



Technology Exchange

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Approximately 24% of the fatalities and serious injuries in Louisiana occurred on locally owned roads, and nearly 70% of the fatalities on local roads were a result of roadway departure (see reference on page 5).

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Visit www.louisianaltap.org for our current classes, training requests, free resources, and much more...

Multi-state Peer Exchange on Focus on Reducing Rural Roadway Departures (FoRRRwD) hosted in New Orleans

By Chris Melson

The Louisiana LTAP Center and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) Highway Safety Section co-hosted an FHWA-led peer exchange on the Every Day Counts (EDC-5) initiative with emphasis on one of its innova-

tions, Focus on Reducing Rural Roadway Departures (FoRRRwD).

The meeting, which took place at the New Orleans Regional Transportation Management Center on January 29-30, 2020, was the first of a series of FoRRRwD peer exchanges lined up by FHWA. Among the 40 total participants were FHWA officials as well as representatives from state DOTs, LTAP centers, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and local public works agencies from the South Central states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Staff members from Federal Lands Highway also attended.

Our LTAP Center was represented by Director Steve Strength, Program Manager Chris Melson, and Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) Manager Leo Marretta. LTAP assisted in the preparations for the meeting, including logistics and transportation. Also, who could forget the delicious home-cooked gumbo prepared by Louisiana DOTD's Highway Safety Section Assistant Administrator Trey Jesclard!

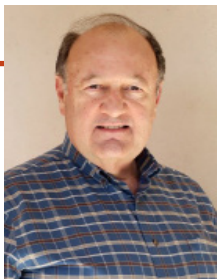
The purpose of the peer exchange was to share and promote best practices in reducing rural roadway departures. Facilitated discussions engaged the participants under the context of each of the four FoRRRwD "pillars": (1) consider all rural public roads, (2) implement proven countermeasures, (3) implement a systemic approach, and (4) develop and utilize safety action plans. The Louisiana LTAP Center is highly involved in each of these activities as we assist parishes and municipalities in identifying where crashes occur



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Locals: Meeting Every Challenge

By Steven C. Strength, P.E., PTOE



This has been a very busy winter season for Louisiana LTAP, and we have had the pleasure of interacting with many of you through our *Roads Scholar #1: Basics of a Good Road* class series, at the Police Jury Association meeting in Shreveport, the ATSSA conference in New Orleans, several of our Work Zone Safety training classes, and through day-to-day contact with road safety and other technical assistance activities. As I write this, we remain busy getting folks settled in new positions, including our new program manager, Chris Melson. You can learn more about Chris in the enclosed article.

We also spent the winter months preparing for a burst of spring activities, including chainsaw safety the week of March 16, and the LPESA Spring Conference in Natchitoches the first week in May. Unfortunately, these and other events had to be cancelled due to precautionary restrictions of the COVID-19 outbreak but will be rescheduled in the fall. For our *Roads Scholar #15: Operational Safety for Public Works First Responders* classes originally scheduled for April and May, we are working with our instructor on a different format to make this information available to you in the next couple of months, and in any case, prior to hurricane season.

Here at LTAP, while our travel and in-person interactions have been curtailed, we know that our local agency public works and transportation agencies continue to function, maintaining and operating roads and bridges and making them safe for use by emergency response agencies, law enforcement, public utilities, and the general public in meeting their most urgent needs. In many cases, the “Stay at Home” restrictions enacted by the governor and many local authorities do not apply to you, and you still have need to act as first responders to help your citizens get through this crisis. We remain available to answer questions and concerns within the restrictions we have adopted, and urge you to follow the directives of your parish and municipal leaders in order to keep yourselves and your families safe. This is a very different crisis from the many we have faced in the past, but as before, Louisiana people are closing ranks (though at a safe distance!) and overcoming these new challenges. As always, we will come back stronger and more united in meeting the immediate needs of our citizens and preparing for a brighter future.

Stay safe, and stay tuned!

LTAP Welcomes New Program Manager



The Louisiana LTAP Center is pleased to welcome our new program manager, Chris Melson.

