

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 20, 2022 | Issue 9



Congratulations to Michael Wich, of South Central Planning and Development Commission for being named President of the International Code Council (ICC). He is the first president from Louisiana to ever hold the position.

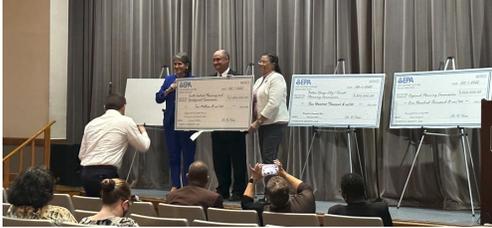
EPA Awards SCPDC \$2 Million funding for its successful Brownfields Program



South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) has been selected as a recipient to receive \$2,000,000 dollars from EPA for its successful South Louisiana Brownfields Coalition RLF Program. Through the award of the RLF supplemental funding, the pursuit of cleanup planning and implementation will continue throughout South Louisiana Brownfields Coalition RLF program's regional area. The South Louisiana Brownfield Coalition region covers the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, Terrebonne, along with its Coalition's partners regional areas of Acadiana Planning Commission; the City of Lake Charles; and the City of Baton Rouge / Parish of East Baton Rouge. The Program also serves the municipalities within these parishes.



Dr. Earthea Nance, Environmental Protection Agency Regional (EPA) Regional Administrator of



Region 6, presented South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) an award check for \$2 million for Brownfield Funding on October 4, 2022 at the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in Thibodaux, LA.

Louisiana Brownfields Conference

Fill Your Revitalization Toolbox

South Central Planning and Development Commission, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program (TAB) at Kansas State University, and the Louisiana Brownfields Association held a FREE 2-day workshop October 5-6, 2022 in Houma, LA.



Showing true southern hospitality, South Central Planning and Development Commission held a seafood boil, catered by a local Commercial Fisherman, to show their appreciation for a wonderful turnout.

National Brownfields Training Conference

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Pictured: Lesley Long, Planner III and LeeAnn Rucker, Planner I of South Central Planning and Development Commission from Houma, LA.

The 2022 National Brownfields Training Conference which featured an Environmental Justice Caucus was held on August 15-19, 2022, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Lesley Long and Lea Ann Rucker of South Central Planning and Development Commission attended along with thousands of others from all over the country. EPA Region 6, which includes New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, and 66 Tribes, had a great turnout at the Open House held Tuesday, August 16. This was the first in person conference for Brownfields since the

beginning of Covid-19 and everyone was eager to share information about past and present projects. The conference offered a variety of learning and training experiences, inspirational speakers, mobile workshops, and an exhibit hall full of vendors from every sector. Next year's Brownfields 2023 will be held August 7-11, 2023, in Detroit, Michigan.

South Central's Brownfields Program



EPA
Brownfields

SCPDC
Brownfields

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.

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

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies



The 2022-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) has been completed! The CEDS provides useful regional information, guidance, and perspective to local economic development stakeholders, whether they are at the municipal, parish, or regional level. The CEDS is a product of an inclusive planning process that is reflective of the diversity in the region it represents.

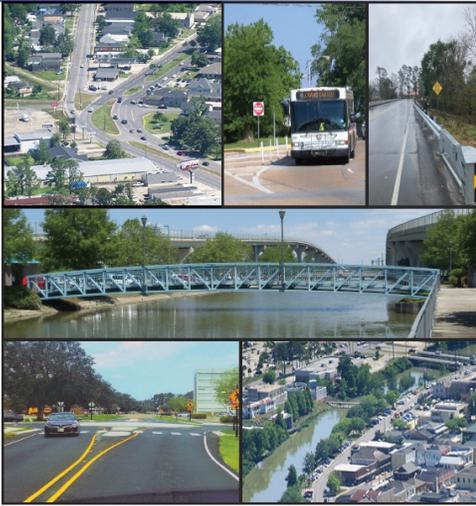
More information about the CEDS as well as digital copies of the Executive Summary and the full document can be found online [here](#). Contact Joshua Manning for more information.

