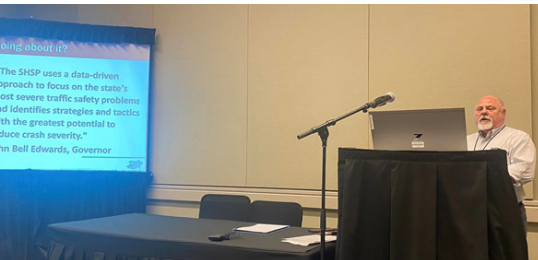




# Technology Exchange

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 1  
SPRING 2023



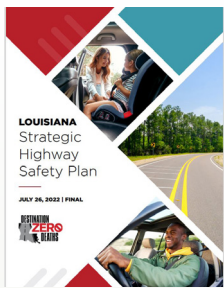
## LTAP Highlights Road Safety, Crash Data Analysis Efforts at LTC 2023

By Rudynah Entera Capone, MPA

At the Louisiana Transportation Conference held in Baton Rouge in mid-March of this year, LTAP engaged the attendees in two separate sessions: “Connecting with Safety for Your Locally Owned Roads” and “Connecting with Local Agency Topics of Interest.”

In the first session, LTAP’s Crash Data Engineer Peter Allain and Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) Manager Leo Marretta (in photo to the left) highlighted how LTAP can provide crash data analysis support and technical assistance that will guide local governments in identifying, prioritizing, and implementing projects on local streets where data could pinpoint problematic or high-crash areas.

cont. on page 4



Louisiana’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan is a data-driven plan that provides a framework of strategies and tactics for reducing fatalities

and serious injuries on all roadways. LTAP works with the local agencies and regional safety coalitions toward the implementation of engineering-related programs and activities, including administering the Local Road Safety Program as well as helping local governments develop their respective local road safety plans.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Director’s Corner
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- 6 Leadership Spotlight: Perry Holmes
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Visit [www.louisianaltap.org](http://www.louisianaltap.org) for our current classes, training requests, free resources, and much more...

## “Identify, Train, Place” Toolkit Shared by FHWA



Taken from  
EDC-7  
Highlights

The Center for Accelerating Innovation at FHWA highlights strategic workforce development as one of the innovations in the current Round 7 of Every Day Counts (EDC-7) initiative, which is a state-based model that identifies and deploys underutilized but proven cost-effective and beneficial innovations.

FHWA partnered with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Associated General Contractors, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, and the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration to bring together various parties interested in workforce development in the highway construction field. One result of this partnership is a highway construction workforce development playbook called **Identify, Train, Place**. The playbook helps state, local, and tribal communities identify, train, and place workers in the contractor workforce to meet resource needs to deliver highway construction projects. The playbook includes simple, repeatable “plays” that departments of transportation (DOTs), workforce development boards, community colleges, non-profits, and contractors can use. The plays reflect solutions to workforce development challenges and are customizable to local needs. Additionally, with its workforce partners, FHWA developed a comprehensive toolkit with factsheets, profiles, case studies, and marketing materials. The toolkit may be accessed through [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovativeprograms/centers/workforce\\_dev/hcwp/toolkit/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovativeprograms/centers/workforce_dev/hcwp/toolkit/)

## What's the Buzz on Safety?

By Steven Strength, PE, PTOE, LTAP Director



You have probably seen the public service announcements in the media or on billboards around the state that say, “Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving”—a not-so-subtle reminder that any level of driver impairment caused by substance abuse can affect your ability to safely operate a vehicle. There is no question

that impaired driving continues to be a problem contributing to fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. However, there is a new kind of buzz going around Louisiana, and that relates to the unprecedented funding opportunities coming out of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), passed by Congress in 2021. This infrastructure bill has significant provisions for road and bridge funding for local agencies as well as the numerous safety and community development grants available. One of the most important sections is the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program, which allows local agencies to apply directly to USDOT for funding of safety plans as well as project implementation with federal participation of up to 80%. Eleven local or regional entities from Louisiana received grants to fund safety planning efforts in the first round of SS4A earlier this year and the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the next round, including both planning and implementation grants, is already being advertised (see page 5).

