

Technology Exchange

LOUISIANA LOCAL
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



30 Years of LTRC & LTAP

For over 30 years, the staff of LTRC has strived to merge resources of state government and universities to help identify, develop, and implement new technology to improve the state's transportation system. Over the last few decades, LTRC has evolved from a small state research department to a multi-facility center, boasting over 100 employees, both university and state alike, comprised of numerous state programs, research departments and laboratories, as well as state-of-art training resources.

The value that the center has brought to the state exceeds savings in the millions through projects such as those focusing on high strength concrete, instrumental monitoring of structures, and recycled asphalt pavements, just to name a few. In addition to the extensive research program, LTRC houses more essential programs and facilities than ever before, such as the Technology Transfer and Training Program; the Louisiana Technical Assistance Program (LTAP); the Louisiana Pavement Research Facility, which contains the Accelerated Loading Facility and ATLaS 30; the Engineering Materials Characterization and Research Facility (EMCRF); the Geotechnical Engineering Research Laboratory (GERL); Pavement on the Move (POM); the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Laboratory; and the Louisiana Center for Transportation Safety (LCTS).

2017 is the 30th year anniversary of the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) operating as a part of the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC). LTAP is part of Section 33 at LTRC, which leads Technology Transfer and Training efforts for DOTD. LTAP participated in LTRC's official anniversary celebration on March 8, 2017, at the Baton Rouge TTEC facility.

As part of this larger organization, LTAP has benefited from the blending of the DOTD and Louisiana State University (LSU) resources and leadership. The link from LTRC to DOTD has enabled LTAP to work in partnership with those DOTD offices and divisions that interact and impact the local agencies that LTAP was established to serve. LTAP has worked to respond to the needs of our customers and stakeholders and has expanded our services and programs into areas that were never imagined when the small program was founded. We look forward to another 30 years of collaboration that benefits Louisiana's local communities.

continued on page 2

CONTENTS

- Welcome Leo Marretta | 5
- Roads Scholar #3 | 5
- Improved LRSP Process Debuts | 6
- LTAP Spring Calendar | 6
- Every Day Counts | 8
- LPESA Spring Conference | 9
- Fall 2016 Class Reviews | 10
- LA APWA Receives Award | 13
- Work Zone Safety Awareness | 13
- Roads Scholar #10 | 14
- Chainsaw Safety Class Returns | 15



*Chainsaw Safety and Precision
Felling after storms*

The Local Technical Assistance
Program of the Louisiana
Transportation Research
Center in cooperation with
LADOTD, FHWA, and LSU.

www.louisianaltap.org

30 Years, *continued from page 1*

A Walk Down Memory Lane with LTAP

LTAP was officially established in 1987 to provide transportation-related information and training to local road authorities. Since 1987, LTAP has offered or sponsored nearly 2,800 classes, workshops or events, interacting with over 76,000 people. Over 200,000 contact hours have been logged. LTAP has continued to evolve and adapt to meet the new benefits and challenges offered by technology and changing workforce needs. Smart phones, e-mail, online training, and “there’s an app for that” are commonplace terms now that impact the world and the workforce in often unintended ways that certainly were not envisioned thirty years ago when computers were unusual in many offices. LTAP has responded to the changing needs of the transportation environment which includes an ever evolving regulatory environment, new technologies, aging and deteriorating roads and bridges and seemingly more frequent calls for disaster recovery. LTAP has partnered with DOTD and served as a liaison to local agencies and associations to address issues and challenges that impact the state’s transportation system regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.



*Roads Scholar #6
Heavy Equipment Operator Safety & Maintenance Training*

One of a network of 58 centers, the national LTAP Program was, and remains today, a partnership effort between the Federal Highway Administration, which provides funds for a minimum program, and each state DOT which matches the Federal share. The Louisiana LTAP, originally known as the Louisiana Technology Transfer or T² Center, has been located at LTRC since its inception. The LA LTAP has benefited from this stable and synergistic relationship and has expanded its services through the years to include working more closely with DOTD on many issues related to local transportation management, operations, and safety. The change from T² to LTAP occurred in 2005 when the national LTAP Program adopted a new strategic plan and changed its name to the more descriptive “local technical assistance program.”

In the Beginning: The Required Six Tasks

The T²/LTAP Center began with the charge from FHWA to provide a list of six basic services: Maintain a database and mailing list; conduct training classes and workshops; maintain a lending library; provide technical assistance; publish a newsletter; and, evaluate the program effectiveness. Starting with two full-time employees in 1987, the T² Center began with a program of basic introductory training on local road management topics including asphalt pavement maintenance; soil stabilization and several mini workshops upon request for a total of 14 events serving 350 people. The next year saw the number of events jump to 47 with nearly 1,200 participants.

