

SCPDC

South Central Planning & Development Commission

Serving the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James,
St. John the Baptist, St. Mary and Terrebonne

Quarterly Newsletter

October 15, 2020 | Issue 1



Upcoming Meetings

Regional Transit
Committee

October 27th @ 10am

Watershed Region 6
Steering Committee

October 28th @ 10am

SCR Safety Enforcement
Workgroup

November 4th @ 10:30am

SCR Safety
Education/Outreach
Workgroup

November 12th @ 10:30am

HTMPO Technical
Advisory Committee

December 10th @ 10am

SCR Safety Coalition
Infrastructure &
Operations Committee

*December 10th (follows
HTMPO TAC)*



Message from our CEO

Well, enough with my long winded narrations of how our office is doing. We have been providing Agency Activity Reports at each Board meeting for the last twenty three years, however, our staff is now going to turn those positive messages into a more informed and readable Newsletter.

The Newsletter will be shared with all elected officials, state & federal instrumentalities, ancillary organizations, and the public. Although we have had success in sharing our activities and accomplishments with our Board, it is long overdue that we now share these messages with all others mentioned. Whenever I hear, "I just don't know what SCP&DC does or what they are doing" from an elected official, it just adds another 30 minutes of talk for me. Help me help you by reading the Newsletter!

If you ask anyone in the private sector what they think about government they would likely say it is intrusive, costly, bothersome, restrictive, redundant, and sometimes things I can't mention. I too had those same misconceptions before coming to work for the public. That is why I am proud to speak about the advances and things we do both locally and regionally. Given today's news and uncertainties, this Newsletter will only be seen as a positive spin for those wanting to learn more about what's happening here at SCP&DC and within our region.

Hope everyone enjoys and please feel free to comment on its topics,

Best Wishes,

Kevin P. Belanger, CEO

SCPDC
Calendar of
Events

Any Parish or Municipality that wants to share regional activities they're promoting, we will give them access to our Newsletter as a medium. For more information about the Newsletter please contact Ms. Cassie Parker at cassie@scpd.org.



Congratulations to our Chief of Technology, Ryan Hutchinson on being the recipient of Nicholls State University Alumni Federation's **2020 Award for Excellence Outstanding Alumni** in the College of Business Administration Award.

Learn more about Ryan's work with Nicholls [here](#).

SCPDC's Technology Department

continues to make advances and now has active partnerships in 18 states!

Recent jurisdictions to launch a MGO module are:

Williamson County, Texas
St. Helena, Louisiana
Mapleton, Utah
Uhland, Texas
Stonewall, Louisiana
Jefferson County Health, West Virginia
Ellis County, Texas
Odessa, Texas
Bossier Parish, Louisiana
City of Campbell, California



Building Codes: Hurricane Season Reinforces the Need



This has been an extremely active Hurricane season with several near misses for our region. We don't have to look far to understand the damage they can potentially cause. Hurricane Laura brought winds that exceed the wind speed design of most buildings in our area. Yet, buildings designed to a lower wind speed still fared much better than those built prior to building code enforcement. Every hurricane that has impacted Louisiana since the adoption of the Statewide Building Code (LSUCC) has shown the same result.

Building Codes can sometimes seem inconvenient and even appear to be an impediment to development; in reality, they can often make the recovery from storm events much easier. When we do our job correctly as Building Code Enforcement Officers, nothing happens! That is exactly the result we hope to achieve. One thing is clear, **building codes save lives and property.**

\$1.2 Billion to Address the Louisiana Watershed Initiative



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

South Central Planning has been allocated \$400,000 to act as the Fiscal Agent and Coordinator for the Watershed Region 6 Steering Committee. The Committee's three (3) goals for this year are to complete a 3 year work plan, establish a project

inventory and create a structure of governance. Work Plan and Inventory have been completed and the structure of governance will be submitted to the LA Office of Community Development (OCD) by January of 2021. HUD has recently approved the funding of **\$1.2 Billion to address the Louisiana Watershed Initiative program** in creating Projects, Programs and Modeling to address our States flooding needs for the next 5-6 Years. Round 1 applications are currently being submitted to OCD for State and Regional funding opportunities. For more information on this program contact [Pat Gordon](#).

Learn more about Region 6 Watershed Efforts

Congratulations! Pat Gordon, *Chief Planning Officer*, and Adam Lefort, *Planner I*, have recently become **Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM)**. These two are working with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative and will use this certification to help communities reduce flood risk throughout the region. The CFM Program is issued through the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and is designed to “establish educational, training and experience criteria related to floodplain management, hazard mitigation, and National Flood Insurance Program.” They are continuing to work with each Parish Floodplain Manager to offer any technical assistance. If your community does not yet have a CFM, please get in contact with [Pat Gordon](#) or [Adam Lefort](#) for opportunities and trainings to have a representative become certified.



