

# NEW ORLEANS TRAFFIC SAFETY COALITION

Jefferson • Orleans • Plaquemines • St. Bernard



January 21, 2015

11:30 am

Regional Transportation Management Center

## Attendees

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#### *Introductions and Member Updates*

- Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (Brad McGlothren): An electronic DWI reporting form that’s been in development for 10 years is being rolled out statewide. This will drastically reduce the time it takes to make an arrest from 1-2 hours to as little as 13 minutes.
- Mayor’s Military Advisory Council (Bill Triay): One of the goals of the Council is to reduce the cost of insurance for members of the military; one way they hope to do this is to work with local agencies to improve signal timing at intersections.
- NHTSA has Super Bowl safety message resources available for anyone’s use—go to [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov) to download materials for web and print.
- *Night Watch* debuted on A&E last night, the first 8 episodes of which will follow first responders (fire, EMS, law enforcement) in Orleans Parish during the hours of 8p-4a.

#### *Emphasis Area Updates*

- Infrastructure & Operations (Steve Strength):
  - LTAP has identified high-crash locations in local parishes and will be sharing this information in discussions with local agencies. On the North Shore, this information was used in combination with feedback from St. Tammany Parish to choose Road Safety Assessment (RSA) locations. For anyone unfamiliar with the term, an RSA is an examination of existing or future roadway conditions, conducted by a multidisciplinary team, in order to best address the safety aspects of design and operation and recommend measures to improve safety.
  - An RSA can be requested through LTAP or the coalition
  - An RSA was also completed on the High Rise last year and a report is currently being prepared.
- Impaired Driving (Donovan Archote)
  - As new co-chair of this emphasis area, one of Donovan’s top priorities is to promote No Refusal and is currently meeting with judges in the region to educate them on its benefits.
  - Currently, Acadania EMS is taking blood draws in other regions of the state; if this works out, there’s potential for duplicating that service.
  - In the past two years, Troop B has seen a 15% reduction in crashes related to impaired driving.
- Bicycle/Pedestrian (Dan Jatres):
  - Two bike/ped applications were submitted late last year for DZD funding. They are currently being reviewed by various groups at DOTD/state level.
  - The Transportation Alternatives Program has announced 2014-2016 funding for 11 projects totaling \$5.5 million in this region, many related to bike/ped. Details can be found at [http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside\\_LaDOTD/Divisions/Engineering/Project\\_Management/TAP/Documents/TAP%202014%20Project%20Selections.pdf](http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Engineering/Project_Management/TAP/Documents/TAP%202014%20Project%20Selections.pdf)
  - FHWA released a Road Diet guide to explain ways to reconfigure and re-use roadways. This can be downloaded at [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/road\\_diets/info\\_guide/](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/road_diets/info_guide/)
- Young Drivers (Bridget Gardner):

- The statewide Young Drivers meeting is next week, January 29, in Baton Rouge.
- Sudden Impact has guided high school students at Mt Carmel to develop Impact News for 6-8 graders. This will be a way for Sudden Impact education to reach teens at a younger age and be delivered by their peers. The program will be rolled out in the region within the next week and eventually statewide.
- There were several Banner Dealership child safety seat events on the North and South Shores in January; 100% of the seats checked were being used incorrectly.
- Sudden Impact has mock crashes planned for the Mardi Gras season at several schools.
- John Curtis and Archbishop Shaw have been added to the Sudden Impact program, although resources are spread thin at the moment.
- Occupant Protection (Emilie Bahr):
  - Several coalition members are interested in co-chairing this emphasis area: Lana Stevens (Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency), Dinnika Lawrence (Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force), Patty Clesi (Interim LSU Hospital), Elizabeth Belcher (New Orleans EMS). We will be working out how this will look as we continue with SHSP updates, and anticipate tackling Occupant Protection once the Impaired Driving plan is completed.