[CEDS Document](#)

Houma-Thibodaux MPO Adopts the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization's Policy Committee voted to adopt the [2023 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#) at its September meeting. 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. New projects approved for funding include improvements to Lafourche Parish's

2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program



Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization Version 1

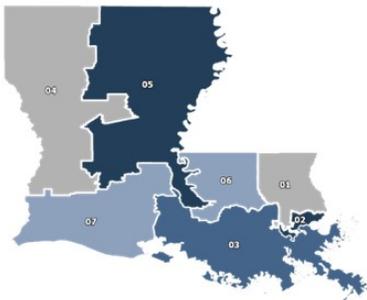
school zones, overlays of Canal Blvd. and Tiger Dr. in Thibodaux, pedestrian improvements on LA 1 and Audubon and Bowie Rd., improvements to Martin Luther King Blvd. in Houma, and feasibility studies for improvements on LA 316 as well as various intersections in Terrebonne Parish. Contact Joshua Manning for more information.

Traffic Counting Program

After a hiatus due to COVID-19 and then Hurricane Ida, SCPDC's traffic counting program is now back in full swing! Traffic counts are taken throughout the region, though primarily in the MPO area, by the Planning Department to provide inputs to the regional Travel Demand Model, as well as to provide information to member governments. Many economic developers, real estate agents, and other community stakeholders often find this information to be useful for a variety of reasons.



[Traffic Count Database](#)



Redistricting Update

Redistricting Season continues to be a busy time for the Commission. We are currently working on plans with parish councils in St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Mary as well as Morgan City. We hope to have recommended alternatives for each parish during the first quarter of 2023.

Louisiana 2022 Transit and Planning Summit

Shannon Edgerson of South Central Planning and Development Commission attended the Louisiana 2022 Transit and Planning Summit hosted by the Sierra Club Delta Chapter Transit Equity Team on October 10, 2022, at the River Center Branch Library located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Edgerson, along with

hundreds of others from all over the State of Louisiana involved in transit planning.

The 2022 Summit featured Indigenous Peoples Day as well as learning and training experiences, keynote speaker, and who included state representatives, directors, and managers from various planning commissions and transportation organizations.



My Government Online

MGO offers a suite of software tools that are integrated and easily evolve. Due to the software's success and popularity in our own region, the team has been offering these tools through a special partnership program to any governmental entity that is interested in participating.

There is no upfront cost to acquire and use any of these tools; however, a small monthly fee is required to cover the cost of the ongoing support, training, and configuration that is provided for the lifetime that you use our products. Please contact us at (866) 957-3764 or [here](#) for further information regarding this program and how we can partner together.



International Code Council (ICC) Conference (Louisville, KY)



33rd Annual American Association of Code Enforcement Conference (Atlanta, GA)



DECEMBER
13TH, 14TH, 15TH
2022

National Event Hosted By: JEFFERSON PARISH (NEW ORLEANS AREA)

We are pleased to announce MGO Connect Live - NATIONAL 2022, an annual MyGovernmentOnline (MGO) in-person seminar that will provide training on best practices, information on the latest features, and networking opportunities with fellow jurisdiction partners. The event is free of charge for the first 200 customers who RSVP.

RSVPs for the event should be sent to support@mygovernmentonline.org with the subject line "MGO Connect Live National 2022" and the names of your guests in order to attend the event. We will be holding this seminar in the Jefferson Parish Council Chambers. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis until a total of 200 participants is reached.

Hotel Information:

There are approximately 200 rooms available at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel at a group rate of \$156.00 per night. To lock in this rate, please make your reservation by November 7, 2022, by using the link below. This hotel is located in the heart of New Orleans and is easily accessible to all of the major tourist sites, restaurants, and other attractions! To book a room at the Hilton, please click this link: [Book Here](#).

SCPDC Receives Additional \$3 Million *CARES Act Funding*

One year after the destruction caused by Hurricane Ida, SCPDC Loan Department is anticipating small business recovery funding to provide affected businesses in the region, and beyond, with much needed financing to facilitate continued revitalization efforts. For storms and other disasters, as far back as Hurricane Andrew in 1992, our partnerships with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Louisiana Governor's Office of Community Development (OCD) have given us the opportunity to administer the small business recovery loan programs that have injected the much needed capital and financing opportunities into our impacted communities.



We are anticipating contracting with OCD, as we have for past programs, to provide relief to small businesses across the disaster declared area. Due to the magnitude of this disaster, and the fact that it is being combined administratively with Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020, it will likely be 2023 when we will be able to offer applications and start determining eligibility. The state, in coordination with the federal government typically takes 2 years or more to begin providing these program services, but it appears they are on track to get this done much sooner than that for Ida.

