

Quarterly Newsletter



January 20, 2022 | Issue 6

Welcome Our New Planners!



Nicholas Phillips, Planner I

Nicholas is a native of New Iberia, Louisiana, and has recently earned his Bachelor's in Urban Studies and Planning and Master's in Public Administration from the University of New Orleans. While at UNO, he worked as a research assistant with the UNO Transportation Institute and later as a graduate research assistant at the UNO Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology. Nicholas currently serves as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and has been deployed within the state as part of the Hurricane Laura and Ida responses. He looks forward to applying his experience and local knowledge to projects while working in the Planning Department at the South Central Planning and Development Commission.



LeaAnn Rucker, Planner I

LeaAnn, was born and raised in Enid, Oklahoma. As a military spouse she lived in many places and this sparked her desire to travel and experience new cultures. In 2011 she graduated from the University of New Orleans where she earned a B.S in Urban Studies and Planning. She became very interested in the role water plays when it comes to planning. Her appeal for these topics lead her to focus on environmental planning and policies during her studies. After finishing school, she relocated to Jacksonville Florida where she began working at an analytical laboratory where she tested water and carbon for filtration purposes. She managed projects with the EPA, USGS, city utilities all over the country, and many engineering firms around the world. As a Planner I at SCPDC she will assist with Brownfield projects, Love Louisiana Grants, and outreach for other projects.



Louisiana Planning & Development Districts (LAPDD)

Broadband Initiative

As we have all experienced over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted significant gaps in internet accessibility across the country. The Delta, especially rural areas, has been shown to lack adequate digital infrastructure to support access to critical services such as healthcare, distance learning, and remote work. In response to these challenges, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) has announced the Delta Broadband Mapping Project, and South Central Planning & Development Commission, along with our fellow LAPDD Districts, are proud to support DRA on this initiative.

Through an innovative crowd-sourcing platform, DRA is undertaking a regional internet speed testing initiative to support data-driven policy and decision making. The goal of this project is to create a regional map of internet availability and speeds, which will help you attain funding opportunities for your communities.

The test takes less than one minute to complete and can be taken on any internet-connected device.

To learn more and to take the test, visit: dra.gov/speedtest.

Statewide Transit Coordination



Photo Source: Terrebonne Council on Aging

SCPDC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, is responsible for the coordination of the providers of Human Services Transportation. This is done by hosting quarterly meetings of area Arcs, Councils on Aging, and other providers of public transit services. During these meetings we identify available resources and gaps in services.

As such, the MPO is also participating in the update to DOTD's update to the Statewide Coordination Plan, including attendance at a stakeholder meeting in November 2021 with the other statewide MPOs and various Arcs, Councils on Aging, and providers across the state. As part of this statewide update process, a public survey has been developed. *We would ask that you share this survey via your various social media and other platforms to assist with the statewide update.*

Public Survey (English)

[LADOTD Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Public Survey \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

Public Survey (Spanish)

[Encuesta Pública del Plan de Transporte de Servicios Humanos Coordinados de LADOTD](https://www.google.com)



Nicholls State University will use Louisiana Community Development Block Grant-CV awarded funding to construct the Bayou Region Incubator (BRI) and for operating expenses in an amount up to \$3,500,000 on the Nicholls State University campus. The BRI will provide technical assistance, financial advisory services and material support to existing and aspiring entrepreneurs and small businesses, with a specific focus on those operating within the Lafourche, St. Mary and Terrebonne Parish Bayou Region.

The Town of Golden Meadow Phase 7 Community Sewer System Improvement project has been awarded and is underway. This project will include installation of new sewer collection lines, manholes, a lift station, and a sewer connection program on Delgrandile and Terrebonne Lanes. Phase 7 will continue the Town's effort to reduce the potential for public health issues due to poorly treated wastewater being discharged during heavy storm events. This project will be funded through a 2021 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$990,000.



