

Quarterly Newsletter



February 8, 2024 | Issue 14

Assumption Awarded \$9M

Watershed Round 2 Project Funding

During the pre-application phase, Assumption Parish's regional steering committees carefully considered and prioritized projects aligning with LWI's long-term resilience goals. This led to the selection and recommendation of 40 projects within the state, totaling \$221.8 million, for conditional awards by the Council on Watershed Management. Assumption Parish successfully secured \$9 million in funding.

The awarded funding is contingent on the completion of a comprehensive application and state approval. The state will provide essential technical assistance, including engineering services such as hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and assist in scoping out the projects. The assessment of complete applications will take into account the results obtained from the engineering studies.

Louisiana Watershed Impacting the Entire State

Louisiana faced a critical turning point in 2016 when devastating floods exposed gaps in floodplain management. This led to the creation of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI), catalyzed by a \$1.2 billion federal flood mitigation grant. The LWI, organized into 9 Watershed Regions, focuses on statewide planning, watershed modeling, and implementing projects to reduce flood risk.

Region 6, led by Patrick Gordon of South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC), secured over \$18M in funding. Assumption and Ascension Parishes received conditional funding for drainage projects, complementing Lafourche Parish's previous allocation. LWI's vision extends beyond immediate defense, investing in long-term community and cultural heritage safeguarding. This initiative sets a precedent for resilient flood management, positioning Louisiana as a leader in facing future challenges.

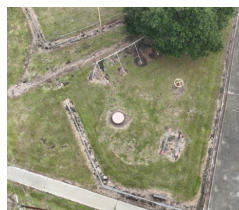


The City of Franklin Love LA Outdoor Program Nears Completion

The City of Franklin advances outdoor well-being with a \$400,000 LCDBG grant from the FY 2021 CARES-CV Love Louisiana Outdoor Program, awarded in March 2022. The grant enhances four parks, adding benches, BBQ pits, playground equipment, and mulch while removing obsolete items to encourage outdoor activities, support social distancing, and mitigate Covid-19 spread. This program underscores Franklin's commitment to accessible recreational spaces for all residents.



Broussard Harris Before



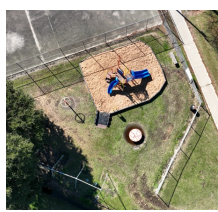
Caffery Park Before



City Park Before



Broussard Harris After



Caffery Park After



City Park After



Pecot Park Before



Pecot Park After

Louisiana DOTD Launches Website

Engaging Louisianans in the Statewide Planning Process



The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) launched latransportationplan.la.gov, a dedicated site for the Statewide Transportation Plan, seeking public input on the state's transportation needs. The site outlines DOTD's planning process, with updates on aviation, freight, and rail modal plans, allowing residents to shape the state's infrastructure until 2055.

Dawn Sholmire, DOTD's Statewide Transportation Plan project manager, underscores public involvement's importance. The user-friendly website facilitates clear navigation and information, aiding public input on crucial improvement areas.

Louisiana citizens can visit latransportationplan.la.gov to sign up for updates or provide comments, contributing to an effective transportation network for all.

Safe Routes Safe Routes to Public Places



SRTPPP is part of the overall Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and falls under the umbrella of the Louisiana Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

The vision for the SHSP is Destination Zero Deaths and the HSIP is the core federal-aid program that aims to implement the SHSP's mission to achieve a significant reduction in fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.

To address the need to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and injuries, HSIP funds are eligible to be spent on projects to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on all public roads (state-owned and locally-owned).

Funding

Federal funds for the project are provided for 100% of project costs with no required local match within the limits of the DOTD's project funding commitment and eligibility requirements.

Eligibility

Any public agency is eligible to submit a project application.

Public agencies may apply to fund projects for the purpose of facilitating the development and implementation of projects that will **improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users of all ages and abilities.**

Eligible projects include improving pedestrian and bicycle facilities to schools, libraries, governmental buildings, hospitals, transit facilities, public parks, and other public places.

Safe Routes
Safe Routes to Public Places

2023 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's Safe Routes to Public Places Program is excited to announce the start of its next Call for Projects.