The 1990s saw continued growth in the number of classes and events as well as the number of agencies and participants served. The Roads Scholar Program was implemented with a series of classes addressing all major areas of local road management including the basics of a good road; pavement management; drainage, work zone and traffic safety, bridge inspection and maintenance, more core and elective classes. The T² staff expanded and by 2004 an annual average of over 100 classes and events were held involving nearly 3,300 primarily local participants.

continued on page 3



*Roads Scholar #13
Inspection of Local Bridges*



Conducting an RSA

LTAP Branches Out: Emergency Preparedness, Road Safety, LPA, NBIS, and More

In 2005, the history-making storms, Katrina and Rita hit Louisiana, devastating communities across the state. The LTAP Center responded by conducting after-action reviews with local agencies and developing new programs to enhance preparedness of local agency personnel to be able to safely respond to emergency situations. Classes were taught statewide in cooperation with state and parish emergency response agencies using materials adapted from FEMA and other sources. This training is regularly updated and continues to the present. The all-time most “popular” course offering, “Chain Saw Safety and Precision Felling After Storms,” was delivered statewide to hundreds of state and local road agency public works employees and other first responders. This is a class that continues to be offered on a rotating basis garnering hundreds of attendees.

In 2006, LTAP became a member of the state Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Team, and the Local Road Safety Program was formed and housed in LTAP. This level of involvement of an LTAP in state and local road safety was relatively unique nationally at the time and was the start of a strong partnership between DOTD and LTAP. LTAP efforts have included crash and road characteristic data analysis, technical assistance, training and project development for local road safety projects, as well as outreach and coordination with the locals. The LRSP under the guidance of LTAP and is now the primary mechanism for implementing strategic safety improvements on the local road network. The partnership between DOTD and Louisiana LTAP has been cited as a model of collaboration and included in a number of national best practice studies and peer exchanges.



Signing the SHSP, 2006

LTAP, DOTD, and FHWA have also worked extensively as partners to help the state meet mandated standards and performance measures in the Local Public Agency (LPA) program and the National Bridge Inventory System (NBIS.) LTAP worked with

continued on page 4

30 Years, *continued from page 3*

FHWA and DOTD LPA program managers to develop a series of classes to introduce the many requirements of applying for and utilizing federal aid dollars on the local level. Over 1,700 local and state representatives have participated in the LPA Core Training program for nearly 10,000 contact hours since 2012. LTAP received the 2013 Transportation Excellence Award from DOTD for Special Achievement in Customer Satisfaction for Improving the LADOTD/LPA Partnership. Changes in inspection and reporting procedures as well as new performance metrics prompted the DOTD Bridge Sections and LTAP to partner together along with the Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association (LPESA) to design and deliver new and updated training and outreach programs. In addition, LTAP coordinated a pilot project to define, request, and collect required documents to meet state performance metrics mandated by the FHWA for bridge rating and documentation.

The Road Ahead: Collaboration, Innovation, and Implementation Relationships: We've all Got Them

LTAP has expanded both the type and extent of our traditional training and workshops to other activities that have benefited FHWA and DOTD as our federal and state partners as well as the over 360 local public agencies across the state. This has only been possible through the partnerships and relationships that we have forged and maintained through the years. Many different DOTD offices oversee programs that impact the locals and LTAP works with all of them on behalf of our local customers. The Louisiana FWHA also has responsibilities for local programs which is another opportunity for LTAP to be the bridge between different levels of government. LTAP looks forward to our continued membership on the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) to identify and implement new and innovative practices at the DOTD and local level and to support the deployment of the FHWA sponsored Every Day Counts (EDC) initiatives. A stakeholder partnering project with an emphasis on improving project delivery for federally funded projects will be kicked off this year. This is an important EDC initiative that will greatly benefit local agencies.

At the state association level, LTAP has long worked with our friends at the Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA) and the Police Jury Association of Louisiana (PJAL.) LTAP has presented and exhibited at their annual meetings for decades and has co-sponsored special training and educational sessions with both groups on special topics of interest ranging from road safety, traffic policies, bridge program compliance, access management, federal aid funding programs and more. LTAP has also expanded its relationships with customer groups such as the LPESA, American Public Works Association, Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the DOTD supported Regional Safety Coalitions.

The challenges and opportunities related to the improvement of the local transportation systems and in statewide safety present future goals for LTAP and its partners. LTAP's history of collaboration and high quality service to all of its partners provides a sound foundation to continue in the future and to adapt to meet the needs of an ever-changing transportation environment.



