



# Technology Exchange

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## LPESA Convenes Again After Year-Long Pause Due to COVID-19

By Rudynah Entera Capone

"It's good to be able to meet in person again," said everyone who attended the Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association (LPESA) Spring Conference on May 21, 2021, at the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel. Last year, LPESA cancelled two of its conferences due to COVID-19.

The excitement in every attendee's eyes was apparent as soon as they signed in at the registration table. For the first time since COVID-19 restricted in-person interactions, the LPESA community convened for a sense of normalcy and an engaging exchange of ideas. It was unusual because it was for one day only. LPESA has traditionally held its biannual conferences for one day and a half. Nevertheless, it turned out to be well-attended—with 107 participants including speakers and sponsors coming from the different parts of Louisiana. A few sponsors even drove from out of state.

The agenda lineup covered a diverse range of topics that generated good discussions about issues that local governments tackle in their respective parishes and towns. Topics included developing a road inventory, bridge inspection and compliance, disaster recovery, local road safety planning, transportation research, value capture, and training resources for local public agencies (LPAs). To view the presentations, visit [www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/lpesa\\_2021\\_spring.html](http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/lpesa_2021_spring.html).

*cont. on pg. 7*

All photos from LPESA  
may be viewed at  
[ltrc.smugmug.com/  
LPESA-Spring-Conference-2021/](http://ltrc.smugmug.com/LPESA-Spring-Conference-2021/)

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Visit [www.louisianaltap.org](http://www.louisianaltap.org)  
for our current classes,  
training requests,  
free resources,  
and much more...

## LTAP's Work Zone Class, Always a Full House

The Work Zone Safety with Basic Flagging mini-workshops taught by LTAP Director Steve Strength have always been a full house.

Since January of this year, a combined total of 225 local agency personnel have attended the classes held in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lafayette, Gretna, and St. Charles Parish. The photo above shows Steve conducting basic flagging exercises with workshop participants in Gretna.

To learn more about having this mini-workshop offered in your area, visit [www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/ST\\_wzs.html](http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap/ST_wzs.html).



## Taking Stock

By Steven Strength



No doubt, all of you have participated in discussions recently about how things have changed—change in the workplace, our communities, and our daily lives. Here at LTAP, we join you in having learned new ways of communicating, organizing, administering, and responding to the needs of our local public agency customers. However, even though

means and methods have evolved in response to the challenges of the past year and a half, there are many aspects of the public works and transportation field that have not changed, especially as they relate to our responsibility to the public. So, as we come out of the restrictions of the recent past, it is more important than ever to take stock of the needs and capabilities we have within the various programs in our purview.

First among these is safety. Have you looked at any recent crash data to see what might have changed in terms of where crashes are occurring? Have you had discussions with law enforcement about the causes? Have you considered low-cost countermeasures such as signing? Are you in compliance with current requirements of the MUTCD? Have you considered the worker safety aspects of your daily activities? LTAP has resources to help you deal with these issues, including access to your Regional Safety Coalition partners, help with Road Safety Assessments (RSAs), and access to safety training and technical assistance to help make your roads and your employees safer.

Next in importance while taking stock has to be managing your infrastructure. Local agencies have billions of dollars invested in roads, bridges and utilities that must be maintained and operated. Do you know how many miles of road you have, how much real estate you must manage, basic road characteristics such as width and pavement types, and some basic information on the condition of the pavements and drainage structures? Is your bridge inspection program in full compliance? With discussions at the state and federal levels about more infrastructure funding, and with another hurricane season upon us, it is more important than ever to know what you have and to prepare to get the

## LTAP Develops Training Resource Sheet



LTAP has developed a two-page sheet with information on the different training resources offered and links to an online catalog of technical courses provided by our national partners.

To echo the words of our Director Steve Strength, LTAP training and technical assistance can help you get a handle on your infrastructure and plan for managing your program to achieve the best results for your community.

The sky's the limit; take advantage of these resources by visiting the "Training" tab of our website, [www.louisianaltap.org](http://www.louisianaltap.org).

most out of current and anticipated resources. LTAP training and technical assistance can help you get a handle on your infrastructure and plan for managing your program to achieve the best results for your community. We also have access to resources through LTAP centers in other states that can be made available to locals here in Louisiana.