Prior to joining LTRC, Chris was the program manager of Tran-SET – a University Transportation Center led by LSU, and comprised of 11 institutions across 5 states (AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX). During his tenure, Chris developed Tran-SET's main management processes and procedures, developed its center-wide technology transfer (T²) plan, and oversaw its main research, T², educational, and workforce development activities. Chris also previously worked for FHWA at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center, where he developed and managed their analysis, modeling, and simulation (AMS) research program area. Chris received his master's degree in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Wyoming.

Chris is excited to join LTAP, especially in directly serving the training needs of local communities, as he used to integrate community perspectives in his previous research management roles. Chris and his wife (Ashlee) are new “transplants” to the area and enjoy exploring all the wonderful things Louisiana has to offer. He also enjoys home improvement projects, carpentry, reading, writing fiction, and playing guitar.

Value Capture: Capitalizing on the Value Created by Transportation

By Rudynah Capone, MPA (LTAP) and
Kim Marousek (Capital Region Planning Commission)



One of LTAP's focus areas is innovation—at the local level. There are a few initiatives, such as the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Every Day Counts (EDC), that provide opportunities to encourage innovative thinking, highlight project successes, and leverage resources.

This month, LTAP features an EDC-5 innovation called Value Capture. This is an often untapped revenue source for local government agencies to address funding gaps. Value capture, in this instance, refers to a toolbox of strategies used by public agencies to recover a portion of the increased property value (created as a result of public infrastructure investment) in order to build, maintain, or reinvest in the transportation system. Sources such as tax increment financing, special taxing districts, and impact fees can fund some transportation investments that aren't sufficiently funded using federal or state dollars.

Some agencies in Louisiana, such as the Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC), are exploring this initiative. Many towns and counties in other states, on the other hand, have already shared some successes. In Oregon, small towns have instituted transportation utility fees through monthly utility bills that fund programs paying for local road maintenance and safety projects. In California, the Orange County Transportation Corridor Agency uses development impact fees to generate funds used as seed capital for transportation facilities and as part of the agency's debt management strategy. In Illinois, Chicago uses tax increment financing districts to fund street improvements and transit stations.

The FHWA has developed a toolkit and identified national best practices for implementing various value capture techniques.

Kim Marousek, CRPC's Director of Planning, shares that their agency and local stakeholders are partnering with DOTD to develop a more localized Value Capture toolkit for Louisiana local public agencies which will provide them with a variety of innovative options for funding and financing infrastructure projects. "The toolkit will include an overview of necessary legislation to implement, Louisiana examples (if available), and other possible resources for implementation," explains Marousek.

An early review of tools and existing approaches in Louisiana communities was presented at the annual LTC 2020 Louisiana Transportation Conference hosted by DOTD and LTRC in March 2020.

More information about the development of this toolkit and implementation examples will be made available in the coming months, including a public workshop on the toolkit to be held at the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association State Conference in the fall of 2020.

If you are interested in getting more details on this project, please contact Kim Marousek, AICP at kmarousek@crpcla.org or 225-393-5203. For more information please go to https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ipd/value_capture/.

- Read more about Value Capture on:
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_5/value_capture.cfm
- Read about FHWA Center for Innovative Finance Support – Value Capture
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ipd/value_capture

Leadership Spotlight: Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Jr., P.E., Parish Engineer, Bossier Parish

By Rudynah Capone, MPA

In this edition of *Technology Exchange*, we are honored to put the spotlight on Joseph E. "Butch" Ford, a local agency leader from the Northwestern part of Louisiana. Ford is a professional engineer who currently works as the Parish Engineer for the Bossier Parish Police Jury. He has been in this position for 17 years. He was previously employed by Professional Service Industries (PSI), a Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing & Inspection Firm. Prior to that, he worked with the DOTD as a project engineer. Ford has a wide range of experience in Project Construction Management and Pavement Design.

LTAP connected with Ford to gather his thoughts on leadership and management in the engineering field.

LTAP: What does leadership mean to you?

Ford: Leadership means the art of motivating a group of people to act toward achieving a common goal.

LTAP: How would you say people think of your leadership style?

Ford: Hands-on. I typically lead by example, working hard, and being very organized.

LTAP: What characteristics should a leader have to be effective in leading teams?

Ford: You must be honest, have integrity, and have good communication skills.