Roads Scholar #4: Temporary Traffic Control for Local Agencies

LTAP and the LRSP Welcome Leo Marretta

LTAP welcomes Leo Marretta as the statewide Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) Manager. Leo has a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida Atlantic University and 20+ years of experience in the planning profession. He has worked in many facets of planning, including transportation, land use, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), road safety, and long-term disaster recovery planning. Prior to coming on board with LTAP, Leo spent the last 10 years at South Central Planning and Development Commission in Houma. Serving as the regional planning commission's Transportation Division Director, he was responsible for oversight of the daily operations of the Houma-Thibodaux MPO, which provides for transportation planning and intergovernmental coordination between the local member jurisdictions and their state and federal partners. In this role, he supervised the South Central Safety Coalition which has a long history of promoting safety including "Zero in December" in the state's most southern parishes.



*Leonard P.
Marretta*

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Roads Scholar #3: Drainage: The Key to Roads that Last



LTAP's newest class, "Roads Scholar #3: Drainage: The Key to Roads that Last," debuted on February 9 in Alexandria to a crowd of over 50 people with excellent reviews! Participants from that class said that now that they have taken the class they will "inspect culverts more regularly and frequently"; "check drains more thoroughly"; "take a more complete documentation of our drainage systems"; and "change our agency's priorities - be more aware of what's happening with our drainage systems to help them function properly." This class is taught by Jim Ferguson, P.E., CFM, of AJ Ferguson Jr. Consulting Services, who has over 20 years' experience in the field of civil engineering.

For roads that last, proper drainage is critical. In much of Louisiana managing drainage can be difficult for road owners given the nature of our climate, soils, and topography. Roadway problems commonly found in Louisiana as a result are saturated soils, ditches that never dry out, vegetation, sediment, and obstructions in ditches and pipes, etc.

Course Objectives:

- Recognize the Problems associated with Drainage
- Know the Factors involved with Drainage
- Understand the Basic Hydrologic Cycle
- Know the Drainage Characteristics and Principles
- Be familiar with Roadway Protective Measures
- Understand Types of Drainage Systems
- Inspection Procedures for Drainage Systems
- Maintenance of Drainage Systems and Basic Good Practices

Be sure to check out our class schedule on page 6.

LTAP's Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) Announces New Streamlined Process

With the new year, LTAP is pleased to announce that the Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) has been revamped to incorporate a new and improved project development, approval, and implementation process.

The LRSP is one of the mechanisms used to implement the infrastructure component of the DOTD's statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) at the local level. The SHSP's mission is Destination Zero Deaths.

Since its inception in 2007, over 140 projects of all types and sizes, across the state have been funded to enhance transportation safety on locally owned roads. Ongoing projects include signing and pavement marking upgrades and rumble strips to reduce roadway departure crashes; intersection improvements; roundabouts; traffic studies; guardrail installation; and many others.

Changes to the program this year include ...

- A new statewide Local Road Safety Program Manager housed at LTAP in Baton Rouge, who will attend the Regional Safety Coalition's quarterly "Infrastructure and Operations" Emphasis Area meetings to facilitate use of the program by local jurisdictions.
- A round of DOTD facilitated Crash Data Workshops for each of Louisiana's nine local "Regional Safety Coalitions" across the state. The purpose of these workshops is to demonstrate the approved data driven methodology for analyzing the last five years of crash data released by

the state. The results of that analysis can be readily incorporated into parish or municipal local road safety plans and as the justification to apply for safety improvement projects through the LRSP.

- The LRSP application is being updated to allow for a simplified and streamlined submittal by local jurisdictions utilizing the data packages and/or a local road safety plan to prioritize safety improvement project for funding.

These efforts are supported by an increased emphasis on local coordination through your local Regional Safety Coalition's Infrastructure and Operations Emphasis Area subcommittees.

- The Local Road Safety Program application process is now open year round with individual projects being selected, evaluated, and approved on a quarterly basis.
- The Local Road Safety Program projects can be 100% federally funded, with no local match required.
- Local Road Safety Program projects are now designed to be "turn-key" – that is to say DOTD will provide all required aspects of project development from design/engineering all the way to construction/installation "in house." This means that, once a project application is approved and the local jurisdiction receiving the project signs the entity state agreement, DOTD will manage the project through both design and construction in cooperation with the sponsoring jurisdiction. Upon completion of the project, the entity is responsible for all maintenance related to the project improvements.