SCPDC Small Business Loans

In the meantime, SCPDC and the Loan Department are providing relief. Additionally, funds designated for lending

Department has received an additional \$3,000,000 in CARES Act Funding from the US Economic Development Administration. These funds are designated to provide businesses with relief from, and resilience in spite of, the CoViD-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns. We are focused on distributing these funds in the South Central Region, and since the beginning of this calendar year, the SCPDC Loan Board has approved 15 CARES Act small business loans totaling approximately \$3 million in the construction, retail/e-commerce, food service, medical/mental health, marine support, personal services, and transportation industries.

outside the South Central Region have been awarded to 6 businesses totaling \$1 million in the personal services, retail, automotive, creative production, and medical/related industries. A venture undertaken a little over 2 years ago by SCPDC administration, the legal department was brought in house, and great strides have been made related to collections and recovery. We take very seriously the stewardship we have been granted over these funds, and this new internal endeavor stands to safeguard the loan programs for entrepreneurs, existing businesses, and for the good the Commission and the South Central Region well into the future.

For more information or to apply for our small business loan programs, please visit our website [here](#) or contact us by phone at 985.655.1051. Information regarding the upcoming recovery loans for small businesses will also be available via this webpage when it becomes available.

Louisiana Inaugural Broadband Solutions Summit

\$35 million in funding will be distributed throughout Louisiana

South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) and the Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts (LAPDD) in partnership with the Louisiana Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) hosted the Louisiana Inaugural Broadband Solutions



Summit held on August 31, 2022, in Alexandria, LA. Pat Gordon and Lea Ann Rucker of SCPDC were in attendance to answer questions and discuss broadband concerns.

In efforts to shrink the digital divide, Governor John Bel Edwards announced that more than \$35 million in funding will be distributed throughout the state. Louisiana is the first state in the nation to be awarded two grants from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program planning grant for \$2,000,000 and the State Digital Equity Planning Grant for \$941,542. With this funding, the state of Louisiana will address digital literacy, cost, reliability and the development of the state's first digital equity plan.

LAPDD and the ULL Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center in partnership with the Louisiana Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity and the Louisiana Board of Regents kicked off a Digital Equity Outreach and Engagement Tour in late September. Each of the state's eight planning districts will host an event where attendees will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the development of Louisiana's Statewide Digital Equity Plan.

On November 3, 2022, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., SCPDC and Fletcher Technical Community College will host their district's outreach engagement at 1407 Highway 311, Schriever, LA 70395.

Joint Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee

Notice of Public Hearings



A series of Public Hearings will be held in accordance with LA R.S. 48:231 and conducted by the Joint Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee. To the right is a list of the times and places where the hearings will be held. The purpose of the hearings is to review highway construction priorities for the fiscal year 2023-2024. A copy of the Preliminary Program for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 will be available for review on October 1, 2022, by interested persons at the LADOTD Headquarters Building, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Room 200U, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or online ([click here](http://www.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Multimodal/Transportation_Planning/Highway_Priority/Pages/default.aspx)) or type the following in your browser:
http://www.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Multimodal/Transportation_Planning/Highway_Priority/Pages/default.aspx.

All interested persons are invited for the purpose of becoming fully acquainted with the proposed program and will be afforded an opportunity to express their views in person. Oral testimony may be supplemented by presenting important facts and documentation in writing. All interested parties will be able to listen to the meeting by ZOOM. The ZOOM information will be posted online at the above link or ([click here](#)) prior to the hearing.

Written statements and comments should be handed to the committee conducting the Hearing or mailed to the following address postmarked within 45 calendar days following the Hearing:

JOINT TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
C/O LA DOTD (SECTION 85)
P.O. BOX 94245
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9245

LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE HIGHWAY PRIORITY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (2023-2024)