Application Period: November 28, 2023 – February 29, 2024
Applications are due to the Safe Routes to Public Places Program Manager **no later than 12:00 PM, February 29, 2024.**
No applications will be accepted after this deadline. Applications may be submitted by mail or email.

Email:
david.worsham@la.gov

Mailing Address:
David Worsham
SRTPP Program Manager
Room 201Y
1201 Capitol Access Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



Please scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/LA-SRTPPP for:

- Application
- Program Guidelines
- Other useful information



Transforming Contamination into Prosperity: Insights from the 2023 Louisiana Brownfields (Land Recycling) Conference



SCPDC's team participated in the 2023 Louisiana Brownfields Conference in Alexandria, exploring recent advancements and innovative strategies for brownfield site rehabilitation to enhance economic well-being. The event spotlighted the \$5 billion impact of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill on contaminated site cleanup. SCPDC, a recipient of a \$2 million EPA grant in 2022, highlighted its Brownfield Program, offering environmental assessments, low-interest loans, and cleanup grants within its seven parishes and coalition members. For additional information, contact Brownfield Program Manager Lesley Long at lesley@scpsc.org.

Restore LA Small Business Recovery Loan Program Update

While the Restore Louisiana Small Business program is still accepting and processing applications for Hurricanes Laura and Delta applicants, it has paused operations for Hurricane Ida and the May Floods of 2021 applicants. The current pause is to allow the state to take stock of the applications received thus far. Our offices will continue to work with applicants who have begun their applications, and I will keep you posted on the status and when we will resume. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this period. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

As of 12/28/2023, we've submitted 67 applications totaling \$12.5 million, with 95 more applications calculated at \$14.5 million awaiting approval. SCPDC expects lending to surpass \$60 million by program conclusion.

To focus on hurricane recovery, SCPDC temporarily suspended the regular loan program. Stay informed about its restart by contacting the Loan Department at 985.655.1051 or businessloans@scpsc.org.

Eligible businesses, don't miss out—apply for the Restore LA program at SCPDC's intake offices or [online](#).

Restore Small Business Loans

Advancing Economic Development for the State



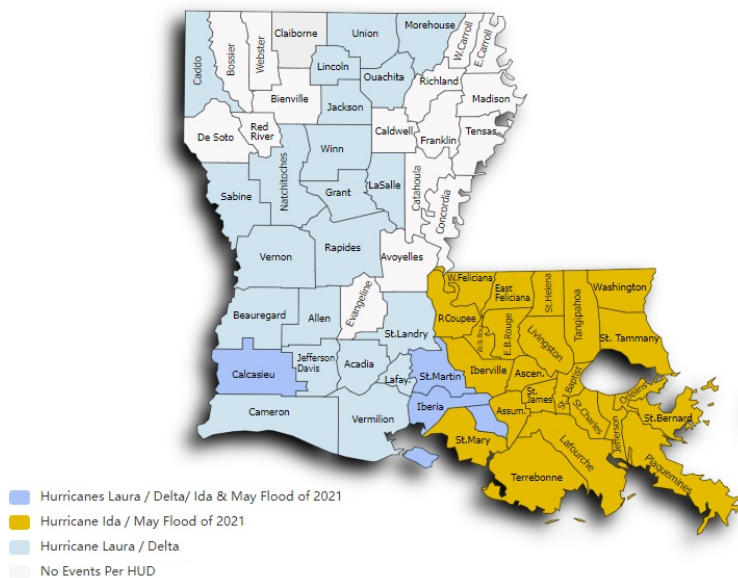
South Central Planning and Development was allocated 63.5 (\$37.5M Laura/Delta and \$25M Ida) of 95 Million in available funding to assist small business owners in impacted areas across the state.



SCPDC is extending the deadline for the Restore Small Business Loan Program supporting recovery awards for businesses affected by Hurricanes Laura, Delta, Ida, and the May 2021 Flood. With 19 offices opened statewide since May, SCPDC has collected over 1000 applications, with 300 (estimated at \$35,000,000) already in Baton Rouge for review and funding.

Before the December 31st deadline, SCPDC secured a time extension exclusively to collect additional applications and process pending ones. Currently allocated over \$63,000,000 (\$37M for Laura Delta and \$25M Ida/May), SCPDC has requested a doubling of Hurricane Ida's loan funding. Despite a lack of written affirmation, the State encourages SCP to continue collecting applications.

