Getting Started

The Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) got off to a great start in 2006. The Program was coordinated and implemented by LTAP in partnership with, and support from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Federal Highway Administration. Marie Walsh introduced components of the new program at the Police Jury Association meeting in Alexandria in February. The meeting participants were excited to hear about new program, including the technical assistance and training that was being offered. The real excitement was generated by the announcement of the funding for low cost safety improvements, which totaled nearly $4 million. The funds were made available last year. Dozens of agencies took advantage of LTAP’s on-site, free-of-charge workshops. Webinars and other e-learning opportunities are becoming more affordable and easier to access than ever before. Be sure to include LTAP in your employee development and training programs for 2007! Register for the classes of your choice, or call to get more information on the special classes or programs that are available.

Cont. on page 2

Local Road Safety Program

Training, Technical Assistance, and Road Safety Improvement Fund!

LTAP offered a wide variety of training and professional development opportunities in 2006. 2007 promises to be an even busier year. We are offering new classes as well as perennial favorites that will provide information that can be put to use immediately.

Thousands of participants attended LTAP’s training classes and professional development opportunities last year. Dozens of agencies took advantage of LTAP’s on-site, free-of-charge workshops. Webinars and other e-learning opportunities are becoming more affordable and easier to access than ever before. Be sure to include LTAP in your employee development and training programs for 2007! Register for the classes of your choice, or call to get more information on the special classes or programs that are available.

Cont. on page 3

In this issue:
Looking Back at 2006 - 4
LRSP Eligible Projects - 6
Drive Safe Louisiana - 10
Work Zone Safety Week - 5
NIMS Compliance - 9

A LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE LOUISIANA TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH CENTER IN COOPERATION WITH LADOTD, FHWA, AND LSU.
Roads Scholar Classes

LTAP has a full Roads Scholar schedule planned for 2007. This should enable new Roads Scholar program participants to attend a number of classes and allow many long term participants to finish the requirements and graduate. The following classes are scheduled for the first half of 2007. Check the LTAP Web site for registration information.

- RS #2 – Asphalt Roads: Common Maintenance Problems and RS #7 – Chip Seals and Surface Treatments
  April 10 - Baton Rouge
  April 11 - Metairie
  April 12 - Madisonville
  April 24 - Lake Charles
  April 25 - Rayne
  April 30 - Bossier City
  May 1 - Ruston
  May 2 - Alexandria

- RS #13a – Maintenance and Repair Techniques for Local Bridges
  May 8 - Madisonville
  May 9 - Metairie
  May 10 - Baton Rouge
  May 15 - Rayne
  May 16 - Lake Charles
  May 22 - Bossier City
  May 23 - Ruston
  May 24 - Alexandria

Special Classes

Tractor and Mower Operator Safety Training
March 26 - Lake Charles
March 27 - Crowley
March 28 - Patterson
March 29 - Hammond
This is a special class with limited enrollment.

Leveling for Heavy Equipment Operators II
March 30 - Port Allen
April 3 - Metairie
May 15 - Ruston
May 16 - Alexandria

Contact David McFarland at 225-767-9118 for information for these two classes.

Road Safety Audits
(no charge)
Baton Rouge, May 8 and 9
Funds for travel reimbursement may be available for local government personnel. Contact Marie Walsh for more information.

On-site Workshops
Call David McFarland at 225-767-9118 to request special presentations at your worksite. Don’t miss the opportunity to take advantage of this great training resource.

Supervisor Development Programs
Contact Marie Walsh at 225-767-9184 for a consultation and to plan a program that best meets your needs.

Webinars and Distance Learning Opportunities
There are several organizations that offer high quality and timely training classes and seminars via the internet. LTAP will sponsor these classes at your location (or at a facility in your area equipped to receive the broadcast). Two popular providers are the ITE and APWA. Check out their Web sites at www.ite.org/education/webinars.asp and www.apwa.net/Events to see what is coming up.