SCPDC Loan Program Update

fund	loans	award	JOBS		private match
			new	retained	
CRLF	3	\$100,138.78	2	0	\$33,053.00
RLF	1	\$412,264.00	8	0	\$0.00
RCF	2	\$455,334.00	13	1	\$153,500.00
IRCF	52	\$1,240,087.22	11	294	\$466,000.00
SIRLF	1	\$20,000.00	0	11	\$0.00
RRLF*	17	\$856,584.00	8	116	\$115,212.00
BCRLF	1	\$60,000.00	2	0	\$3,195,000.00
totals	77	\$3,144,408.00	44	422	\$3,962,765.00

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida which made landfall devastating the South Central Planning Region on August 29, 2021, the SCPDC Loan Board and Administration allocated \$1,000,000 in loan funds for disaster recovery loans for affected businesses in the Region. 50 \$20,000 loans were awarded to affected businesses throughout the Region in less than 2 months. Every business and citizen in the Region was affected, and the Loan Department was poised to act quickly to bring all the parties together to grant appropriate approvals and get funding to those businesses in need, faster than any other loan program in SCPDC's history.

Prior loan programs (Katrina/Rita, Gustav/Ike, 2016 floods, among others) have provided SCPDC with loan funds that can be activated in such times of dire need. Although SCPDC anticipates loan funding from Federal and State sources for direct recovery efforts, those funds are not expected arrive until 2023, at the earliest, and if at all. SCPDC Administration as well as the Loan Board made the decision to utilize all available loan funds for disaster recovery loans.

In the second half of 2021, the Loan Department, in addition to recovery loans, continued CARES Act and regular lending. See table below for breakdowns. Types of businesses receiving loans include commercial fishermen, industrial, gas/convenience stores, restaurants, retail, child care, automotive, home services, environmental clean up, professional services, beauty services, recreation and entertainment, medical services, construction, transportation, and food/ice manufacturing.

The Loan Department and SCPDC have received an enormous amount of support from political leaders, local and regional banking institutions, and other civic and private organizations. We are

so appreciative of all efforts to support the SCPDC Loan Programs, and we look forward to fostering these relationships into the future.

For more information on SCPDC Loan Programs, please click [here](#).

Building Code Enforcement Staff Play Significant Roles on National and State Levels

Many are unaware of the processes that create building codes and the adoption process that takes place prior to codes being updated and implemented on the local level. Our team at SCPDC plays a significant role on the State and National landscape in these processes.

Our Chief Building Official, Michael Wich currently serves as the Vice President of the International Code Council Board of Directors. The International Code Council is the organization that is responsible for administering the code development process and ultimately publishing the building codes we enforce. Michael recently chaired a committee that suggested several changes to the code development process that were ultimately adopted by the Board of Directors. Some of these changes are already in play and the others will be instituted in the next code development cycle.

Blake Steiner, Deputy Building Official sits on the Professional Development Committee for the International Code Council. This committee plays an influential role in the Certification Process that all inspectors, plans examiners, and building officials go through. This committee also focuses on training and education. In addition to this committee, Blake also served on the Nominations Committee for the International Code Council last year playing a role in determining the Board of Directors.

Brian Craig, Deputy Building Official was a member of the ICC 600 Standard Update Committee. The ICC 600 governs the residential structural requirements for high wind and hurricane prone regions. Brian was able to provide his experience to contribute to this important update that impacts our residential construction daily.

Bill Pousson, Chief Inspector is currently participating on the International Energy Conservation Code Residential Standards Development Committee for the International Code Council. A seat on this committee was highly sought after by over 350 candidates. Bill was selected due to his Master Code Professional Certification, the highest designation one can achieve, and his practical field experience of enforcing energy codes. Bill also serves at the state level on the LSUCCC National Electric Code Review Committee. This committee is reviewing the 2020 National Electric Code and will recommend any amendments that should be considered by the LSUCCC prior to adoption.

Adam Dupuy, Plans Examiner is currently participating on the International Plumbing and Mechanical Code Review Committee for the LSUCCC. This committee will recommend any amendments the LSUCCC should consider before adopting the 2021 IPC and IMC.

The SCPDC team is the most highly certified staff in the state with every employee achieving Residential and Commercial Combination Inspector Status as well as Certified Building Official designation. We also boast three Master Code Professionals. These credentials along with years of experience allow us to have tremendous influence at the National and State level. This influence guarantees that our region always has a voice at the table.