LTAP Spring Training Calendar

Roads Scholar #3: Drainage: The Key to Roads that Last

May 11, 2017 – Benton
Bossier Parish Courthouse Annex
200 Burt Boulevard | Benton, LA 71006

August 31, 2017 — Covington
St. Tammany Parish Public Works Complex
620 N Tyler St. | Covington, LA 70433

September 14, 2017 — West Monroe
Cheniere Lake Lodge
104 Cheniere Lake Dr. | W. Monroe, LA 71292

September 28, 2017 — Lafayette
Lafayette Utilities System
1314 Walker Road | Lafayette, LA 70506

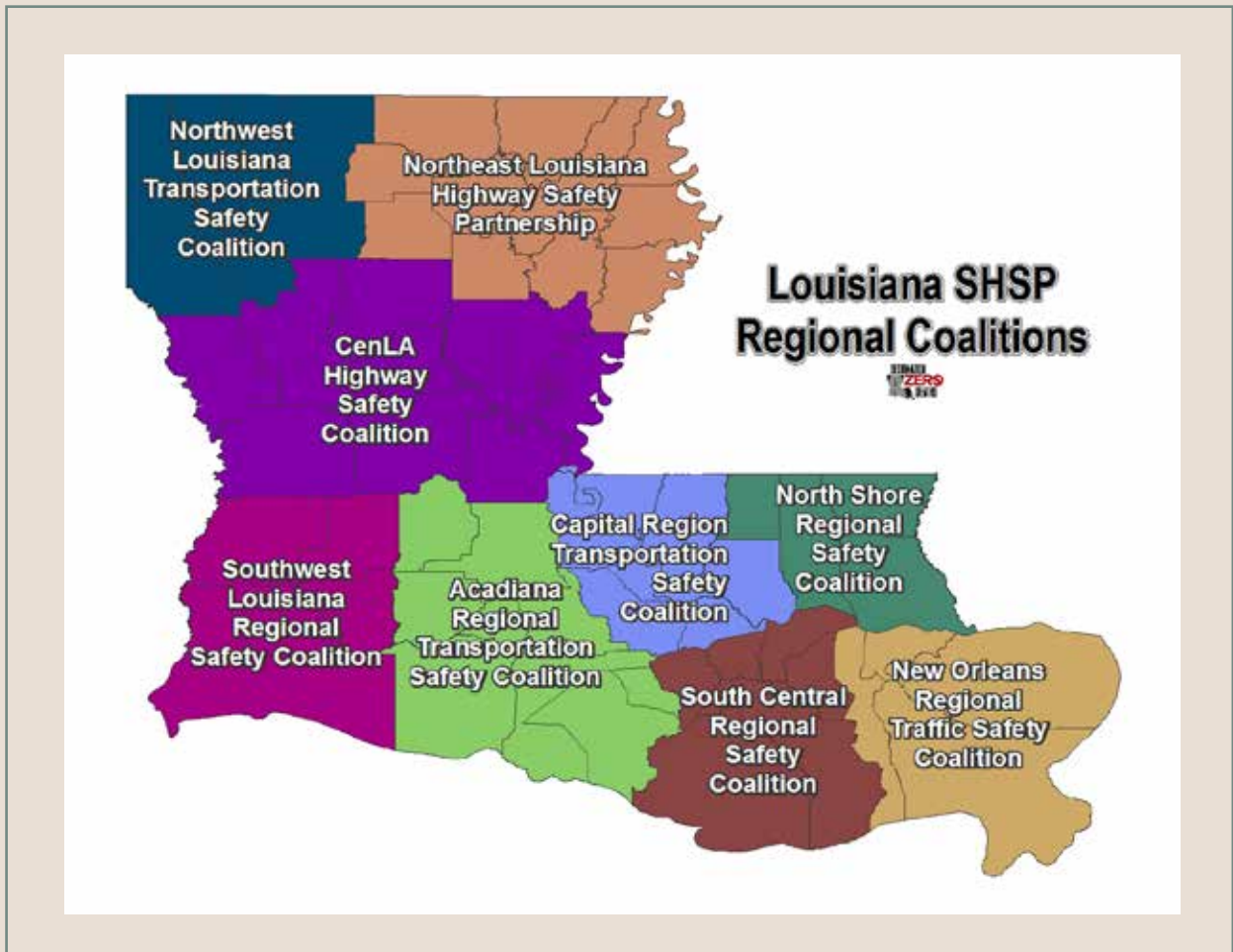
Chainsaw Safety, Precision Felling and Maintenance

Tentative Schedule:
May 23, 2017 – Lake Charles
May 24, 2017 – West Monroe
May 25, 2017 – Baker
May 26, 2017 – Covington

LPESA 2017 Spring Conference

May 3-4, 2017 – Marksville, Paragon Casino

Visit www.louisianaltap.org for registration details.