If you are interested in these online courses, contact Bob Breaux at 225-767-9117 for more information.
Local Road Safety Program (cont. from page 1)

through LA DOTD’s Highway Safety Section and the applications were for local safety improvements.

**Information and Education**

LTAP toured the state, holding informational meetings to further publicize the program and to describe the application process for the road safety improvement project funding. The informational meetings were followed by a series of classes, Road Safety Fundamentals and Low Cost Safety Improvements, which provided basic road safety information as well as tips on selecting projects and completing the application.

**Safety Improvement Project Applications**

A total of 54 applications were submitted for funding for local road safety improvements. Notification of project awards took place on January 15, 2007. Types of projects included: upgrade and replacement of signs and pavement markings on selected roads or throughout an entire jurisdiction, roundabouts, traffic signals, line of site improvements, culvert end treatments, and pedestrian walkways. Other applicants requested variable message boards, access management plans, and data collection and management systems. Yet another applicant requested funding for a curve warning signal with a radar-detected speed indicator.

Additional information was requested for many of the applications in order to better evaluate the effectiveness of the projects and the cost estimates. The LTAP project team was excited by the number and quality of the project applications and looks forward to even more applications in 2007. A list of eligible projects and approximate awards are shown on page 6 of this newsletter.

**Looking Ahead - Highlights Planned for 2007**

The LRSP will continue to provide services to assist local road agencies in improving local road safety. These services will include training and education, engineering, technical assistance, and collaboration with road safety partners. LTAP will coordinate LRSP activities to support the goals and objectives of the newly adopted Louisiana Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Highlights of the 2007 LRSP program will include:

- Increased focus on opportunities for improvement of safety at intersections and curves and reduction of roadway departures on local roads.
- Improved crash data collection, management and analysis, and coordination between transportation agencies and law enforcement.
- Introduction of public information campaigns and education strategies on driver behavior.
- Technical training and education to include Road Safety Assessments, Temporary Traffic Control, Low Cost Safety Improvements, and Signs and Pavement Markings.
- Hands-on “How-To Workshops” on intersection safety, roadway departures, and curves.
- On-site technical assistance from experienced traffic safety engineers.
- Award of project funding from the 2006 application process and implementation of projects.
- Solicitation and acceptance of 2007 Road Safety Improvement Projects.
- Regional opportunities to participate in close to home road safety improvement activities.

**Stay in Touch Using LTAP’s Web site and E-mail Distribution**

Information and updates on the Local Road Safety Program activities will be posted to the LTAP Web site at www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap.
Looking Back at 2006

Training Classes

LTAP presented over 130 training classes in 2006. More than 3,000 participants took advantage of the over 18,000 hours of training. These classes included traditional Roads Scholar Classes, such as Introduction to Louisiana Off-System Bridge Inspection, Basics of a Good Road, Drainage: the Key to Roads that Last, and Heavy Equipment Operations: Safety and Preventive Maintenance. Special topic classes presented included several focused on emergency response: Operational Safety for Public Works Responders to Natural Disasters and Chain Saw Safety: Precision Felling and Hazardous Cutting Situations After Storms. The Chain Saw Safety class, in particular, garnered high praise from participants. Other new special topics classes included Performing Basic Maintenance Leveling and Grading Preparation.

Supervisory Training

Two public works organizations requested supervisory development programs for their public works departments. LTAP responded with a series of modular classes presented over 12 days to four different groups of supervisors. LTAP started with a standardized format and then modified it to meet the specific needs of the agencies.

Webinars and Online Training

LTAP sponsored a number of short webinars for traffic professionals, presented through the Institute for Traffic Engineers (ITE). These short seminars were broadcasted nationally to multiple sites and included topics such as Signal Timing Fundamentals, Signal Timing for Congested Fundamentals, Traffic Calming, and Traffic Engineering Studies. These webinars were broadcasted at TTEC in Baton Rouge and, at the request of Lafayette Consolidated Government, at the DOTD Lafayette District office. LTAP also sponsored an APWA Click, Listen, and Learn web-based program.