LTAP: Do you think technical knowledge is key to being a great leader in an engineering field?

Ford: Yes, having the technical knowledge is half the battle, but the most important aspect of a leader in the engineering field is being equipped with great communication skills. You must be able to thoroughly give explanation of the problems to be solved.

LTAP: In any of your current and previous leadership roles, what has been the most challenging task you've had to overcome?

Ford: You have to surround yourself with the best team members possible and set achievable goals to solve the problems at hand.

LTAP: How did you handle it?

Ford: A good leader can recognize when the team is not on track and will make changes as necessary.

LTAP: Who is your model leader? Why?

Ford: My model leader is my father. Growing up in a family construction business, he taught me the basics of great leadership by placing me in these roles at an early age. He taught me a great work ethic, and I have passed these traits onto my children. Learn from your mistakes, but do not make them twice.



It's a Wrap for Basics of a Good Road Classes

By Olivia Phelps



An estimated total of 200 participants, mostly local public agency personnel, attended our *Roads Scholar #1: Basics of a Good Road* classes that wrapped up in Hammond on March 11 and Lafayette on March 12. The photo to the left shows a full house in Hammond.

With Nick Verrett as instructor, the full-day course provided basic information on construction and maintenance of locally owned roads, aimed at helping agency personnel to better manage and operate their road networks.

Louisiana Statewide Flood Control Program now Accepting Pre-applications until April 30

DOTD is now accepting pre-applications to the Statewide Flood Control Program. Deadline for submission is on April 30, 2020.

The purpose of the program is to bring about flood damage reduction by providing long-term solutions for areas that are experiencing structural damage. Parish governments, municipal governments, levee boards, and drainage districts are eligible to submit a funding request by submitting a pre-application. Eligible projects include channel enlargement, levees, pump stations, relocation of dwellings and business structures, reservoirs, and other flood damage mitigation measures. If you have questions about the application process, you may contact Billy Williamson at 225-379-3023 or email Billy.Williamson@la.gov.

For more information, visit:

http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Engineering/Public_Works/Flood_Control/Pages/default.aspx



FoRRRwD, cont. from page 1

and strategizing for low-cost countermeasures that can be implemented in the short, intermediate, and long-term phases. LTAP facilitates the year-round application process and project selection for the LRSP, which provides funding for low-cost safety projects on locally owned roads. LTAP also works hand-in-hand with regional safety coalitions to assist parishes and municipalities in developing data-driven local road safety plans.

The peer exchange was a great learning opportunity for both LTAP and the DOTD Highway Safety Section. It provided important takeaways on new programmatic methods and possible countermeasures that could improve how rural roadway departures are addressed across all roadways. This is critical, as approximately 60% of the traffic-related fatalities in Louisiana (based on 2018 data) resulted from roadway departures, and 24% of the total occurred on locally owned roads, with nearly 70% of local roadway fatalities resulting from roadway departure.

For more information on the FoRRRwD initiative, please visit https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_5/docs/rural-roadway-factsheet1.pdf



Participants from seven states and several FHWA offices discussed Rural Roadway Departures at the Every Day Counts (EDC) peer exchange at the Regional Transportation Management Center in New Orleans.



Executive Director of the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission Jeff Roesel makes a point at the Rural Roadway Departure Peer Exchange in New Orleans on January 29.

LTAP on the GEAUX!



NLTAPA Winter Business Meeting Plus TRB Sessions. LTAP Director Steve Strength spoke as one of the panelists in a “state sharing” session during the National Local Technical Assistance Program Association (NLTAPA) Winter Business Meeting. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) Meeting that gathered thousands of transportation professionals worldwide in Washington, D.C., January 12-16.



Work Zone Simulator and Peer-to-Peer Interaction at ATSSA's Traffic Expo. Our staff members interacted with exhibitors and peers who attended the “Public Officials Day” of the American Traffic Safety Services Association’s (ATSSA) 50th Convention and Traffic Expo held on January 24-28, 2020, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The “Public Officials Day” was ATSSA’s way of expressing their gratitude for the work and contributions of local transportation officials and workers to the roadway safety industry.