For more information, please contact Statewide LRSP Manager Leo Marretta.

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or your local Transportation Safety Coalition Coordinator:

North Shore Regional Safety Coalition

Nelson Hollings - *nhollings@norpc.org* - (504) 483-8523

New Orleans Regional Traffic Safety Coalition

Dan Jatres - *djatres@norpc.org* - (504) 483-8505

Capital Region Transportation Safety Coalition

Kenyatta Robertson - *krobertson@crpcla.org* - (225) 383-5203

Acadiana Transportation Safety Coalition

Melissa Newell - *MNewell@planacadiana.org* - (337) 806-9367

Southwest Regional Safety Coalition

Megan Romero - *megan@imcal.la* - (337) 433 1771

Central Louisiana Regional Safety Coalition

Sooraz Patro - *sooraz@rapc.info* - (318) 487-5401 ext.: 34

Northwest Regional Safety Coalition

Shelly Barrett - *Shelly.Barrett@nlcog.org* - (318) 841-5950

Northeast Louisiana Highway Safety Partnership

Cynthia Perdue - *cynthia@northdelta.org* - (318) 387-2572

South Central Regional Safety Coalition

Cassie Parker - *cassie@scpcdc.org* - (985) 851-2900 ext. 2165

Every Day Counts: Making Transportation Systems Better, Faster, and Smarter

Since 2009, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has partnered with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in an effort known as Every Day Counts, or EDC, designed to call attention to and promote innovations that are considered underutilized at the State and local level, yet could be used to improve the delivery of safe and efficient transportation systems to the people of the United States. EDC Innovations are selected by FHWA in cooperation with the States through their State Transportation Innovation Councils (STICs), and the technologies cover the range of planning, design, and construction, maintenance, and operations functions. Through a series of summits, webinars, and published media, information is provided to potential users on the technologies, best practices for deployment, and lessons learned from early implementers of the innovations.

One innovation adopted from the first round of EDC Innovations was the Safety Edge, or Shoulder Wedge as it is called in Louisiana. This technique for shaping the edge of an asphalt pavement significantly improves the ability of an errant vehicle to reenter the roadway without loss of control, as can be the case with traditional pavement edge drop-offs. Part of the EDC -1 series in 2011-12, Safety Edge has been incorporated into Louisiana DOTD standards for asphalt paving. It is expected to significantly reduce the incidence of vehicle loss of control following roadway departure, one of the leading causes of fatalities and serious injuries on rural roads in Louisiana.

EDC is now in its fourth manifestation. Some of the EDC-4 innovations being promoted in 2017 and 2018 include:

- “Pavement Preservation: When, Where, and How,” aimed at effective methods of planning and choosing pavement maintenance treatments.
- “Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP),” promoting pedestrian safety at uncontrolled crossing locations using proven and cost-effective countermeasures like H.A.W.K.S. and road diets.

Other EDC-4 innovations of interest to ITE members include:

- Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures
- Data-Driven Safety Analysis
- Road Weather Management
- Using Data to Improve Traffic Incident Management



- Community Connections, an innovation aimed at emphasizing the value of transportation in revitalizing communities, as many urban corridors reaching the end of their useful lives come due for retrofitting, rehabilitation, or even removal

Past EDC lists have included:

- Road Diets
- Smarter Work Zones
- High-Friction Surface Treatments
- New innovations in Interchange and Intersection Geometrics
- Adaptive Signal Control Technology

The EDC-4 Innovations were selected based on solicitation from many in the transportation community, including ITE members. Once the selections were made, one or more webinars explaining the details of each innovation were held in various parts of the country, and a series of in-person EDC Exchange summits was conducted in the fall of 2016. Additional training materials are available online, and workshops and Train-the-Trainer events are being scheduled in the New Year. The entire list of EDC innovations along with links to the recorded webinars and other information can be obtained on the FHWA website at https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_4/. Information can also be obtained by contacting the STIC members in your state, or from your state’s LTAP Center.



Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association Spring Conference



Save the Date!