- October 26, 2022; 10:00 am at Franklin Media Center**, 7293 Prairie Road, Winnsboro (District 58: Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, Franklin, LaSalle, Tensas)
- October 26, 2022; 2:00 pm at Monroe Civic Center, Fort Miro-Madison Room**, 401 Lea Joyner Expressway, Monroe (District 05: E. Carroll, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Union, W. Carroll)
- October 27, 2022; 8:30 am at Shreveport City Council Chambers**, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport (District 04: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, Desoto, Red River, Webster)
- October 27, 2022; 2:30 pm at Leesville City Council Chambers**, 508 South 5th Street, Leesville (District 08: Avoyelles, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, Vernon, Winn)
- November 2, 2022; 9:00 am at SEED Center**, 4310 Ryan Street, Lake Charles (District 07: Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jeff Davis)
- November 2, 2022; 1:30 pm at Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office Public Safety Complex in Scott**, 1825 W. Willow Street, Scott (District 03: Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion)
- November 9, 2022; 9:30 am at Yenni Building, East Bank Council Chambers**, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd, Suite 100, Jefferson (District 02: Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, Terrebonne)
- November 9, 2022; 2:30 pm at Tangipahoa Council Office Chambers**, 206 East Mulberry Street, Amite (District 62: Livingston, St. Helena, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington)
- November 10, 2022; 9:00 am at State Capitol Basement, House Committee Room 1**, Baton Rouge (District 61: Ascension, Assumption, E. Baton Rouge, E. Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St. James, W. Baton Rouge, W. Feliciana)

For more information, please visit www.dotd.la.gov, email dotdcs@la.gov, or call DOTD's Customer Service Center at (225) 379-1232 or 1-877-4LADOTD (1-877-452-3683). Business hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please let us know how we may better serve you: [Customer Service Survey](#).

Should anyone requiring special assistance due to a disability wish to participate in this public hearing, please contact LADOTD: (Attn: Ms. Mary Elliott) by mail at the address above or by telephone at (225) 379-1218 at least five days prior to the date of the public hearing.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is committed to delivering transportation and public works systems that enhance the quality of life. In addition to more than 16,600 miles of roadway, including over 890 miles of interstate, DOTD supports the development of the state's aviation, marine and rail infrastructures. Through this work, we are able to facilitate economic development, create job opportunities, improve vital evacuation routes, and make critical freight corridors safer and more efficient.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Public Law 117-58, also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" or BIL) into law. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and economy in our Nation's history. It provides \$550 billion over fiscal years 2022 through 2026 in new Federal investment in infrastructure, including in roads, bridges, and mass transit, water infrastructure, resilience, and broadband.

- [Click here to visit the FHWA BIL Website.](#)
- [Click here to visit the USDOT BIL Website.](#)

Federal Programs Available to the Locals



Federal Highway Programs Available to Local Agencies (LPA)

LTAP has produced a helpful brochure that provides a list of federal highway programs that local public agencies (LPA) can apply for funding for or have access to.

Agencies that use federal and state dollars for transportation projects are required to take the LPA Training Program provided by LTAP in partnership with FHWA and DOTD.

[Download Brochure](#)



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

LPA Local Public Agency (LPA) Training Program



Visit LTAP for more information

preparedness, crash data analysis, etc. [Download Training Resources](#)

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.](#)

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.

Regional Child Passenger Safety Efforts

Thibodaux, LA



Approximately 20% of children in our region are not restrained properly, according to Louisiana Highway Safety Commission's [2019 Child Restraint Survey Report](#).

South Central Regional Safety Coalition partners, [Thibodaux Police Department](#), [Louisiana State Police Troop C](#), [Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office](#), [St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office](#), and [Coteau Fire Department](#), in collaboration with Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, conducted child safety seat enforcement and education in July to increase proper restraint usage for children riding in child safety seats, booster seats and children 12 and under, who should always be seated in the rear seat and buckled up. Certified Child Passenger Safety technicians worked with parents, grandparents, and caregivers to properly install a total of 41 seats. Forty one children are riding safer because of this great team effort!

Many parents may not even be aware that their child is not in the correct child seat, booster seat or that the seat is not installed properly. Please encourage families with children to visit one of the



many fitting stations throughout the region. Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians are able to provide education to parents and caregivers. Fitting



Station information can be located here: <https://bit.ly/3VtT3sa> or visit [Buckle Up Louisiana's Facebook page](#) for the most up to date information on Child Passenger Safety.

Louisiana's "Thrive to Survive the Drive" *Statewide Distracted Driving Contest Winners Announced*

Congratulations to Alida Dufrene, St. Charles Satellite Center student, on winning 2nd place in Louisiana's Statewide Distracted Driving video contest, "Thrive to Survive the Drive".



Distracted driving accounts for approximately 40% of deaths on our South Central Region's roadways while crashes involving young drivers contributes to an estimated 25% of our regions motor vehicle related deaths.