Louisiana LTAP, in cooperation with our DOTD and FHWA partners, has a multitude of resources to help your agency understand the requirements for these federal grants. In our role as a road safety advocate and facilitator, LTAP has training and technical assistance available on road safety and safety planning, and can put you in touch with others who can provide support. Probably the most important resource is the Local Public Agency (LPA) Qualification Training, which is taught twice a year, and the next sessions will be taught by experts from LTAP, DOTD, and FHWA in New Orleans the week of May 23. Registration is open right now! We will also be hosting a representative of LITA Corp, an agency established by the legislature to assist locals with applying for these grants, at the LPESA conference in May (see the conference info elsewhere in this newsletter). There are additional resources on our website at [www.louisianaltap.org](http://www.louisianaltap.org) regarding many of the available funding opportunities.

## Welcome Haley Ortiz!



LTAP is pleased to welcome our new training coordinator, Haley Beason Ortiz. She joins us after working with United Community Bank in marketing and administration as well as with other wonderful Louisiana-based businesses and The Walt Disney Company. She went to high school in Baton Rouge and college in Natchitoches. Right before COVID-19 shut down the world in 2020, she briefly went to work for Disney. During her free time, she enjoys finding creative outlets and hanging out with her weenie dog named Boudin alongside her husband Luis. Haley loves to plan any activity and make lists, excel sheets, and schedules. In her new position with LTAP, Haley will coordinate the moving parts in every class that LTAP brings to the local communities.

Not caught up in the buzz yet? Well, just as a reminder, LTAP and DOTD's Local Road Safety Program is still available for implementing low-cost safety improvements on locally owned roads, including assistance with the application and data analysis for these projects, on-site technical assistance including Road Safety Assessments (RSA's), and federal funding for safety projects up to 100%. Check it out elsewhere in this edition and on our website, and stay safe out there!

## Do You Have an Innovative, Cost-Saving Project? Share Your Story!

The June 9 deadline for FHWA's Build a Better Mousetrap (BABM): National Recognition Program for Transportation Innovations is fast approaching. At the Louisiana level, LTAP is calling all engineers and public works professionals at the parish, city, and municipal levels to share your local innovations soon. LTAP has set our state-level deadline as May 15, 2023.

If you work for a local agency and you've implemented a tool, equipment, or any type of solution that is cost-saving, effective, easily transferable and highly beneficial, please submit it as an official entry into the BABM Louisiana Local Innovations Program. Winners will receive free LTAP training, a certificate, and a chance for a national recognition during the National Local Technical Assistance Program Association (NLTAPA) Conference on July 17-20, 2023 in Columbus, Ohio. All state-level winners will also be recognized in the BABM Innovations Booklet, which FHWA publishes annually.

Your submission must fall under any of these categories:

- **Innovative Project**—A new idea addressing a project's life cycle: planning, design or engineering, construction, operations, and maintenance.
- **Bold Steps**—A locally relevant, high-risk project or process that shows a break-through solution with demonstrated high reward.
- **Smart Transformation**—A project with local relevance and significant change in any activity that is SMART (Smart, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound) in nature.
- **Pioneer**—A locally relevant product or tool that is among the first to solve a maintenance problem with a homegrown solution.



*Scan to share your innovation!*

## Lafayette's Geaux Mow, Storm Mode Made the National Booklet of Innovations

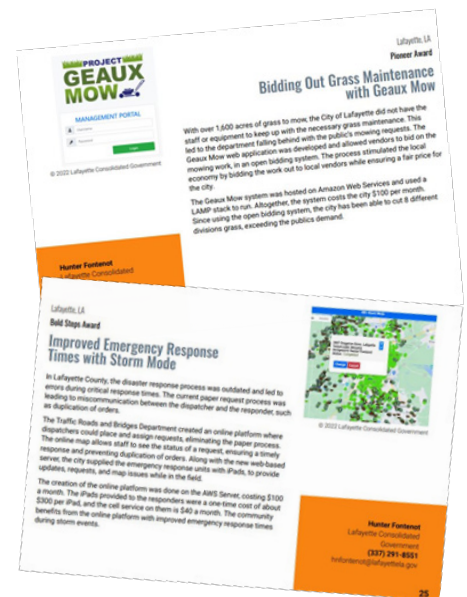
In last year's BABM, two web-based software program innovations from Lafayette were officially submitted as official Louisiana entries. One was Storm Mode, an emergency response tool; and second was Geaux Mow, a grass-cutting bidding and maintenance system. These were among those recognized with Honorable Mentions in the recently published BABM Booklet 2022.