More than a third of Baton Rouge applications are from SCPDC's region, with 81 files totaling over \$13,000,000 awaiting funding. The eligible program area now covers 48 parishes, expanding SCP's reach. The new map looks like this:



Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Equipment Grant

SCPDC assists fishermen in applying for the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Equipment Grant, offering up to \$30,000 per fisherman for equipment updates. This program, initiated in response to the 2019 Bonne Carre Spillway opening and coastal basin freshening, was announced during SCPDC's statewide tour with LDWF in September. SCPDC's Restore offices, with Spanish and Vietnamese-speaking staff, ensure access for fishermen overcoming language barriers.

In addition to language assistance, SCPDC staff provides coaching and data entry for fishermen facing online application challenges. The program, open since December, requires fishermen to submit receipts for purchases once funding values are finalized at the state level (LDWF). SCPDC remains committed to supporting fishermen throughout this process.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

SCPDC has conducted the LaCreel Survey in Louisiana for a decade, securing another 3-year contract. Collaborating with LDWF agents, SCPDC staff surveys fishermen weekly to estimate the Red Snapper catch. The program's improved data disproved concerns about Red Snapper depletion, resulting in a significant extension of the annual season.

Mississippi and Alabama sought to replicate the survey for NOAA data, leading SCPDC to contract with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for a one-year pilot in Houma. SCPDC will host both the LaCreel and new Gulf States survey programs at its Coteau Road facility.

Affordable Housing and the New Coteau Road Facility

SCPDC is building an Affordable Housing Program, constructing "starter homes" across the region. The housing market's lack of affordable homes, coupled with the disasters of 2021, led to the program's initiation. SCPDC's new Coteau Road facility will house skilled labor to construct homes designed to withstand Hurricane Force winds. The program extends to Neighborhood Revitalization Programs, including eliminating blighted properties, in collaboration with jurisdictions.

SCPDC's Supports of the Fishing Community Expanding

Working to move businesses beyond recovery, SCPDC focuses on innovation and expansion to revitalize the region. The timing aligns well with Restore applicants, a significant portion from the fishing industry affected by 2019 up-river floods, COVID, inflation, and low seafood prices. SCPDC extends its efforts, signing a three-year extension of the LaCreel Survey Program and collaborating with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to support fisheries in Mississippi and Alabama.

Building Safety Department Expands: New Additions, Code Leadership

And Other Noteworthy Achievements

The Building Safety Department expands with Baldwin and Franklin joining our Regional Building Code Program. We provide consistency, efficiency, and cost savings to member Parishes and Municipalities, serving as a State leader. Our staff's expertise extends to Baton Rouge, Town of Livingston, City of Denham Springs, and soon St. Tammany Parish.

Addressing evolving building codes, we emphasize stringent requirements for roof coverings. We advocate for vigilant permitting and enforcement to reduce natural disaster damage. We urge neighboring communities to join our program and promote permits and inspections for roof repairs to protect homes and businesses.



Celebrating achievements, Michael Wich, Chief Building Safety and Development Officer, completed his term as President of the International Code Council. Blake Steiner, Building Official, joined the ICC Board of Directors, the only two from Louisiana. Brian Craigo contributed to the ICC 600 update, and Bill Pousson served on the 2024 IECC development committee, showcasing our team's national-level recognition in the Building Safety industry.

MGO Connect Live National 2023

New Orleans, LA

MGO Connect Live, the MyGovernmentOnline (MGO) in-person conference, brought together jurisdictions nationwide with MGO software staff for learning, training, and best practices. The MGO Connect Live National 2023 conference



occurred on December 12-14th in New Orleans, drawing over 225 attendees. The event featured 20 live presentations covering topics such as the Project Guide, Artificial Intelligence, Code Enforcement, Public Works, and Digital Plan Review tools. A well-received "Putting it all Together" panel walkthrough of the Digital Plan Review process was part of the conference.



