

# LOUISIANA STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN



## SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL SAFETY COALITION MEETING SUMMARY

November 18, 2010 • 10:00AM to 12:00PM

South Central Planning & Development Commission, Houma, LA

Attendee	Organization	Email	Phone
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### Meeting Summary

Lorrie Laing welcomed the attendees and explained the handouts. The team went through the emphasis area data to determine which areas to focus on including Alcohol Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, Motorcycle Safety, Intersections, Roadway Departures, Aggressive Driving, and Rail Crossings. According to the data, most of the fatal crashes in the SC region from 2004-2009 were associated with Alcohol Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, Young Driver and Roadway Departure. The team agreed to move forward with these four emphasis areas and started to identify goals and strategies for each. A summary of the meeting follows.

#### Alcohol Impaired Driving Observations

- There seems to be an increase in drugs and alcohol combined related crashes.
- There hasn't been a huge commitment from LSP-Troop C to execute the DRE program. Several officers received training but were unable to get certified. Leadership may be hesitant to send officers for future training if certification is uncertain.

#### Occupant Protection Observations

- Historically there has not been a lot of traffic enforcement locally for seat belt usage. From 2001 to 2006 a large publicity campaign by LSP-Troop C for seat belt usage was extremely successful.
- States that have a primary law coupled with public media campaigns and enforcement have seen high rates of seat belt usage.

#### Young Driver Observations

- Locally there seems to be concerns with drivers not knowing how to drive in inclement weather.
- LSP-Troop C usually sees a high number of vehicle crashes the first day of rainy weather after a long period of no inclement weather.
- Consider looking at the type of crashes that are associated with young drivers.

#### Motorcycle Observations

- The SC region has about 10% of the statewide motorcycle related fatalities. The team discussed whether additional data was available on these crashes such as: Are the fatalities local residents or from out of state? Were they alcohol related? How long had they been driving motorcycles (most

motorcycle crashes happen within six months of a driver getting a new motorcycle or driving a motorcycle for the first time)? Was the motorcycle driver at fault or another vehicle? Were they wearing a helmet?

- LSP cannot stop a motorcycle driver to check whether their helmet is approved, only if they are not wearing a helmet. It is a secondary law to check if the helmet is approved.
- According to LSP-Troop C, no motorcycle fatalities occurred in the Troop C during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2010.
- The number of motorcycle related facilities seems to be the highest in Terrebonne Parish.

#### **Intersections Observations**

- Do we know where the intersection crashes are occurring?
- What criteria define the intersection crashes?

#### **Roadway Departure Observations**

- The fatal crashes seem high for roadway departure.
- Several corridors in the DOTD District are narrow roads with narrow/unpaved shoulders and deep roadside ditches.
- Can we find out which sections of roadway have the most crashes?
- Rumble strips may be a good initiative to add to the identified roadway sections.
- The team discussed having the DOTD District to identify the worst sections of roadway and prioritize them.

#### **Aggressive Driving Observations**

- The team expressed concern with inaccurate data and uncertainties of how aggressive driving is defined and reported.

#### **Coalition Members**

- Add Department of Wildlife & Fisheries because of the number of boaters in the region.
- Need to identify additional members to invite to the coalition.

#### **DATA NEEDS**

- Show the percentage of emphasis area related fatal crashes compared to total crashes – possibly in a pie chart.
- Break out the type of crash for young drivers (ie. Alcohol, roadway departure, careless operation, etc.)
- Look at the number of fatal crashes, not the number of fatalities.
- A pie chart showing all fatal crashes by type in region
- Add a figure for each parish showing total fatalities and by type.

#### **ACTIONS**

- Address emphasis area data needs – Lorrie Laing
- Determine which roadway sections have the majority of roadway departure crashes – Lyle LeBlanc
- Determine which members to add and invite to the coalition – Team
- Next Meeting – December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 11:30am to 1:30pm at SCPDC. Lunch to be provided.