Cornucopia of Training Tools + Simulated Work Zone Scenario at LTC 2020. At the Louisiana Transportation Conference held on March 1-4 at the Raising Cane’s River Center in Baton Rouge, not only did our team exhibit a table-top display of LTAP resources and class offerings, we also presented a session on “LTAP Cornucopia: Going Local!” sharing training strategies and tools that local public agencies could use to deliver a more interactive training, including how to conduct an effective “tailgate talk.” The session wrapped up with an engaging simulation of a work zone scenario with basic flagging.



41 Parishes Marked on LTAP's Map. At the Police Jury Association of Louisiana (PJAL) Convention on February 12-14, our team exhibited our services and engaged with parish-level policymakers and engineering professionals. Based on the number of LTAP booth visitors in two days, 41 parishes were represented and therefore marked on our LTAP map. The team also facilitated

the general membership meeting of the Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association (LPESA) that was part of the convention’s first day.

Calendar of Events

LTAP Classes On Hold Until Further Notice

All LTAP classes and in-person meetings and conferences have been postponed until further notice, as directed by DOTD in response to Governor John Bel Edwards' declaration of the public health emergency due to the spread of COVID-19 across the state and the rest of the nation.

LPESA Spring Conference Cancelled

The LPESA Spring Conference has been cancelled. We look forward to seeing you at the fall conference (dates TBD).

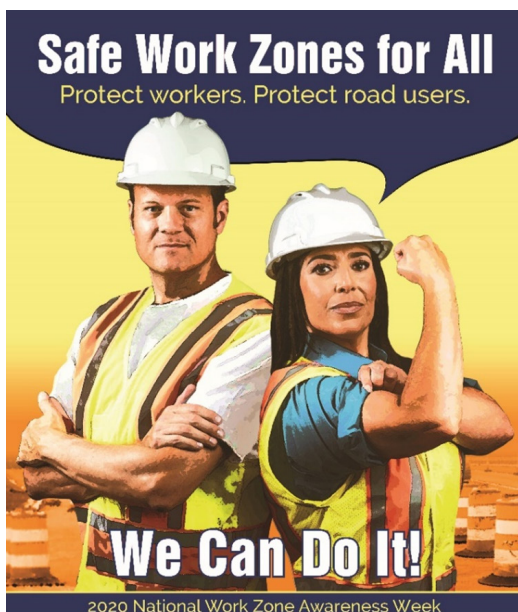
LPESA
Spring Conference
May 6-7, 2020
Natchitoches, LA

cancelled

SEE YOU AT THE FALL
CONFERENCE!



www.lpesa.org



National Work Zone Awareness Week:
Safe Work Zones for All
April 20-24, 2020

"Go Orange Day" is on April 22!

Help us spread the word about safe work zones on April 20-24, 2020, as we celebrate the National Work Zone Awareness Week. In your own ways, protect your workers and road users by encouraging everyone to drive safely and use extra caution in work zones. Put on your safety vests or wear something orange on April 22 for "Go Orange Day."

Visit www.nwzaw.org/participate.html for more information.

Louisiana LTAP offers half day classes in *Basics of Work Zone Safety/Basic Flagger* by request, free of charge for up to 25 participants. We also offer our full day *Roads Scholar #4: Temporary Traffic Control for Local Agencies* class upon request for a reasonable cost. Please contact Olivia Phelps, LTAP Training Coordinator, for more information.

National Public Works Week: The Rhythm of Public Works May 17-23, 2020

On behalf of the America Public Works Association (APWA), we invite our public works community and supporters to celebrate Public Works Week on May 17-23, 2020. With this year's theme, "The Rhythm of Public Works," we are reminded about how public works keeps a community's rhythm moving by providing an orchestra of infrastructure services in transportation, emergency management, solid waste, right-of-way management, first response, and many more. There are ways you can commemorate this event. You can conduct an exhibit highlighting public work successes, or perhaps hold an environmental campaign, or gather your partners to do an equipment rodeo. You can also ask your elected officials to make a proclamation and share it with the community.

For more event ideas, how-to-guide tools and samples of NPWW proclamations, visit www.apwa.net/NPWW/





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The purpose of the Local Technical Assistance Program 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.