If you have any questions or concerns, take a moment to go to [www.louisianaltap.org](http://www.louisianaltap.org) and click on the button "Request Training or Technical Assistance." The simple online form can be tailored to your specific needs. We encourage you take advantage of the services Louisiana LTAP has to offer, and we sincerely wish you a safe and enjoyable summer as we take stock and move forward with renewed hope and possibilities!

# Capital Regional Planning Commission Leads Effort to Produce Toolkit to Implement "Value Capture" Locally

By Kim Marousek (CRPC) and Fred Neal, Jr. (Villavaso and Associates)

The Capital Regional Planning Commission (CRPC) is leading an effort to develop a statewide toolkit that local public agencies can use to deploy "value capture" projects at the parish and town levels. Similar to what the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed at the national level, the kit will include tools such as tax increment financing, special taxing districts, business improvement districts, and impact fees.

In 2020, the CRPC, in conjunction with Louisiana DOTD began a project focused on FHWA's Every Day Counts Round 5 (EDC-5) initiative on value capture. Broadly defined, value capture is a series of techniques available to governments and local public agencies to capitalize on the economic benefit associated with public infrastructure investments.

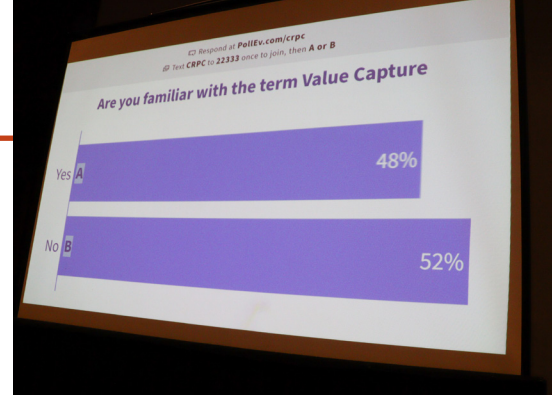
"We seek to develop a Louisiana toolkit which will be a more localized version of what FHWA has developed nationally. We want to be able to provide a resource that local public agencies can refer to when exploring at options to fund and finance transportation infrastructure projects in their area," shared CRPC Planning Director Kim Marousek during the early stages of planning.

This Louisiana-focused project will result in the development of a "Louisiana Value Capture Toolkit" that will include guidance on specific tools and techniques, a legislation/legal review, and Louisiana examples of value capture projects and other resources available for implementation. CRPC is engaging Villavaso and Associates, a Louisiana-based planning firm with an extensive history of work in both the public and private sector, to develop the toolkit.

The project work plan focuses on researching the use of value capture in Louisiana and includes broad outreach to local communities and stakeholders on value capture and identifying community needs for additional transportation infrastructure funding. The planning team has generally identified the following opportunities and challenges for using value capture for transportation projects in Louisiana communities:

- Lack of knowledge of successful value capture projects.
- Size and costs of local transportation projects require multiple funding sources.
- Limitations of local revenues to support project financing.
- Local development codes/standards/manuals need updating to utilize value capture.

The planning team has conducted efforts to increase awareness on value capture through several conferences and meetings, including the Louisiana Transportation 2020 Conference hosted by DOTD and LTRC, the CRPC Commissioners Meeting, the American Planning Association six-state Cross Chapter Collaborative, and the Louisiana Planning Council. Most recently, they presented at the Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors (LPESA) Spring 2021 Conference (LPESA) hosted by the Louisiana LTAP Center. The team facilitated an interactive session with live polling participated by 107 attendees.



It was found that only 48% of the local parish engineers and supervisors were familiar with value capture, as revealed during an interactive session at the LPESA Spring 2021 Conference. The session was facilitated by Louisiana's Value Capture Planning Team comprised of CRPC's Planning Director Kim Marousek (in photo), in partnership with Villavaso & Associates' Principal Stephen Villavaso and planners Fred Neal, Jr. and Mari Kane.