“We definitely would jump at the chance to get him [Rip Tompkins] back. Seriously, this was the best class we have ever had. I really mean it. I am still getting calls and comments about how much everyone learned and enjoyed this class. If this is an example of the new direction that LTAP is going, then we are truly amazed and very excited with what the future has to hold!”

-Public Works Department Training Director

“In the aftermath of Rita, LTAP provided a seminar on chain saw safety, use, and maintenance, taught by Rip Tompkins [01-19-06]. In my opinion, this was the most timely and best presented program I had ever attended.”

-Superintendent
Meetings and Seminars

LTAP planned and coordinated or sponsored a number of meetings, conferences, and special events. LTAP participated in the program and arrangement committees for the two conferences presented by the Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association (LPESA). In addition, LTAP also worked with FHWA to present a series of “executive summaries” on roundabouts. Working with the LMA, PJA, LPESA, and the LSUCCC, LTAP helped coordinate statewide meetings on the new building code requirements for Louisiana local agencies.

Local Road Safety Program Training

In addition to the many LTAP training classes, workshops, and meetings, LTAP also partnered with the DOTD Highway Safety Section and the FHWA to kick off the Louisiana Local Road Safety Program. Numerous informational meetings were held around the state, and a series of introductory classes on Road Safety Fundamentals and Low Cost Safety Improvements were conducted. The Local Road Safety Program is discussed on pages 1 and 3, with a listing of the eligible projects on pages 6-8 of this newsletter.

“I have personally attended many of the Roads Scholar Courses and have never failed to be ‘educated’ by them. LTAP provides a valuable service to governmental employees and that service is always done in a very professional manner.”
-Superintendent, Drainage District

Work Zone Safety Awareness Week

The National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week (NWZSW) will be observed April 2-6, 2007, with a media event taking place on April 3, 2007. Louisiana will officially proclaim April 2-6 as Work Zone Safety Awareness Week.

Work zone fatalities have risen nearly 50 percent from 1997 to 2004, in contrast to the declining number of fatalities on the nation's roads. There were nearly 1,000 work zone fatalities in 2004, with four out of every five being the motorists themselves. In Louisiana alone, there were 12 highway work zone deaths in 2005, with a total of 147 work zone deaths since 1992.

Created in 1999, the National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week has brought these startling statistics to the attention of motorists everywhere. The theme for this year's NWZSW is “Signs of Change,” intended to draw attention to the advisory signs that warn motorists of work zones.

FHWA is leading this national campaign with partner agencies such as the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), Texas Transportation Institute, and National Association of County Engineers (NACE).

More information about NWZSW can be found at safety.fhwa.dot.gov and www.atssa.com.
LRSP Eligible Project Listing

City of Slidell
Mobile variable message boards to be used at locations around the city where road construction is taking place, to improve driver and public worker safety.

Approximate award: $38,000.

Calcasieu Parish
1. Accident data tracking software will allow the parish to more precisely pinpoint, through GIS mapping and data collection, the exact locations of accidents on parish roads. This will aid the parish engineers in conducting traffic engineering studies, making parish roads safer.

Approximate award: $24,000.

2. Sign tracking software will aid the parish in re-establishing and maintaining traffic signs for the safety of drivers in a timely and efficient manner. The MUTCD will soon require all government agencies to maintain a sign inventory system.

Approximate award: $18,000.

Town of Independence
A street sign project will allow the town to replace and maintain proper signage in the town, improving the safety of drivers.

Approximate award: $40,000.

Winn Parish
1. Striping and installation of curve advisory signs on a high traffic road will improve safety for drivers.

Approximate award: $100,000.

2. Striping and speed limits signs, as well as railroad crossing warning installations, will improve driver safety on a high traffic volume road.

Approximate award: $50,000.

3. Horizontal and vertical realignment of an intersection to improve sight distance.

Approximate award: $14,000.

City of Hammond
The city is adding and upgrading reflective striping on center and outer lanes, as well as adding advisory signs to collector streets to heighten visibility and promote driver safety.

Approximate award: $80,000.