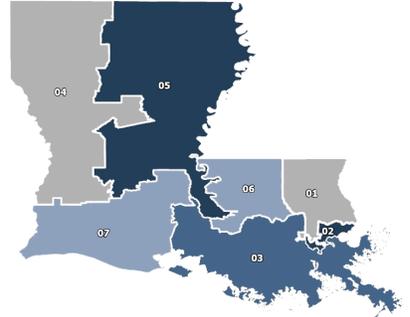


LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) recently concluded another year as the fiscal agent for the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) Region 6. Efforts included coordination of regional watershed activities among member parishes and distribution of project funds as part of Round 1 funding of local and regional flood mitigation projects in LWI Region 6. Awarded flood risk reduction projects totaling \$3.8 million included Emergency Backup Pumps for Pump Stations (\$1.9 million) in Lafourche Parish, Bonadona-Cataldo Drainage Pump Project (\$1.25 million) in Ascension Parish, and Town of Maringouin Drainage Improvements (\$659,500) in Iberville Parish. SCPDC will continue coordination of Region 6 Steering Committee and Subcommittee meetings in preparation for Round 2 funding and upcoming LWI Legislation for the 2022 Louisiana State Legislative Session. For more information and updates regarding LWI Region 6 watershed efforts, please see [Watershed Initiative « South Central Planning & Development Commission \(scpd.org\)](#).

Redistricting – the redrawing of legislative districts – takes place every ten years after the results of the Census are released to the states. It is necessary to redistrict because communities are constantly changing for social, economic, and environmental reasons. Births, deaths, and in- & out-migration are significant factors.

Since receiving an advanced release of the 2020 Census data on August 12, 2021, SCPDC have completed Redistricting Plans for the St. Charles School Board and the Lafourche School Board. The Terrebonne Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish School Boards have selected plans and will soon be formally adopting. The Commission is also developing plans for the Assumption Parish Police Jury, Assumption Parish School Board, St. James Council, the Town of Gramercy, and the St.



Mary Parish Council. It is important to note that **School Board Redistricting Plans must be complete by March 2022**. Parish Councils, Police Juries, and Municipalities must determine the need for redistricting by March 30, 2022 and, if needed, plans must be completed by the end of the term (July 2022 for municipalities and August 2023 for Parish Councils and Police Juries).

SCPDC has decades of experience working with member governments on redistricting plans. If your government would like SCPDC's assistance in drafting these plans or would simply like more information on redistricting and the process, please contact Kevin Belanger (kevin@scpd.org) or Joshua Manning (josh@scpd.org).



Historic structure surveys continue to be conducted in St. Charles Parish and Red River Parish. The grant is funded by the FY 2020-2022 Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Disaster Recovery Grant through the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

St. Charles Parish

Historians are currently reviewing the data collected from the preliminary field investigations for the parish. This structure survey is part of a \$100,000 Historical Structures Survey of St. Charles Parish grant awarded to South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) on behalf of the Parish.

Red River Parish

Historians are currently reviewing the data collected from the preliminary field investigations for the parish. This structure survey is part of a \$57,400 Historical Structures Survey of Red River Parish grant awarded to South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) on behalf of the Parish.

We are excited to highlight and learn more of the historical resources and its extensive past! Questions can be directed to Lesley Long with SCPDC at 985-851-2900 or lesley@scpd.org



2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This is a federally required document for all transportation projects using federal funding. The MPO is allocated approximately \$14 million in discretionary FHWA funding during the 4-year TIP horizon for eligible transportation projects. Types of eligible projects include roadway and

intersection improvements, capital costs for transit projects, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. Examples of completed and ongoing projects using MPO funding include Hollywood Road Widening between Martin Luther King Blvd. and Hollywood Road, asphalt overlays of various roadways in the City of Thibodaux, and sidewalk rehabilitation in downtown Houma. Contact [Joshua Manning](#) for more information.

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](#)

Traffic Safety Messaging For Teens By Teens



1st Place Meme: Kahylei Leboeuf



2nd Place Video: Blaine Parsons and Joseph Lemoine

Peer-to-peer education is an effective means of improving knowledge and attitude among our youth. Louisiana's nine regional coalitions teamed up to execute the LA DZD Statewide Teen Meme & Video Contest to put our teens to the test.

Teens around the state submitted meme's and video to help educate others of the dangers of distracted driving. Three of our South Central Teams were awarded:

1st Place in Meme: Kahylei Leboeuf (HL Bourgeois High School)

2nd Place in Video: Blaine Parsons and Joseph Lemoine (Satellite Center - St. Charles Parish)

Thank you for being the voice of traffic safety teens!

Traffic Fatalities Increase On Our Louisiana Roads



7 fatalities, 1 night, State Police address impaired...

The driver accused of killing the three young women last month had three previous DWI arrests. LAFOURCHE PARISH, La. - There has been an alarming increase in deadly crashes in the bayou region of south Louisiana. Law enforcement officers there...