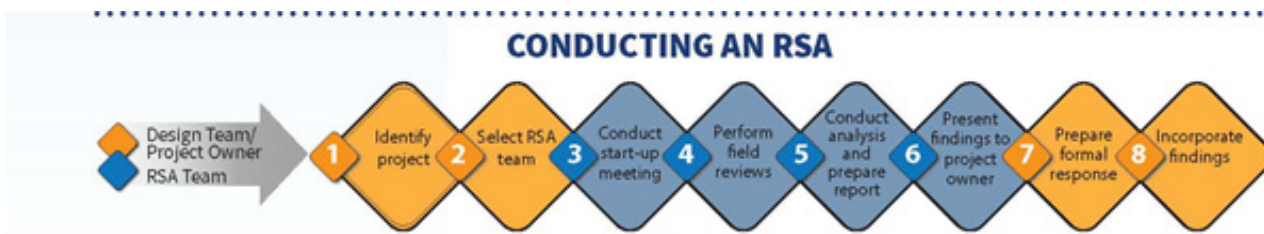
If you would like more information about value capture in Louisiana please reach out by email to [lavaluecapture@gmail.com](mailto:lavaluecapture@gmail.com) and look us up at [crpcla.org/value-capture](http://crpcla.org/value-capture).

For more information on value capture, visit [www.fhwa.dot.gov/ipd/value\\_capture/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ipd/value_capture/).

The development of the initial tool kit is expected in late fall 2021.



# LTAP Teaming Up with Regional Safety Coalitions to Conduct Road Safety Assessments on Local Roads



Conducting an RSA is a multidisciplinary 8-step process <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/rsa/>

LTAP has been teaming up with the nine regional safety coalitions implementing Louisiana’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) in an effort to mitigate local road safety issues using the Road Safety Assessment (RSA) process.

The series of RSA virtual and in-person workshops are conducted with a goal of helping coalition partners understand the RSA process better and using it as a strategy to implement local road safety improvement projects. An RSA is a proven safety countermeasure that reduces roadway crashes by 10-60%. RSAs are performed by a multidisciplinary team at any phase of project development, from planning through construction, according to FHWA’s Road Safety Audit Guidelines <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/rsa/guidelines/>.

LTAP held a virtual RSA session this past April in partnership with the South Central Regional Safety Coalition (SCRSC). As of this writing, an in-person RSA is scheduled on June 29 for the Southwest Louisiana Regional Safety Coalition (SWLA RSC) stakeholders to participate in. The RSA dates for other coalitions will be announced soon.

As part of their Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) development efforts, SWLA RSC Coordinator Amber Ashworth specified that there have been several locations identified requiring further analysis. Conducting an RSA will help facilitate this process.

“For a start, we’re conducting RSAs at four locations flagged as having an overrepresentation of crashes along E. Prien Lake Road,” she said.

“Our regional safety action plan has identified RSA as one of the strategies in identifying and prioritizing road safety improvement projects. We’re fortunate that we have strong partners such as LTAP and DOTD to help us mobilize our RSA teams and deploy life-saving projects,” said Cassie Parker, the SCRSC Coordinator and Planner at South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) in Houma.

Parker shared how their coalition had conducted a number of RSAs in Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. John, and St. Charles over the past decade. These RSAs have helped them identify locations where low-cost safety countermeasures were implemented such as pavement markings, rumble strips, mini-roundabouts, enhanced delineation for horizontal curves, and oversized warning signs at intersections.

“Using the RSA process has actually helped us synergize our coalition partners, particularly those involved in implementing our SHSP Infrastructure & Operations (I&O) Action Plan. To facilitate this, we have successfully engaged our Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Technical Advisory Committee members to be part of our coalition’s I&O team,” Parker further shared.

RSAs have been proven to be an effective way to engage our local partners in making our roads safer.

—Leo Marretta, LRSP Manager

LTAP’s Local Road Safety Program Manager, Leo Marretta, shared the benefits of working along Louisiana’s nine regional safety coalitions and local public agencies because they work to address local road safety issues based on what statistics from the crash data reports tell us.

LTAP and the SHSP coalitions will continue to work hand in hand in order to implement more RSAs across the state and in helping Louisiana achieve its goal of reaching Destination Zero Deaths [www.destinationzerodeaths.com](http://www.destinationzerodeaths.com).