With over 1,600 acres of grass to mow, the City of Lafayette did not have the staff or equipment to keep up with the necessary grass maintenance. This led to the department falling behind with the public's mowing requests. The Geaux Mow web application was developed and allowed vendors to bid on the mowing work in an open bidding system. The process stimulated the local economy by bidding the work out to local vendors while ensuring a fair price for the city.

On another hand, the Traffic Roads and Bridges Department of Lafayette created the Storm Mode platform where dispatchers could place and assign requests, eliminating the paper process. The online map allows staff to see the status of a request, ensuring a timely response and preventing duplication of orders. Along with the new web-based server, the city supplied the emergency response units with iPads to provide updates, requests, and map issues while in the field.

- See pages 24-25 of the booklet here: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/pdfs/2022\\_mousetrap\\_entries\\_booklet.pdf](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/pdfs/2022_mousetrap_entries_booklet.pdf)
- Demo videos on how Geaux Mow and Storm Mode tools are utilized can be found on <https://louisianaltap.org/build-a-better-mousetrap.html>

In 2019, Ouachita's catch basin lid assist tool and Terrebonne's salt spreader were also recognized on pages 19-20 of the BABM Booklet 2019. The full story can also be found on the same link as above.





# LTAP's Crash Data Analysis Efforts

continued from page 1

Through the Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) and the center's access to crash data portals, LTAP could not be more ready to advance efforts to provide local road safety planning and implementation assistance to parishes and municipalities—especially those that are in the “Top 20” Parishes with overrepresentation (higher than state's average) in traffic fatalities and serious injuries as a result of roadway departures or crashes at intersections. The latest statistics show that 58% of Louisiana's roadway deaths are contributed by roadway departures. The Louisiana Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) serves as the overarching tool for all of LRSP's efforts and other safety-oriented initiatives across the state.

Allain shared the crash data analysis efforts that LTAP did in the past and will continue to do using the latest crash statistics. He's working toward the updating of the “Parish Profiles,” which are summarized data and map information detailing where the crashes are happening, what the causes of crashes are, and whether or not they involve other factors such as impaired driving, lack of seatbelt use, and/or distracted driving. These data profiles will be given to LTAP's local agency partners and the regional safety coalitions across the state to implement projects, programs, and activities that support the Louisiana Strategic Highway Safety Plan's (SHSP) goal of reaching Destination Zero Deaths.

## The Data-Driven Local Road Safety Planning Process

LTAP reminds local parishes and municipalities there is training and technical assistance available for them. LTAP can help local agencies analyze crash data, identify local issues, and recommend possible solutions that are aimed at eliminating deaths and serious injuries on all roads, including locally owned roads. There are also opportunities for getting road safety improvements funded. If you don't know where to begin, reach out to LTAP by emailing [Leo.Marretta@lagov](mailto:Leo.Marretta@lagov).

Another good starting point that is a proven countermeasure as far as reducing roadway fatalities is by developing and implementing local road safety plans. Developing these plans provides a framework for local governments to identify, analyze, and prioritize road safety improvements on local and rural roads. The goal is to fully engage parishes and municipalities in producing a customized plan that reflects the complexity of their local road safety issues and eventually implementing projects that impact their respective communities.

To learn more about LRSP, visit [www.louisianaltap.org/local-road-safety.html](http://www.louisianaltap.org/local-road-safety.html)

### Louisiana LTAP Local Road Safety Program Screening of Local Roads 2014-2016 Crashes

Crash Count	Coalition	Parish	City Name
48	NORTSC	Livinston	New Orleans
49	ARTSC	Morichouse	Sav
50	CHSC	Orleans	Abbeville
51	CRTSC	Orleans	Abbeville

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** This document and the information contained herein is prepared solely for the purpose of identifying, evaluating and planning safety improvements on public roads which may be implemented utilizing federal aid highway funds and is therefore exempt from discovery or admission into evidence pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 409. Contact the Traffic Safety Office at (225)379-1871 before releasing any information.

