

Local stakeholders discuss Parish safety plans at peer exchange

The Goal is Destination Zero Deaths

Article submitted by the Louisiana Center for Transportation Safety (LCTS)- Local Road Safety Program

At the recently held Local Road Safety Peer Exchange in Baton Rouge, transportation professionals from Parishes and municipalities engaged in a series of discussions on an exciting array of topics—traffic safety culture, low-cost safety countermeasures, basic roadway departure solutions, use of systemic approach in identifying locations with high potential for safety improvements, and the benefits of developing Parish Safety Plans.

Louisiana has 16,698 miles of state highways and 44,691 miles of local roads. This means about 73% of the public roads are owned by local agencies. In the recent crash data, about 166 out of 737 deaths occurred on local roads. To help drive down these numbers, there's a big push statewide about the development of Parish Safety Plans that will help prioritize and implement life-saving projects on local roads. This effort supports Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) and the mission of reaching Destination Zero Deaths (DZD).

A cornerstone of DOTD's implementation of the SHSP is the reliance on Regional Safety Coalitions to promote safety culture improvement and to implement safety countermeasures at the local level. Parishes and municipalities are encouraged to get engaged in regional safety coalitions in their respective areas. Check out www.destinationzerodeaths.com.

Changes and improvements to the Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) were announced. These changes were later formalized through a memorandum issued by DOTD Highway Safety Manager April Renard: http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/lcts/pdf/lrsp_memo.pdf

“We are happy that you’ve looked closely as to how to improve the project delivery. This is very exciting news to us,” said Tim Conner, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury’s Director of Engineering.

“You all funded some of our guardrails and sign projects, and we look forward to getting more projects your way,” interjected Tim Weaver, Caddo Parish Commission’s Assistant Director.

The peer exchange was made possible through a grant funding from the FHWA's Accelerating Safety Activities Program (ASAP) designed to help Focus States promote safety innovations. The new Louisiana Center for Transportation Safety (LCTS) or *Safety Center* led the peer exchange in partnership with the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). For more info, contact Dr. Marie Walsh at 225-767-9184 mbwalsh@ltrc.lsu.edu.