Applications are being taken for EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance Program

SCPDC has been awarded funding under the **Economic Development Administration’s CARES Act Recovery Assistance program** to help businesses in the region respond to the unprecedented challenge created by COVID-19 and associated shutdowns. SCPDC considers ALL small businesses to be affected by the VIRUS and the associated economic SHUTDOWNS and pledges to support and sustain small businesses during the re-opening and re-tooling in the new COVID economy.



SCPDC's primary goal is to use the **\$2.1 million EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance** to re-capitalize and administer a Revolving Loan Fund that will provide loans to Coronavirus- impacted businesses in Assumption, Lafourche, St Charles, St James, St John the Baptist, St Mary, and Terrebonne parishes.

This [loan program](#) will allow for small businesses affected by the Coronavirus

Pandemic to apply for loans for their recovery efforts. If eligible, businesses can apply for \$25,000 - \$250,000 for a five year term at 0% interest for 2 years and 4% interest for 3 years. Please contact SCPDC for further details or to apply for a small business loan at 985.655.1051 or businessloans@scpsc.org.

Cares Act Fisheries Grant Assistance Available



South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPDC) is assisting the **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)** providing Technical Assistance for fishermen who need help completing LDWF's online **Cares Act Fisheries Grant** Application. SCPDC will assist over the phone or can actually complete the online application for fishermen with scheduled appointments from **Monday through Thursday 9am – 4pm** at our Gray office. As a part of this assistance, SCPDC will provide Language Assistance for Vietnamese and Spanish speaking fishermen. Fishermen needing assistance should call 1-800-630-3791 for an appointment. Applications will be accepted until October 26, 2020.

Creating a Better Tomorrow with EDA Funds



**Golden Meadow
Community Sewerage Phase
6**

Golden Meadow continues to develop a town wide community sewerage system. The most current phase, Phase 6, is funded through a **\$1.7 million grant from the U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)**.

The project involves installation of sewer collection lines in the Rue Poche Vide neighborhood and upgraded capacity at the South Treatment Plant site. Work on the collection lines is nearing completion and it is anticipated that the plant will be installed in November 2020.

The project engineer is GIS Engineering



**River Parishes Community College
(RPCC) Reserve Campus Welding
Education Facility Renovation**

The RPCC will begin renovation of its **Reserve Campus Welding Education Facility** in the coming month. The project is funded through a **\$1.3 million grant from the U. S. Economic Development Administration**.

Originally, the RPCC planned to build a new separate building, but when the bids came in over budget, EDA worked with the school to approve an alternate plan to renovate the existing welding center.

The project Architect is the Duplantis Design Group (DDG) and the contractor is B.E.T. Construction, Inc.

and the construction contractor is LA Contracting Enterprises, LLC. SCPDC is a designated partner with EDA and continues to assist Golden Meadow with this project.

SCPDC is a designated partner with EDA and continues to assist RPCC with this project.



Photos courtesy of GIS



Photos courtesy of DDG



\$1.6 Million Grant to Louisiana University Marine Consortium

The **U. S. Economic Development Administration** announced the award of a **\$1.6 million grant to Louisiana University Marine Consortium (LUMCON)**, headquartered in Cocodrie LA. Funds will be used to help construct a new bulkhead at its new Marine Operations Center in Houma. LUMCON will use the new facility to dock marine research vessels which may also be used in training programs at the adjacent community college. SCPDC is pleased to have assisted LUMCON in this effort. [Read More](#)

Freshwater Supply to 300,000 Residents



The **Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District (BLFD)** recently completed a new multimillion dollar water control structure in **Bayou Lafourche** south of Napoleonville. The new control structure features a swing gate which will allow the District to better regulate the flow of water in the Bayou. This will help ensure the freshwater supply to over 300,000 people living in Assumption, Ascension, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes.

The project was funded in part through a **\$250,000 grant from the Delta Regional Authority**. The project engineer was Delta Coast Consultant, LLC, and the contractor was Sealevel Construction, Inc. Picture courtesy of the BLFD.



SCPDC is a designated partner with DRA and works collaboratively with its various communities in the preparation of project applications and administration. In September 2020, Delta Regional Authority Announced an investment of \$4.6 Million into Louisiana Communities to boost economic development and improve the quality of life for Louisiana communities and residents. Three of our communities have been awarded funding for projects:

Gramercy

Retail/Hotel Center
Wastewater Treatment
Project:

The Town of Gramercy will use DRA funds to install a new sewer pump station and sewer collection line to connect a business service center to the Town's utility system to serve new business development. This investment is projected to create 16 new jobs, retain 16 jobs, and affect 1,278 families.

DRA Investment:
\$155,500
Total Investment:
\$247,500

Lafourche Parish

Pump Stations Fuel Tank
Upgrade:

The Lafourche Parish Government will use DRA funds to replace 20 single-skinned fuel tanks with new double-skinned fuel tanks to improve services to residents. This investment is projected to affect 7,881 families.