*Grant updates*

- DZD applications status update (Karla Courtade)
  - Cambridge Systematics, SHSP consultants for DOTD, reviewed the three applications sent on late last year; both the LPHI and St. Charles bike/ped applications were approved for the next step, and the Sudden Impact application will be revised with some input from LSP and reviewed at the statewide Young Drivers emphasis area meeting next week.
- Local Road Safety Program update (Rudynah Capone)
  - Three projects were approved for funding in the New Orleans region in 2014:
    - Portable Message Boards in Plaquemines Parish
    - Horizontal Curve Safety Treatments on Jesuit Bend, Diamond Road, Port Sulphur River Road, and Buras River Road, all in Plaquemines Parish
    - Road Striping on East Loyola, West Loyola, West Esplanade, and 30<sup>th</sup> St (Loyola to Duncan), all in the City of Kenner
  - LRSP applications are now accepted year-round, although proposals submitted by the following dates will be given priority for funding consideration during those quarters

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	January-March	March 31, 2015
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	April-June	June 30, 2015
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	July-September	September 30, 2015
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	October-December	December 31, 2015

*Law enforcement agency updates for the previous month*

- DPS/Crescent City Connection Police made 3 DWI arrests, wrote 62 seatbelt tickets. There were no fatal crashes reported.
- LSP Troop B made 68 DWI arrests and wrote 586 seatbelt tickets. They had no checkpoints but had 4 stationary enforcement locations. They responded to 2 fatal crashes, each resulting in 1 fatality.
- Kenner Police responded to 1 fatal crash that was not alcohol related.
- NOPD made 89 DWI arrests, wrote 764 seatbelt tickets, and responded to 3 fatal crashes. They conducted nighttime seat belt checkpoints.

*Coordinator updates*

- We are working to get together a marketing strategy, and in the meantime, are working on several promotions related to recent or upcoming events. Emilie will appear on WBOK, a call-in radio station with a largely African American audience, to discuss the seatbelt statistics showing that New Orleans lags much of the rest of the state and that African Americans are not buckling up at the same rate as the population at large. We will also be sending out a Mardi Gras-themed press release to coincide with February's Drive Sober or Get Pulled over campaign. And we've been able to secure an ongoing spot on WTUL, Tulane's radio station, for a brief PSA highlighting the need to buckle up. This PSA describes the message as coming from the New Orleans Regional Traffic Safety Coalition, which will hopefully help to get the word out about our coalition. We'd love further ideas for possible messages and channels through which to reach people about traffic safety.
- Based on what we learned through the recent applications for DZD funding, we are putting together some guidelines for coalition members to use when applying in the future. Our goal is to help people understand the application and know what to expect during the process, beginning to end. We're requesting that suggestions both from coalition members who haven't applied but have specific questions or ideas, and from those who have applied and, in hindsight, would have found certain information helpful during the process. Once the draft is complete, we will have DOTD review it and then make it available to the coalition.
- The Regional Planning Commission plans to utilize the coalition to inform future safety projects by establishing a process for members to report transportation safety concerns. Once reported, staff will review and discuss the issues and potential solutions with the appropriate local agencies. Once the process has been finalized, it will be announced to the coalition.

#### *Coalition champion (Karla Courtade)*

- The coordinators of each safety coalition in the state attended a facilitation workshop last month where they discussed the value of having a champion/ambassador/spokesperson for the coalition. Karla introduced this idea, describing the characteristics of a good champion and how to identify one, and giving examples of other coalitions' champions around the state. Her presentation can be viewed on the NORTSC website at [www.norpc.org/safety.html](http://www.norpc.org/safety.html). The coordinators invite anyone with ideas about a potential champion in the New Orleans region to get in touch.

#### *Other Matters*

- Tara Tolford of the UNO Transportation Institute announced the new UNO Master of Science in Transportation degree, which will be accepting applications for the fall. More information can be found at <http://transportation.uno.edu/degree-programs/masters-in-transportation>
- Due to its success last year, the coalition decided to host another Safety Night during a Zephyrs game this summer. Chris Laborde will be handling the coordination of this event.
- Steve Millet of MAP supplied the coalition with incident summaries of the past 8 months. Statistics include:
  - 23,485 incidents responded to
  - 3,000 tires changed
  - 1,387 vehicles moved
  - 471,000 miles patrolled
- Bridget Gardner announced the plan to honor a group of Saved By the Belt recipients at the May coalition meeting. She volunteered to check the details of each nominee for eligibility if submitted to her by the meeting on March 18. As a reminder, a Saved By the Belt recipient must have been wearing his or her seatbelt in a crash that would have been more serious if it had not been used, and must not have been at fault for the crash.

*Next meeting:*

**\*Please note, due to Mardi Gras, the February meeting has been cancelled.**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

11:30 am: Lunch

12:00 pm: Safety coalition meeting

1:00 pm: Impaired Driving emphasis area meeting

Please contact us if you have questions, comments, or corrections to these notes.

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