New features, including the MGO Admin Tool, were introduced, empowering jurisdictions to customize their implementation without MGO support. The in-person conference fostered relationship building between partners and MGO staff, enhancing efficiencies for shared goals. Attendees highlighted the conference's value in meeting jurisdiction goals and recommended sending more staff each year. Rick Loggins, a retired IT Director, emphasized the conference's importance in planning and utilizing software features, recommending annual staff attendance from every jurisdiction.

The new MGOConnect.org & Mobile Apps Customer Portal offers many new and exciting features, such as: Push notifications when an application is accepted or returned, Enhanced project management features, Custom branding and direct application linking with a city website and more!

Many jurisdictions across the country have begun the switch to our portal at no cost and received outstanding feedback from the building community.

Anything you can do in-person at your local office you can do online. Examples include Apply for Permits, Pay Online, Request Inspections, Submit Files, Download Inspection Reports and Approved Plans, Check Status of a Permit, Download Permit Data, Search for Permits, Manage Contractor and Business Licenses. Visit <https://www.mygovernmentonline.org/> for more information.

Our MGO team participates in many conferences, here are just a few of those:



Louisiana Floodplain Management Association - LFMA Technical & Business Conference



Annual BOAL conference in Lake Charles, LA



Building Professional Institute Conference in Houston, TX



LTAP offers various training programs that offer cost-effective learning for local transportation and public works agencies on topics that range from road and bridge maintenance to roadway safety, worker safety, emergency preparedness, crash data analysis, etc. [Download Training Resources](#)

LPA Local Public Agency (LPA) Training Program



Visit LTAP for more information

Any local public agency that utilizes federal and state transportation dollars is required to attend the LPA Qualification Core Training. [Download Brochure.](#)

Sign Up for LTAP's Newsletters and Training Announcements [HERE.](#)



Local Road Safety Program

Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) is a federal-aid funding program that provides opportunity for parishes and municipalities to implement low-cost road safety improvements.

It is intended to increase local community participation in developing and implementing Local Road Safety Plans and proven safety countermeasures that help eliminate traffic deaths on locally owned roads

Project applications for local road safety improvements are accepted year-round. However, those submitted by cutoff dates March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 shall be given priority for project selection.

Contact Cassie Parker at cassie@scpdc.org if you would like assistance on the application.

[Local Road Safety Program](#)
[Download brochure here](#)

South Central Regional Safety Coalition

Program Coordinator: [Cassie Parker](#)

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.



Traffic Safety at Lafourche Parish Health Fairs

Lafourche Parish, LA

Thibodaux Health Fair

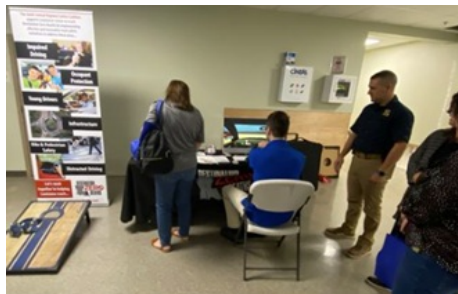


South Central Coalition teamed up with Thibodaux Police Department's Lt. Clint Dempster and Sgt. Hoffpauir, to conduct traffic safety education to Lafourche Parish employees working in the Thibodaux location. Utilizing interactive engagement tools funded by State Farm, the team conducted impaired driving education using fatal vision goggles, the pedal cart and cornhole. The Distracted and Impaired Driving simulator was also used to educate Lafourche Parish employees.

Mathews Health Fair



South Central Coalition teamed up with LA State Police Troop C's TFC Ross Brennan, to conduct traffic safety education to Lafourche Parish employees working in the Mathews location. Utilizing interactive engagement tools funded by State Farm, the team conducted impaired driving education using fatal vision goggles, the pedal cart and cornhole. The Distracted and Impaired Driving simulator was also used to educate Lafourche Parish employees.



Terrebonne Parish, LA





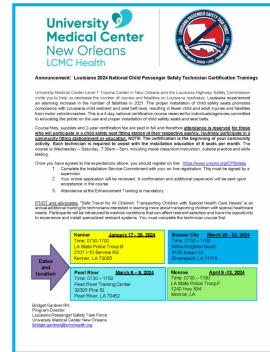
South Central Coalition teamed up with LA State Police Troop C, TFC Ross Brennan to conduct traffic safety awareness and education to Terrebonne's Jr. Leader group. TFC R. Brennan presented on Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, and Occupant Protection. We engaged students using fatal vision goggles and cornhole.

Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force

CPS Technician Courses



University Medical Center Level 1 Trauma Center in New Orleans and the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission invite you to participate in a 4-day national certification course on child safety seats and seat belts. The course aims to decrease injuries and fatalities on Louisiana roadways by promoting proper installation of child safety seats, ensuring compliance with state laws. The course includes classroom instruction, outside practice, and skills testing, running from Wednesday to Saturday, 7:30 am to 5 pm. Participants committing to community activities, such as assisting with 8 seat installations per month, can register online [here](#). Course fees, supplies, and a 2-year certification fee are covered for those actively engaged in child safety seat fitting stations or community events. Upcoming courses will be held in Pearl River, Shreveport, and Monroe. Click on flyer to download.



1. Complete the Installation Service Commitment with your on-line registration. This must be signed by a supervisor.
2. Your online application will be reviewed. A confirmation and additional paperwork will be sent upon acceptance in the course.
3. Attendance at the Enhancement Training is mandatory.

Bridget Gardner RN | Program Director | Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force
University Medical Center New Orleans | Bridget.gardner@lcmchealth.org

Fitting Station Information

Click the QR Code for Fitting Stations Statewide

Louisiana offers over 600 nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians at statewide Child Passenger Safety Fitting Stations to ensure proper installation of child safety seats. Correct use and installation are crucial for child safety in the event of a crash. With an estimated 96% of child restraints installed incorrectly, the LPSTF team provides instruction on selecting the right child restraint, proper placement of the child, and correct installation in your vehicle. Participants in the Child Safety Seat Installation Program receive one-on-one instruction from a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) or instructor. For more information, visit Buckle Up Louisiana's Facebook page or use the QR code to find a fitting station near you.



SCPDC Recognized for Outstanding Contribution in McNeese Works Here Campaign



SCPDC is proud to contribute to McNeese Works Here, boosting community engagement with McNeese State University. Our active involvement, alongside local businesses, shows unified support for McNeese's role in shaping the regional workforce.

This collective effort resulted in positive media exposure, enhancing McNeese's brand and raising awareness of its mission to prepare students for diverse job sectors. Recognizing McNeese alumni, including SCPDC affiliates, underscores the lasting impact of the university.

South Central Planning & Development Commission

Upcoming Meetings

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR 2024

JANUARY							APRIL							JULY							OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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MARCH							JUNE							SEPTEMBER							DECEMBER						
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31							30																				
SCPDC Board							SCPDC Loan Board							South Central - DZD - Coalition							HTMPO Policy Committee						
SCPDC Office Closed							Watershed Region 3							Regional Transit Committee							HTMPO Technical Advisory Com.						

Updated: 2024-02-06

SCPDC Calendar of Events

SCPDC Meeting Calendar

SCPDC Board Meeting - 10:30 AM

Thursday, February 8, 2024
 Thursday, April 18, 2024
 Thursday, June 27, 2024
 Thursday, October 17, 2024

Contact: Emma Bergeron, emma@scpsc.org

SCPDC Loan Board Meeting - 8:30 AM

Third Tuesday of each month

Contact: Missy Menuet, MissyM@scpsc.org

Region 6 Watershed Meeting - 10 AM

4th Wednesday of each month

Contact: Pat Gordon, pat@scpsc.org

South Central Regional Safety Coalition - 10 AM

February - To be determined
 Thursday, May 9, 2024
 Thursday, August 8, 2024
 Thursday, November 14, 2024

Contact: Cassie Parker, cassie@scpsc.org

HTMPO Policy Committee - 12 PM

Thursday, January 25, 2024
 Thursday, April 25, 2024
 Thursday, July 25, 2024
 Thursday, October 24, 2024

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpsc.org

HTMPO Technical Advisory Com - 10 AM

Thursday, March 14, 2024
 Thursday, June 13, 2024
 Thursday, September 12, 2024
 Thursday, December 12, 2024

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpsc.org

Regional Transit Committee - 10 AM

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
 Wednesday, May 15, 2024
 Wednesday, August 21, 2024
 Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpsc.org

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 Jonathan Eastwood at jonathanE@scpsc.org.

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