DRA Investment:
\$136,405
Total Investment:
\$167,405

City of Thibodaux

Wastewater Treatment
Plant Infrastructure
Improvement Project:

The City of Thibodaux will use DRA funds to improve wastewater treatment plant infrastructure to maintain compliance. This investment is projected to create one job, retain three jobs, train four individuals, and affect 5,303 families.

DRA Investment:
\$155,500
Total Investment:
\$243,700

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.dra.gov

Buying or Selling Property with Underground Storage Tanks, such as Old Abandoned Gas Stations?

South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) currently has U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessment** funding to assess properties for the cleanup and reuse of petroleum-contaminated sites. Funding may be used for sites that are contaminated with petroleum substances (such old gas stations, auto service businesses, factories, mill sites, shipyards, transit stations, junkyards, etc.)

So, what is a Brownfield? Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. A limited amount of Petroleum Site Assessment Grant funds is available to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs).

A Phase I ESA helps identify potential contaminants on a site as well as recommending clean up options. A Phase II ESA provides a more detailed analysis of site conditions, the cleanup required per industry standards, and any follow-up monitoring of the site post-cleanup.

Want more information on SCPDC's Brownfield Program and to determine if your petroleum site is eligible for brownfield funding? Contact our Brownfield Program Manager, Lesley Long at lesley@scpsc.org or (985) 851-2900.

More information can also be found at <https://www.epa.gov/ust/petroleum->



\$375,000 Awarded to SCPDC for South Louisiana Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced Louisiana's **South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC)** will receive a **\$375,000** Revolving Loan Fund for its South Louisiana Brownfields Coalition. The grant is part of **\$6.9 million** in supplemental funding EPA is providing for 25 current successful Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (Revolving Loan) grantees. The SCPDC Brownfields Coalition will focus the supplemental funding to complete several existing projects. Some of these projects include the Lenox-Hotard American Legion cleanup to provide further services to the elderly and veteran community and the Joseph J. Cefalu Power Plant for reuse by the City of Morgan City's Public Works operations.

"The South Central Planning and Development Commission continuously shows creativity and foresight in selecting properties for Brownfields funding and transforming them for new purposes," said Regional Administrator **Ken McQueen**.

"This funding will allow them to continue their work of creating new economic assets for the benefit of many South Louisiana parishes and communities." All communities receiving supplemental funds have census tracts designated as federal Opportunity Zones within their jurisdiction. An Opportunity Zone is an economically distressed community where new investment, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. For more information on South Central Planning and Development Commission's Brownfield Program, please contact our **Brownfields Program Manager – Lesley Long** at 985-851-2900 or lesley@scpdc.org.

Planning for the Future of Transportation

2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN



SCPDC
South Central Planning &
Development Commission

5058 WEST MAIN STREET
HOUMA, LA 70360

WWW.SCPDC.ORG
WWW.HTMPO.ORG

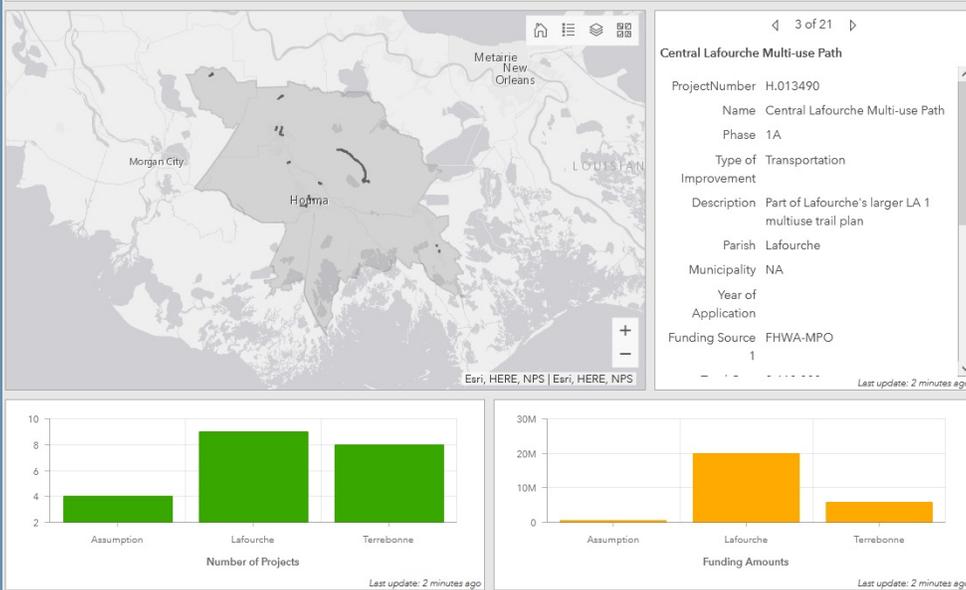
Houma-Thibodaux
MPO
NEEL-SCHAFFER
Solutions you can build upon

The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization adopted its long range **Metropolitan Transportation Plan** in May 2020. The document plans for approximately \$730 million in transportation improvements in Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne Parishes through the year 2045.