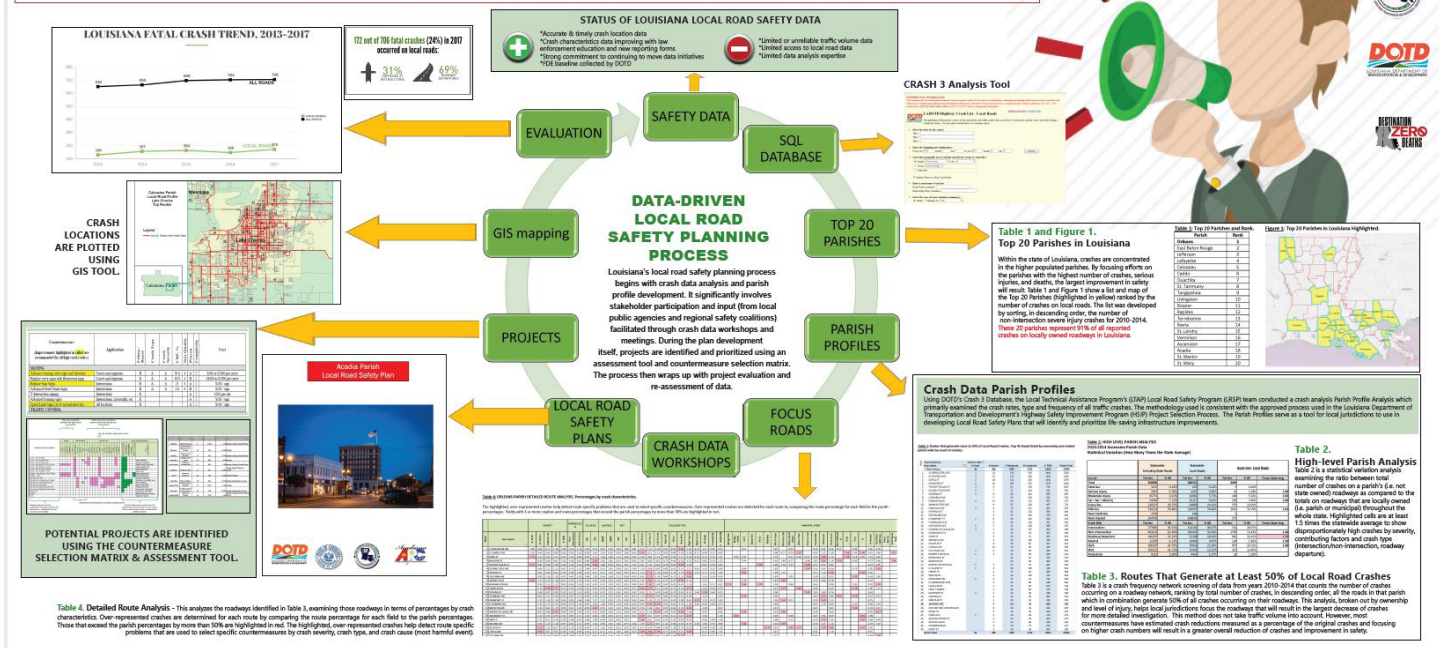
Crash Types are considered over-represented and highlighted in red when the value exceeds the statewide averages by more than 50% and there are at least 3 or more crashes.

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Sample spreadsheet of “Parish Profile” that LTAP develops to assist local governments in identifying and prioritizing local road safety projects.

## Not Just Data! We Need Information We Can Use, and We Need It Now!

Louisiana's data-driven, focused approach to safety on locally owned roadways



As shown on this image, LTAP's data-driven local road safety planning process begins with crash data analysis and parish profile development. It involves significant stakeholder participation and input from local public agencies and regional safety coalitions, which is facilitated through crash data workshops and meetings. During the plan development itself, projects are identified and prioritized using an assessment tool and countermeasure selection matrix. The process then wraps up with project evaluation and re-assessment of data.

## NOFO for Safe Streets Program Open Until July 10

SS4A

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program is now open until July 10, 2023. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established this new discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years. It is designated to fund regional, local, and new tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

### Who Can Apply?

- A political subdivision of a state or territory is defined in the fiscal year 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) as a unit of government created under the authority of state law. This includes cities, towns, counties, special districts, certain transit agencies, and similar units of local government created under state law.
- A federally recognized tribal government.
- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).
- A multijurisdictional group of entities from the ones described above (select one lead applicant from group).

### What Is Eligible for Funding?

There are two types of SS4A grants: Planning and Demonstration grants and Implementation grants. The following activities are eligible for the SS4A program:

- Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan). This includes: developing an Action Plan; conducting supplemental planning in support of an Action Plan; and carrying out demonstration activities in support of an Action Plan.
- Conduct planning, design, and development activities for projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.
- Carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.

