teens Capt. Fontenot envisions educating underprivileged younger drivers. S. Herbel spoke of NHTSA's program on driver's education assessment. Capt. Prejean mentioned about having driver's education as an elective in high school. He said partnering with sheriff's office and state police is first step, and get the school system's support. If this approach is followed by other parishes, it should be effective. Capt. Fontenot spoke of "Alive at 25" Driving Education Program.	Needs Funding	Find an opportunity where we can offer driver's education to underprivileged drivers. Consider taking NHTSA's assessment program!
9	Purchase a Checkpoint Lift (elevated trailer)		

- **Young Drivers (YD) EA**

YD Team Leaders Bobbie O'Bryan and Bryan Zeringue were not present. Nicole Waldheim led the discussion on this one.

New Action: Appoint a representative to be part of the statewide Driver Education assessment, gain information, and share ideas, such as: discounts for parents/kids who cannot pay for drivers ed. Students must attend school presentation on safe driving or they cannot drive to school.

1	Sudden Impact Program Refer to previous discussion on Impaired Driving EA Rank 2.		
2	Fatal Vision Driving Course Lecture Series		
3	Prom Night Pre-Breath Tests Vandebilt High School does this. ADAC suggested that Litmus tests should be done at prom nights and sporting events.		Identify company that performs litmus tests and determine costs, as well as level of interest in the schools. Check with Sgt. Matt Trahan on the cost to do pre-breath tests.
4	Parent-Teen Presentations Prior to Graduation		
5	Start up a Think First Program – South Central Chapter		
6	"I Refuse" Drunk Driving Prevention Program		
7	Host a Safety Video or Photo Inter-High School Contest		
8	Social Media Campaign "TXT + DRV = RIP" NSU previously did this program. Check with Chief Jaccuzzo if they're still doing it and if it's working. Could this be done in high schools?		Get more info on this program (audience, effectiveness, funding needs & requirements)

R. Capone gave a little update on the Infrastructure & Operations EA. She said the subcommittee has finalized a list of region-wide projects for Local Road Safety Program after having met a couple of times to review the crash data and prioritize locations. We're working with LTAP on this effort. On March 7, 2012, we will conduct the Road Safety Assessment (RSA) Training with all six parishes to determine the causes of crashes and recommend what low-cost countermeasures to apply for each of the identified locations. L. Marretta commented that the way the Parishes participated in this subcommittee and how they stepped up in taking upon these infrastructure projects should be duplicated in our 3 non-infrastructure teams. We really hope all six Parishes to be cohesively proactive in our efforts. S. Herbel mentioned about the FHWA project with the local elected officials in Michigan and it has the potential to be effectively done in our state. D. Magri shared about some success in DOTD RSA's and that they have helped address access management issues.

No further comments. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11: 20 a.m.