LPESA 2017 Spring Conference
May 3-4, 2017
Paragon Casino Resort
Marksville, LA

Tentative Meeting Agenda – Subject to Change

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

- Legislative Update
Roland Dartez, PJAL
- Louisiana Statewide Flood Control Program
Chris Knotts, P.E./Billy Williamson, P.E., Louisiana DOTD
- Soil Stabilization and Roadway Foundation Issues
Craig Duos, Southeast Engineers, Baton Rouge, LA (Invited)
- Associate Member Showcase 1
Asphalt Zipper and Pavement Rehab Strategies
Corey Craig, Roadside, Inc.
- Road Inventory, Distress Identification, and Asset Management
Dan Goodell, Civil-Link, Southaven, MS
- Associate Member Showcase 2
Pavement Preservation – Scrub Seals
Stan Williams, Ergon

Thursday, May 4, 2017

- Affordable Asset Management and Pavement Inventory Training
Terry McNinch, PublicWorksTraining.com, Hancock, Michigan
- LTAP Training / Safety Updates
Steve Strength, P.E., LTAP Program Manager
Leo Marretta, AICP, LTAP Local Road Safety Program Manager
- Every Day Counts Innovations for Local Agencies
Mary Stringfellow, P.E., Louisiana Division, FHWA
- Documentation and Diligence: Solving the Flooded Road Reimbursement Issue – Panel Discussion
Kevin Gaspard, P.E., LTRC/DOTD
Mary Stringfellow, P.E., Louisiana Division, FHWA
Local Experience Representatives - TBD
- Bridge Compliance Updates
David Miller, Nick Fagerburg, Steven Sibley, and Bill King, DOTD

***Don't miss the LPESA Social Event at the Paragon
Wednesday Night at 6:00-8:30pm!***

Fall 2016 Class Reviews

Road Safety 365: A Safety Workshop for Local Governments

Last August and September, LTAP's debuted a new safety class called Road Safety 365. We brought it to 9 locations and trained over 185 people. The workshop focused on incorporating safety into all aspects of local and rural road management activities, and on making safety a priority through inclusion in the traditional decision-making process 365 days a year. The course was taught by safety expert and 31-year DOTD veteran Program Manager Steven C. Strength, P.E., PTOE, who currently serves as the co-chair of the Louisiana Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Infrastructure and Operations Statewide Implementation Team, and is the Senior Technical Advisor for the Local Road Safety Program.

The course illustrated how safety can be integrated into rural/local transportation project development at all stages, including planning, programming, design, construction, operations, and maintenance, and offered an overview of the network screening process using available local crash data. LTAP wants to thank all of the Regional Coalition Safety Coordinators for helping us coordinate these courses and making these workshops a huge success!

You Said It!

Now that I've had this training class I will...

- Pay more attention to possible road safety hazards, signage.
- Take more site visits to have a better read on the roadway.
- Encourage the crews to report issues even if it is not in their line of work.
- Share information.
- Train other employees.
- Learn to look and define problem areas and solutions to fix them.
- Evaluate and implement low cost countermeasures.
- Look into resource handouts of coalition.
- Think safety first—It is everyone's responsibility to report all hazards.
- Build a safety culture.
- Renew maintenance routine to incorporate safety measures and look at crash data for opportunities to use simple countermeasures.



Steven C. Strength, P.E., PTOE, teaches Road Safety 365 in Baton Rouge.

You Said It!

Now that I've had this training class I will ...

- Coach, motivate, and listen to my employees.
- I will plan and organize more.
- Communicate more efficiently with my employees.
- Be a better supervisor.
- Teach my employees the concept of being a good leader so that they have the possibility to advance to the next level.
- Get to know my workers better, work on communication.

Roads Scholar #8 – Successful Supervision for Local Road Supervisors

LTAP trained approximately 180 people in Roads Scholar #8: Successful Supervision for Local Road Supervisors in 8 locations across the state last November and December. The class was taught by Roger Shields (Brigadier General, United States Army Retired). Shields works for Neel-Schaffer Engineering as their Training/Safety Coordinator and has a background in leadership and management training. This class aimed to help the new supervisor develop the necessary skills that will enable him/her to more effectively and confidently function in a supervisory capacity.

Course Topics Included:

- Roles and Responsibilities of the Supervisor
- What Good Supervisors Do Well
- Effective Communication
- Planning and Delegating
- Performance Management
- Developing a Personal Action Plan



Instructor Roger Shields teaches supervisory skills to an enthusiastic crowd of almost 50 people in Covington.

Fall 2016 Class Reviews (continued)

RS#6B – Preventive Maintenance

Steve Price of International Training Services, Inc. debuted a brand new class with LTAP last fall called Roads Scholar #6B: Preventive Maintenance of Heavy Equipment for Operators and Supervisors. Over 200 people were trained in 8 locations across the state. This training class covered heavy equipment preventative maintenance best practices as recommended by leading equipment manufacturers. The workshops focused on all aspects of maintenance from pre-start and shutdown inspection of equipment, to operator checks and periodic maintenance. Price explained in detail the importance of proper maintenance practices as they relate to keeping the equipment operating costs down and getting the best performance from the machine. A large element of this training was devoted to operators' understanding and knowledge of maintenance practices since they are the first line of defense to keeping equipment in good mechanical order. Supervisors also benefited from attending the class as Price discussed the kinds of decisions they needed to make on maintenance issues since they are ultimately responsible for the equipment and operators at their job sites.