Natchitoches Parish
The parish is installing a sign inventory program for new and replacement signs, to improve driver awareness and safety.

Approximate award: $90,000.

Jackson Parish
1. New computer hardware and software for collecting and maintaining road safety data.

Approximate award: $40,000.

2. Installation of new guardrails between drop-offs and the roadway, and placement of flowable fills.

Approximate award: $20,000.

3. Improving line-of-sight on a roadway by relocating junctions.

Approximate award: $60,000.


Approximate award: $50,000.

5. Horizontal and vertical realignment of an intersection to improve sight distance.
Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government

1. Creation of an access management plan.
   Approximate award: $70,000.

2. A sign/signal inventory system that updates work orders to the inventory database automatically, using handheld computers, therefore improving work order response times.
   Approximate award: $40,000.

3. Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of General Mouton and Taft Streets to improve driver safety.
   Approximate award: $430,000.

Acadia Parish

1. Thermoplastic pavement markings for 66 miles of centerlines to improve visibility at night and driver safety in poor weather conditions.
   Approximate award: $160,000.

2. Upgrade of the signage in the parish, as well the addition of a geographic information system (GIS) for inventory.
   Approximate award: $240,000.

Town of Cullen

Funding of striping for centerlines, road edges, and intersections to improve safety within corporate limits and traffic islands for the town’s busiest intersections.
   Approximate award: $140,000.

Town of Vivian

Construction of sidewalks between two public schools to provide a non-motorized path to safely allow students to walk to both schools. This sidewalk will eliminate the need for bike riders to ride on the street to school.
   Approximate award: $380,000.

Claiborne Parish

The project is for the parish to replace and upgrade signs on 714 miles of parish roads, improving driver safety and awareness.
   Approximate award: $180,000.

Jefferson Parish

Installation of two radar-controlled speed limits signs to advise drivers of curves, improving driver safety.
   Approximate award: $17,000.

City of New Iberia

1. Funding for a traffic study to determine the best way to improve traffic flow and driver safety at the intersection of Jefferson Terrace Boulevard and Admiral Doyle Drive.
   Approximate award: $10,000.

2. Construction of sidewalks alongside Jefferson Terrace Boulevard to improve pedestrian safety.
   Approximate award: $50,000.

Cont. on page 8
St. Tammany Parish
The project is for new thermoplastic pavement markings on roads to improve driver visibility and safety.

Approximate award: $80,000.

City of Kenner
The project is for a traffic study to determine options on a heavily traveled road and intersection.

Approximate award: $10,000.

Lincoln Parish
The project is for the improvement of the sight distance at Liner Street and Rough Edge Road by reducing the hill crest.

Approximate award: $190,000.

Town of Pearl River
The project is for increased signage and additional pavement markings on roadways, in order to improve driver visibility and safety.

Approximate award: $90,000.

Town of Rosepine
1. Installation of a pedestrian sidewalk to improve the safety of high school students traveling to and from school.

Approximate award: $70,000.

2. Installation of a sidewalk between the elementary and high school to give children and cyclists a safe means of traveling to and from school.

Approximate award: $140,000.

Town of Vinton
The project is for the replacement of older and faded signs, improving driver safety in the town.

Approximate award: $26,000.

Town of Kinder
Sidewalk installation along three town blocks to allow students to safely walk to and from school and avoid using the travel line occupied by motorized vehicles.

Approximate award: $90,000.

Franklin Parish
1. Installation of signs to bring parish signage up to MUTCD engineering standards. The project included four distant measuring instruments to help provide future inventory.

Approximate award: $160,000.

2. Placement of rumble strips will be installed on “Dummyline Road” to warn drivers of the intersection.

Approximate award: $1,000.