Louisiana's nine Destination Zero Deaths Coalitions teamed up on this initiative in an effort to increase awareness of the dangers of driving distracted among teens and young adults.

South Central Region's DWI Unit

The South Central Regional Safety Coalition's Law Enforcement Partners share the region's DWI Unit to conduct impaired driving enforcement and education throughout the region.



July 2022: Regional Child Passenger Safety Checkpoint



August 2022: DWI Checkpoint



September 2022: Terrebonne Parish's Safety Expo & Kickoff to National Night Out

Back Day

welcomes traffic safety education on its campus



Berwick PD



Lafourche Parish SO



Thibodaux PD



Terrebonne Parish SO



Louisiana State Police Troop C



James Matassa, State Farm

Distracted Driving and Impaired Driving Simulator

funded by State Farm



South Central Regional Safety Coalition teamed up with its sister coalition, Capital Region, to purchase a desktop distracted driving and impaired driving simulator thanks to funding provided by State Farm.

Young Driver team leader, Investigator Stephen Sparks (NSU PD), took it out for its first use at Terrebonne Parish's Safety Expo and kickoff to National Night Out hosted by the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office in September.

The simulator will be used in both regions to educate young drivers on the dangers of distracted driving and impaired driving.

National Night Out Kickoff

Kenner, LA

We teamed up with our dedicated coalition partners from St. James Parish to promote traffic safety at Kenner's National Night Out Kickoff event October 2nd!



Sgt. Gerhold, Gramercy PD conducts interactive activity using fatal vision or "drunk goggles" to demonstrate impairment to attendees.



Partners from Lutcher PD, Gramercy PD, St. James SO, Frisards Companies and LSP-C participated in the event.

Combatting Roadway Departure Course

Conducted by Louisiana's Local Assistance Program



South Central Planning & Development Commission hosted Louisiana's Local Technical Assistance Program's, Combatting Roadway Departure course in October 2022.

Twenty-two Regional partners of the South Central Regional Safety Coalition attended the one day course conducted by Mr. Steve Strength, LTAP's Director, with the help of his staff, Leo Marretta (Local Road Safety Program Manager) and Rudynah Capone (LTAP Innovation & Technology Transfer Manager).



The workshop discussed how road safety stakeholders and local agencies can help reduce rural roadway departure deaths and serious injuries in Louisiana. It included a field assessment in the area, which provided participants an opportunity to physically evaluate issues on local roads and recommend proven safety countermeasures to address these issues.

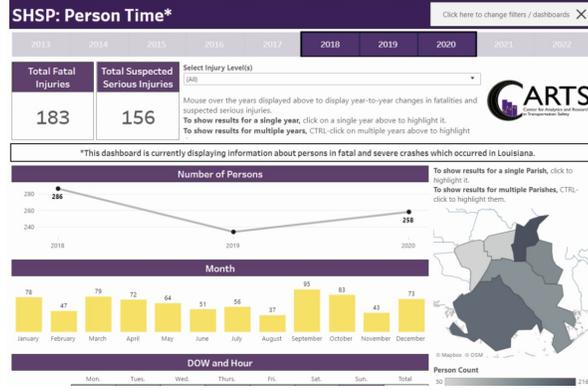


Crash Data Dashboard Training Available!

Regional data available in user friendly dashboards

LSU Center for Analytics and Research in Traffic Safety (CARTS), in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and

Development (LADOTD) created user-friendly crash data dashboards that are used in Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Plan efforts. Numerous filters allow users to sort data by injury level, location, demographics, contributing factors, and more.



If you are interested in hosting a Crash Data Dashboard Training in person or via Zoom, please contact Cassie Parker at cassie@scpsc.org.

LSU CARTS SHSP Crash Data Dashboards

South Central Planning & Development Commission Upcoming Meetings

SCPDC Board Meeting - 10:30 AM

October 20

Contact: Emma Bergeron, emma@scpsc.org

SCPDC Loan Board Meeting - 8:30 AM

Third Tuesday of each month

Contact: Missy Menuet, MissyM@scpsc.org

HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee - 10 AM

December 8

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpsc.org

HTMPO Policy Committee - 12 PM

January 27

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpsc.org

Regional Transit Committee - 10 AM

November 16

Contact: Shannon Edgeron, ShannonE@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

November 9 (Tentatively)

Contact: Cassie Parker, cassie@scpsc.org

for emphasis area meetings.

[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@scpsc.org.

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