You Said It!

Now that I've had this training class I will ...

- Actually read the maintenance manuals that come with our equipment!
- Take much better care of our equipment.
- Stay focused, be safe, and careful while taking better care of the machinery.
- Be more responsible with the machine, monitor oil levels, grease the tracks, etc.
- Give proper maintenance training to my employees.
- Budget for maintenance.
- Check the machine thoroughly; do rigging, fluid checking, and greasing.



Instructor Steve Price runs through a proper maintenance check as detailed by the maintenance guide for this tractor with class participants in Hammond.

Louisiana APWA Received PACE Award



The Louisiana Chapter of the American Public Works Association received their first ever PACE Award in 2016. The PACE Award recognizes APWA chapters for their positive impact on their membership, their profession and their community. The Chapter showed excellence with its service to the chapter members, advancement of Public Works, and service to the community. The board members were particularly proud of the Toys-For-Tots drive that was held throughout the state and provided toys to many children. In addition, the Chapter instituted its first social media site which it uses to keep its members up-to-date on events throughout the state.

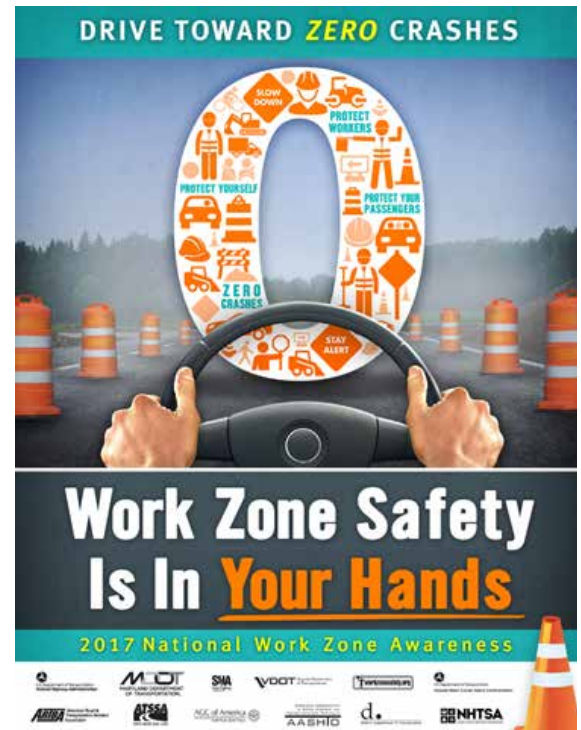
LTAP serves on the board of the Baton Rouge branch as part of its national partnership with APWA. LTAP provides support and training opportunities for APWA members throughout the year and as part of APWA's National Public Works Week.

Work Zone Safety Is in Your Hands

LTAP observed Work Zone Awareness Week April 3-7 along with other safety partners around Louisiana. LTAP taught its half-day “Basics of Work Zone Safety/Basic Flagger” workshop at the River Parishes Arena in Tangipahoa Parish during the week, promoting standards for temporary traffic control found in the MUTCD, as well as techniques that local agency employees can use to keep workers and road users safe in work zones. Workshops have also been conducted so far in 2017 for the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, the Lafayette Utilities System, Baton Rouge Community College in Port Allen, Jefferson Parish Sewage Department, and the East Baton Rouge Department of Public Works. In the past year over 30 sessions were held with more than 700 participants.

Nationally, 700 people were killed in roadway work zones in 2015, an increase of 5% over 2014 and the deadliest toll since 2008. Work zone fatalities had been declining from their peak of 1,026 killed in the year 2000 to a low of 586 in 2010, before rebounding recently. Injuries in work zones also increased from 2014, with more than 35,000 injured in 2015, according to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse and FHWA.

LTAP's Basics class is available upon request by visiting www.louisianaltap.org, or by contacting Steven Strength, P.E., PTOE, at steve.strength@la.gov.



Federal, state, and private organizations promote National Work Zone Awareness in April each year.