From the ITE
Bob Canfield of the Deep South ITE Chapter passes on the following piece of information:

FHWA has provided Interim Approval to the optional use of the flashing yellow arrow. You can go to: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-interim_approvals.htm for specific information. Be sure to understand that before you use this device, you must obtain specific FHWA approval.
“Are you NIMS Compliant?” That is the question that Skip Breeden, MEP and Guest LTAP Instructor, encourages each public works agency to investigate. In his previous role as Emergency Response Coordinator with East Baton Rouge City-Parish, Skip dealt with this question and ensured that all NIMS requirements were met for his organization. In his new position with the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP), he sees a widespread need for local agency leaders to better understand the NIMS requirements. Each agency needs to ensure that they have met the criteria for public works personnel training and credentials regarding emergency incidents to safeguard the eligibility for federal funding.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) establishes unified processes and procedures to be followed during critical incidents. A Presidential Executive Order requires that all local and state agencies whose resources might be needed for response adopt a NIMS-based, emergency response protocol. Agency staff from the executive level to the front line must also be trained in various aspects—the NIMS and Incident Command System (ICS).

Training requirements in 2006 that impacted public works departments included the NIMS training for levels 100, 200, 700, and 800. Much of this training was available online and was required for a wide range of public works personnel. While all designated personnel employed in 2006 should have received this training, agencies are reminded that new hires must also receive this training.

New training requirements in 2007 are aimed at the “command staff, general staff, and middle management” and includes Levels 300 and 400. These two classes can be completed in either 4 or 5 days depending on scheduling. The deadline for completion of this training is September 1, 2007.

The Governor’s OHSEP is planning a series of workshops in early 2007 to clarify the NIMS requirements and present options for meeting the training requirements at the local level. The schedule for these workshops will be available on OHSEP’s Web site at www.ohsep.louisiana.gov and also on the LTAP Web site at www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap.

These workshops will be conducted to provide information on implementation of the NIMS requirements to parish and state agencies. Information provided on the NIMS requirements includes training exercises, NIMS impact on federal grants, public information requirements, and planning requirements, as well as what steps agencies need to take in order to meet the new requirements. Job aids and other materials will be provided to attendees to assist agencies that have NIMS requirements for FY 2007. All local agencies that have requirements under the NIMS directive should appoint a NIMS Point of Contact and send this POC to one of the regional workshops. Parish emergency management directors, as well as other parish officials, will be contacted to develop a list of agencies that will be invited to attend.

Agencies are reminded that all training must be properly documented and that clear designation of required training for work groups and individuals should also be documented. This documentation should be available for review by oversight agencies working to ensure compliance.

Extensive information on emergency response and NIMS may be found at www.fema.gov/emergency/nims.

Contact Mr. Skip Breeden, Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, at 225-922-1318 or sbreeden@ohsep.la.gov.
"Drive Safe Louisiana"
Public Service Announcement

Campaign Available for Local Sponsorship

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) will kick off the agency’s latest public service announcement (PSA) campaign, titled Drive Safe Louisiana, in April. The statewide campaign will encourage safe driving by featuring one new highway safety issue each month through the fall.

Because the campaign’s launch will occur in conjunction with the National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, scheduled for April 2-6, the first month’s PSA’s will focus on driving safely in work zones. The work zone PSA’s will include a 30-second television spot, a 30-second radio spot, and a quarter-page print advertisement. All work zone advertisements will focus on driving cautiously in work zones and being aware of construction.

LA DOTD will continue its Drive Safe Louisiana PSA campaign through September 2007. The monthly campaign topics are scheduled as follows: Work Zone Awareness (April 2007), Pedestrian Safety (May 2007), Move It Law (June 2007), Speeding (July 2007), Tailgating (August 2007), and Driver Distraction (September 2007).

All PSA’s are free to local, parish, and state governments and can be customized to include any of these agencies’ logos.

For more information on PSAs, or to obtain copies, please contact Karla Schiro at DOTD’s Office of Planning and Programming at 225-379-1928.

Need Technical Help?
Contact LTAP

(225) 767-9117
(800) 595-4722 (in state)
(225) 767-9156 (fax)
www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/cu.html

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The Louisiana Local Technical Assistance Program was established at the Louisiana Transportation Research Center on the LSU campus in 1986. The purpose of the 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. LTAP also coordinates the Louisiana Local Road Safety Program.