[Read more](http://www.wlwtv.com)
www.wlwtv.com

997 fatalities on Louisiana highways in

2021; DOTD and safety partners urge motorists to drive safely Baton Rouge - Highway fatalities in Louisiana in 2021 topped the previous high-death mark set in 2007 (993). Preliminary data for fatal crashes...

[Read more](http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov)
wwwapps.dotd.la.gov

South Central Law Enforcement Teams Up for "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Checkpoint

Troopers from Troop C, along with personnel from the Thibodaux Police Department, the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office, and the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office, partnered together to conduct a dedicated sobriety patrol as part of the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over safety campaign.

Every year on Louisiana roadways, thousands of people are killed or injured because of impaired drivers.

The consequences of drinking and driving, or driving while impaired on drugs, can be costly. These additional officers focused on locating and arresting drivers that were under the influence. The event resulted in the arrest of three drivers that had the potential to seriously injure or kill themselves or others.

The task of stopping impaired driving is a joint effort between law enforcement agencies and the public. By never allowing an impaired driver to get behind the wheel of a vehicle and reporting dangerous drivers to law enforcement, the public can play an important role in the reduction of crashes caused by impaired drivers. Motorists that witness a reckless or impaired driver can dial *LSP (*577) to contact the nearest state police troop location.



Source (photo and article): Trooper Ross Brennan, LA State Police Troop C PIO

***Buckle Up, Drive Sober, and Focus on the Road.
Together we will reach Destination Zero Deaths!***



Learn more about what we are doing to save lives.



South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) Brownfields Program works to assess, clean up, and facilitate the redevelopment and/or reuse of potentially contaminated properties known as brownfields.

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. Want more information on SCPDC's Brownfield Program, contact our Brownfield Program Manager Lesley Long at lesley@scpcd.org or (985) 851-2900.

Also visit our website for more information on available Brownfield funding at: <https://www.scpcd.org/departments/planning/brownfields-2/> and <https://www.epa.gov/ust/petroleum-brownfields>. More information can also be found at <https://www.epa.gov/ust/petroleum-brownfields>.

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@scpcd.org.

SCPDC South Central Planning & Development Commission							2022 Meeting Calendar																				
January Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 JAN 24: SCPDC BOARD MEETING LABOURET PARISH 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							April Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 APR 21: SCPDC BOARD MEETING ST. CHARLES PARISH 24 25 26 27 28 29 30							July Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30							October Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 OCT 20: SCPDC BOARD MEETING ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
February Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28							May Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							August Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							November Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30						
March Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Please visit www.scpcd.org or contact the meeting.org website for additional information. Ennis Bergeron ennis@scpcd.org SCPDC Board Meeting @ 11:30am "See a meeting calendar for location" LA Reg. Cities Lib Meeting @ 10:30am SCPDC Offices are CLOSED							June Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 JUN 16: SCPDC BOARD ST. JAMES PARISH Pat Gordon pat@scpcd.org Watershed Steering Committee @ 11am Subcommittee Meeting TBA Michelle Blumert mblumert@scpcd.org SCPDC Loan Board Meeting @ 9:30am							September Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 www.htmno.org Joshua Manning josh@scpcd.org HTMPO Policy Committee @ 11:30am HTMPO Technical Advisory @ 11am Travis TAO Committee @ 10am "Please check your email for a meeting location"							December Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 www.scpcd.org Cassie Parker cassie@scpcd.org South Central Safety Coalition @ 10am SCRSC Infrastructure & Op. - 10am Emphatic Area Team Meetings TBD <small>Updated: 12/22/2021</small>						

SCPDC Board Meeting - 10:30 AM

January 20, April 21, June 30, and October 20

Contact: Emma Bergeron, emma@scpd.org

SCPDC Loan Board Meeting - 8:30 AM

Third Tuesday of each month

Contact: Missy Menuet, MissyM@scpd.org

HTMPO Policy Committee Meetings- 12 PM

January 27, April 28, July 28, October 27

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpd.org

HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee - 10 AM

March 10, June 9, September 8, December 8

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpd.org

Regional Transit Committee - 10 AM

February 16, May 18, August 17, and November 16

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpd.org

Region 6 Watershed Meeting - 10 AM

4th Wednesday of each month

Contact: Pat Gordon, pat@scpd.org

South Central Regional Safety Coalition - 10 AM

January 20, April 21, June 30, and October 20

Contact: Cassie Parker, cassie@scpd.org

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