Roads Scholar #10: Unpaved and Gravel Roads



As part of Louisiana LTAP's commemoration of 30 years of service to local agencies, a revised Roads Scholar class, "Roads Scholar #10: Unpaved and

Gravel Roads" was held at three locations in March. This training class was taught by the man who literally wrote the book on gravel road management. Ken Skorseth of South Dakota has spent over 40 years studying unpaved roads all throughout the United States and as far away as New Zealand. His experience entails work in the highway and heavy construction industries, management of a county highway department, and over 22 years as the Field Service Manager/Program Manager of the South Dakota Local Transportation Assistance Program at South Dakota State University.

During his tenure at South Dakota LTAP, Ken educated engineers, managers, elected officials, and maintenance workers on subjects such as gravel road maintenance, low-volume road maintenance and management. He also served as the lead author of the Federal Highway Administration's Gravel Roads Construction and Maintenance Guide. In 2011, Ken's contributions to the industry earned him an induction into the South Dakota Department of Transportation Hall of Honor for his lifetime contributions to local transportation in South Dakota and the nation.

Unpaved and gravel roads offer unique challenges to local road agencies in many of Louisiana's rural parishes. The course focused on basic geometry of unpaved roads, importance of drainage, causes of common distress on unpaved roads, aggregate material issues, and stabilization and dust control. The course also included discussion of motor grader knowledge and skill requirements. The full day schedule in Opelousas and West Monroe featured a field demonstration of techniques presented in the classroom, with a local agency providing a motor grader and operator for the demonstration. Establishing proper crown, blading shoulders, setting the moldboard for mixing of aggregate, and articulation of the motor grader to improve stability were some of the techniques covered. In addition, Skorseth drew on his vast experience with unpaved roads, with plenty of anecdotes and humorous accounts from his long career, including his son's recent Father's Day gift of a 1946 vintage motor grader in operating condition, which Ken now tinkers with on his farm!



Demonstration of a motor grader operation during the Gravel Roads class at the Yambilee enter in Opelousas.



Ken Skorseth of South Dakota LTAP coaches participants on using a laser level to measure cross slope during the Roads Scholar Gravel Roads class in Opelousas.

A limited number of hard copies of the *Gravel Roads Construction and Maintenance Guide* are still available from the Louisiana LTAP Center. Send an email to steve.strength@la.gov to reserve your copy. The guide is also available online at www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/pubs/ots15002.pdf.

LTAP to Bring Back Popular Class

During May 23–26, Rip Tompkins and LTAP will be on the road across Louisiana to provide one of our most well-attended classes, “Chainsaw Safety, Precision Felling and Maintenance.” Tompkins, Vice President of ArborMaster Training, has provided fun and educational classes for Louisiana’s local public agencies in the past and will no doubt keep that tradition going.

His objective for this class is to provide crew members and their supervisors the training needed when dealing with routine chainsaw use as well as the proper techniques for clearing up fallen trees and debris after harsh storms.

Other areas covered in this class include:

- Safety and Risk Management
- Felling Procedures
- Specialized Cutting Situations
- Chainsaw Maintenance, Operation, and Cutting

Coinciding with National Public Works Week (May 21–27), the following locations will provide these classes:

- May 23- Lake Charles
- May 24- West Monroe
- May 25- Baton Rouge
- May 26- Hammond

Classes include indoor lecture and demonstrations, yet it is the outdoors where the real action is! There, Tompkins will be able to engage with the class giving natural examples and settings. If you plan on attending one of these events, please remember to bring a hard hat, eye and ear protection.

Register today at louisianaltap.org.

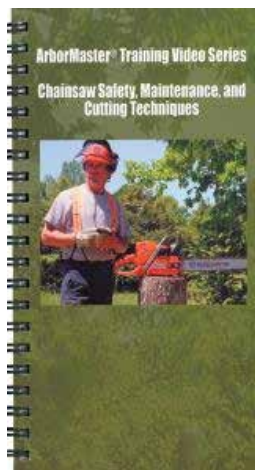
For more information, contact Courtney Dupre at Courtney.dupre@la.gov.



Students are shown parts of a chainsaw's Cutting Tooth.



Rip Tompkins (in orange helmet) demonstrates the purpose of his cutting procedures.



Attendees of this Chainsaw Safety class will receive one of ArborMaster's Training books, which includes extensive information on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), mechanics of chainsaws, felling techniques, and more.



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The purpose of the Local Technical Assistance Center is to provide technical materials, information, and training to help local government agencies in Louisiana maintain and improve their roads and bridges in a cost-effective manner. To accomplish this purpose, we publish a quarterly newsletter; conduct seminars, workshops, and mini-workshops covering various aspects of road and transportation issues; provide a lending library service of audio/visual programs; provide technical assistance through phone and mail-in requests relating to transportation technology; and undertake special projects of interest to municipalities in Louisiana.