Among the identified projects are Acadian Road West in Thibodaux, a redesign of Martin Luther King Blvd. in Houma, the extension of the LA 24 Couplet to Prospect Blvd., and the widening of Bayou Gardens Blvd., LA 182 LA 311, and LA 316. The plan also lists various policy recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian issues, and recommends various transit improvements throughout the region. **The plan may be accessed online [here](#).**

For more information on the MTP or on various MPO projects, please contact **[Joshua Manning](#)**.

Learn more about the HTMPO



SCPDC has recently launched a brand-new website for regional maps and data.

The site, which can be found at <https://scpdcm.maps.arcgis.com/>, runs on ESRI's ArcGIS Online platform. Members of the public may now directly access many of the Commission's maps and datasets such as traffic counts, MPO travel demand model results, an MPO Project Dashboard, and some popular election district boundaries. Future additions to this site will include 2020 redistricting maps, infrastructure project locations, and maps specific to various plans, projects, and programs. For more information on this new data site, or to request that specific Commission data sets be made available, please contact Joshua Manning at josh@scpdcm.org.

Reaching Zero Deaths on our Roadways is a Team Effort



South Central Regional Safety Coalition (SCRSC) is a traffic safety coalition comprised of multidisciplinary partners/agencies throughout the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne.

Program Coordinator: [Cassie Parker](#)

Learn more about what we are doing to save lives



Teens Educate Others through Traffic Safety Messaging

With motor vehicle crashes being the #1 cause for teen deaths, our South

Central Regional Safety Coalition Partners are always on the search for opportunities to engage the youth in our community. This year, the partners kicked off the 1st Teen Traffic Safety Meme & Video Contest. St. James High School students won first place in Video and Lutcher High School student took 1st place in meme.



St. James High School students, Cherish Gibson, Aukayla Dennis, Jarius Williams, Adrian Sandoval, Tyler Steib, Graylin Shepard, Diante Blain, Nyla Batiste, Alayia Brown received 1st Place in Video.



Lutcher High School student, Alex Foret received 1st place in meme.

CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR WINNERS [HERE](#)

LIKE our [@scrsafetyco](#) Facebook page to share their messages throughout the year!



A special thanks to all of the students, teachers, and principals for participating in this year's contest. Also, to our dedicated our dedicated team leaders, Lt. Dustin Poche (St. James Sheriff's Office), Nadia Poche, Cully and Macy Frisard and amazing sponsors, Frisards and State Farm!

2021 Teen Contest details will be posted soon to scpd.org.

Caregivers Calm Knowing their Children are Riding Safer



National Child Passenger Safety Week kicked off on September 20th and ended with National Seat

Check Saturday events taking place throughout Louisiana on September 26th. Region C's event was held at West Park Storage in Houma.



Certified child passenger safety technicians worked with parents, grandparents and care givers to ensure their children were properly restrained.

A total of **39 seats were checked and 22 seat distributed** thanks to University Medical Center and LA Passenger Safety Task Force's partnership with Louisiana Sonic restaurants.

Don't wait for an event to have your child seat inspected, make an appointment with one of our designated fitting stations in Region C by clicking the image below.

Is your child in the **right car seat?**

Louisiana Child Passenger Safety Law

Age/Size	Restraint Use
 Birth to at least 2 years old	Ride rear facing in an infant or convertible child safety seat
 At least 2 years old and has outgrown the rear facing seat by height or weight	Ride in a forward-facing child safety seat with an internal harness
 4 years old and has outgrown the forward-facing seat with internal harness by height or weight	Ride restrained in a belt positioning child booster seat using a lap shoulder seat belt
 9 years old or has outgrown the booster seat and can pass the 5 Step Test	Ride restrained with a lap shoulder seat belt secured correctly on the vehicle seat
 Younger than 13 years old	Ride in the rear seat of a vehicle, when available, and properly restrained



A child who can be placed in more than one category shall use the more protective category. Child safety seats must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

5 Step Test: The seat belt fits correctly when the child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat, the child's knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat, the belt fits snugly across the child's thighs and lower hips, and not the child's abdomen, and when the shoulder strap snugly crosses the center of the child's chest and not the child's neck. Effective 8/1/2019

Free of charge: Child safety seat fitting stations

Region C: Lafourche, St. James, St. Mary, and Terrebonne Parishes

2019 Louisiana's Child Passenger Safety Law - Best in US!



South Central Planning & Development
5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70364
985-851-2900 | www.scpdc.org