## LPESA Virtual Showcase

**"Know What's Below. Call or Click Before You Dig."**

**July 29, 2021  
10:00 AM**



Hear from Cole Vanderlick of Louisiana 811 as he presents how to prevent damages and keep employees safer during excavation or digging of underground utilities and pipelines.

Calling 811 or clicking to file a request saves agencies money and reduces the possibility of damage. For more information, visit <http://lpesa.org/virtual-showcase.html>

## LTAP Offers RSA Training

LTAP encourages local public agencies to learn the process of conducting Road Safety Assessments (RSA) through mini-workshops and actual field visits. RSAs can be performed in any phase of project development, from planning through construction. RSAs can also be conducted on any size project, from minor intersection and roadway retrofits to large-scale construction projects.

Read page 4 for a full story on LTAP's RSA efforts. For questions, email LTAP's Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) Manager at [Leo.Marretta@la.gov](mailto:Leo.Marretta@la.gov).



## Upcoming LTAP Classes

**VIRTUAL: Roads Scholar #13: Inspection of Local Bridges, September 28-30, 2021**

This class will provide the basic training for local agency personnel to perform special inspections of bridges owned by parishes and municipalities and document findings in accordance with the DOTD Bridge Inspection Manual.

This is only Part 1 of a 2-part course. While PDHs are available for completing the virtual series, participants must also complete the Part 2 in-person session to be offered this fall in order to receive Roads Scholar or DOTD Structured Training credit.

**IN-PERSON: Local Public Agency (LPA) Qualification Classes, July 7-8, 2021**

**LPA Core Training (6 PDHs) on July 7, 2021 at TTEC**

This training is required for all project sponsors and their consultants to be qualified to participate in the state and federal programs on future transportation projects.

**LPA Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CE&I) (7 PDHs) on July 8, 2021 at TTEC**

This training is intended for LPA Construction Project Personnel, engineers who serve as the LPA Project Engineer (PE), and the Responsible Charge.

For a full list of LTAP training, visit the "Training" tab on [www.louisianaltap.org](http://www.louisianaltap.org)

## Training Resource from Center for Local Aid Support

In this edition, LTAP is pleased to highlight a valuable training resource from FHWA's Center for Local Aid Support (CLAS) featuring new online training classes that transportation professionals may access anytime and anywhere. Designed to meet a transportation professional's needs, these courses include: Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP); Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil-Integrated Bridge System (GRS-IBS); Gravel Roads Construction and Maintenance; Construction Inspection of Rockeries; and Project Bundling. For more information, visit [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/ttap/online\\_training.aspx](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/ttap/online_training.aspx)



# Claude Maher: Executive Director of Louisiana Operation Lifesaver

By Rudynah Entera Capone

When it comes to raising awareness about railroad safety, Claude Maher takes a leadership stance being the Executive Director of Louisiana Operation Lifesaver (LAOL). As part of the nationally recognized non-profit organization, Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI), LAOL is committed to implementing railroad safety education and injury prevention programs.

Prior to his role at LAOL, Claude worked for AT&T for 35 years in many job titles, including BellSouth Safety Manager. During the post-Katrina cleanup, Claude's areas of responsibility covered New Orleans, Metairie, and the North Shore where his duty was to keep more than 500 technicians safe during adverse conditions. After his retirement from AT&T in 2006, he went to work for the National Safety Council (NSC) as a certified First Aid, CPR/AED Instructor as well as a Defensive Driving Instructor. He began volunteering for LAOL in 2009 and became the Executive Director in 2012.

## *How would you define leadership?*

Leadership is about recognizing the strengths and weaknesses of your team members, more so engaging their strengths to accomplish the team's goals. The tougher part is to "coach-up" a team member's weakness, which could be your own weakness.

## *Share with us how your professional journey has helped you develop your leadership skills.*

I spent 35 years in the "Bell" System, the telephone company, and worked my way up from Mail Clerk to eventually Network Manager. I held a variety of job titles in between. My last job with AT&T was as a Network Manager. I supervised a very diverse group of 24 technicians, men and women with various ethnic and religious backgrounds. I had to hone my own weaknesses of not knowing the differences in my background and theirs. After Katrina, I held the position as Safety Manager where I had the responsibility of keeping over 500 technicians safe during very adverse and dangerous conditions.

## *What traits must a leader possess in order to effectively lead teams?*

A leader must have integrity, the ability to delegate, and a sense of cooperation. Integrity is essential to every part of life, especially in a leadership role. A true leader leads by example, which helps mold the character of the team. The ability to delegate is essential as the leader has the ability to assign certain tasks for efficient utilization of the workforce. Cooperation with

all team members allows us to overcome obstacles that we may encounter. It

is imperative for the leader to work with all team members to achieve the best results for the entire organization.

## *How would you describe your leadership style?*

I am a type "A" personality, and it shows in my leadership style. I am very direct and to the point when discussing business matters. I am also proud to say that I am a good listener and negotiator—traits that have allowed me to understand the root cause of what may be affecting a team member's emotions. These skills help me formulate a solution, which is beneficial to all team members.

## *Do you think technical knowledge is key to being a great leader?*

I believe having some technical knowledge is beneficial no matter what role a person is in. Some fields require more technical knowledge than others such as being an airplane pilot. It requires advanced technical knowledge in order to keep their aircraft mechanically sound and their passengers safe. I also think that product knowledge is very important, sometimes even more so than technical knowledge depending on the job you're performing.

## *What has been the most challenging task you've had to tackle?*

The most challenging one has been to get some individuals to think and perform their job functions for the betterment of the entire team, not just an individual or one group's benefit. Some people only think of what's best for themselves. Changing that outlook can be a very rigorous task.

## *Who is your model leader? Why?*

I look up to Dan Schneider, aka, The Pharmacist. As he was investigating what happened to his son whom he lost to a drug-related incident, he learned of the abuse of opioids in our state. This led to his refusal to fill opioid prescriptions to healthy people who just wanted to get high. His integrity may have saved others from a similar fate as his son or possibly prevented some from overdosing. He is continuing his fight against the opioid pandemic by reaching a deal with a large TV network to air the documentary, "The Pharmacist." He also established a non-profit group called "Tunnel of Hope" to help those who are fighting addiction or have loved ones fighting addiction. He demonstrates all of the qualities of a great leader, and for those reasons, I admire his leadership style.







## LPESA Convenes Again

*cont. from page 1*

Twelve of the LPESA associate members extended their support as conference sponsors, namely: Acrow Bridge, Covington Sales & Services, Edko, Forte & Tablada, Louisiana One Call, Louisiana Operation Lifesaver, Precision Pipe & Products, SJB Group, The Railroad Yard, Material Resources, Corrective Asphalt Materials, and Ergon. Ergon sponsored the morning break. Will Smith from Acrow Bridge and Jeremy Gilbert from Edko provided special presentations on bridge solutions and integrated vegetation management, respectively.

LPESA's event partners from Visit Baton Rouge extended their support by sponsoring promotional bags, visitor guides, and maps. The Destination Zero Deaths (DZD) team joined in to promote local road safety initiatives that the parish engineers can become part of.



ABOVE: Joshua Ory and Brad Holleman (Forte & Tablada) participate as new associate members, interacting with LPESA Treasurer Perry Holmes (Winn Parish).

Photos by Chris Melton (LTRC). All photos may be viewed at [ltrc.smugmug.com/LPESA-Spring-Conference-2021/](http://ltrc.smugmug.com/LPESA-Spring-Conference-2021/)



TOP LEFT: Barbara Ostuno and Stephanie Doolittle (DOTD) respond to questions related to bridge inspection, compliance, and load rating.

TOP RIGHT: LPESA President David Rome (Terrebonne Parish) relates how they have activated their emergency operation centers in response to tropical storms and excessive rainfall events during the pandemic.

MIDDLE: Nick Verret (Natchitoches Parish/City), Darryl Mack (DOTD), and Dan Rosenquist (East Baton Rouge Parish/City) engage participants in a roundtable discussion on developing a road inventory.

BOTTOM: Darrell Duhon (Calcasieu Parish) shares lessons learned from their disaster recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Laura.



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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.