For more information, visit [www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a](http://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a)



## Leadership Spotlight: Perry Holmes LPESA President and Road Superintendent of Winn Parish

By Rudynah Entera Capone, MPA

It's perfect timing that our featured leader in this edition of *Technology Exchange* is the newly elected President of the Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association (LPESA)—Perry Holmes. It's his second time serving as LPESA President.

It was soon after he got promoted as Road Superintendent of Winn Parish in 1999 when he joined LPESA and immediately served as Region 8 director. He then later served as treasurer, vice president, and president. During his first time as LPESA President, he took the lead in putting together a national convention in Baton Rouge many years ago.

Holmes began working for the Winn Parish Police Jury in 1992 as an equipment operator. He later became the assistant to the Superintendent in 1996, the time when he started taking bridge inspection and safety classes from LTAP. Three years later, he was promoted as Road Superintendent. In this role, he oversees the maintenance and repair of over 700 miles of roads throughout Winn parish. An important goal that he always bears is to improve the parish bridges, and he proudly shares that there have been 12 successfully built during his tenure.

Holmes is also a part owner of Family JewelBox located in Winnfield. Not only does he take care of the maintenance work, he also builds trophies. He and his wife Phyllis have two children, Derrick and Sara. They also have two grandchildren, Elijah and Victoria.

### What is your favorite leadership quote?

As President Ronald Reagan said, "The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the great things. He is the one who gets the people to do the great things."

### What must a leader possess to lead successful teams?

I think a leader must have honesty, integrity, and be trustworthy. All of these help to build good, strong relationships.

### What challenging task have you tackled and how did you handle it?

A highlight of my career is also one of my biggest challenges. I was asked to write a grant for the Local Road Safety Program. I



had never written a grant before, so I wasn't sure where to start. My first step was to find someone who could guide me through the process. You should never be afraid to seek out expert advice when needed. After months of work, Winn Parish received the grant for two roads to have safety features added.

### Who is your model leader?

It must be President Ronald Reagan who believed in allowing your people to do their appointed jobs without interference, as long as the job is carried out as it should be. It's a leadership style I try to maintain.

## LPESA Spring Conference



**Register Now!**

**May 3-4, 2023**

**Louisiana Parish Engineers & Supervisors Association (LPESA)  
Spring Conference**

**Cypress Bayou Casino Hotel in Charenton, LA**

[www.LPESA.org](http://www.LPESA.org)



## We Exhibited, We Spoke, and We Networked at LTC 2023!

At this year's Louisiana Transportation Conference 2023, the LTAP team not only exhibited a tabletop display but also presented in two sessions.

**Top photo:** The six-member LTAP team poses in front of the LTAP booth (from left): Business Manager Victor Lockwood, Training Coordinator Haley Ortiz, Program Manager Courtney Dupre, LRSP Manager Leo Marreta, Director Steve Strength, and Technology Transfer/Communications Manager Rudynah Capone.

**Middle photo:** Session speakers and Roads Scholar instructors Nick Verret, Jr. and Jim Ferguson (second and third from left, respectively) pose with LTAP staff.

**Bottom photo:** The LTAP team welcomes back Crash Data Engineer Peter Allain (second from right).



## Upcoming LTAP Classes

### *Roads Scholar #2: Maintenance of Asphalt Roads* *March 28–May 18, 2023*

This course is designed for local public agency employees and supervisors who perform routine maintenance activities on asphalt roads.

### *Local Public Agency (LPA) Training in New Orleans*

The LPA Training provides guidance on using federal and state funds for transportation projects on locally owned roads including the requirements for the design and construction of those projects using the Local Public Agency funding programs available through DOTD and FHWA from beginning to closeout.

- **(2-Day Core Training) on May 23-24, 2023:** This class 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) Training on May 25, 2023:** This class is intended for LPA Construction Project Personnel, engineers who serve as the LPA Project Engineer (PE), and the Responsible Charge.



Visit [louisianaltap.org/training.html](https://louisianaltap.org/training.html)  
to register for all LTAP classes.



## **LOUISIANA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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### **Publication Statement**

Technology Exchange is published quarterly by the Louisiana Transportation Research Center. It is the newsletter of the Louisiana Local Technical Assistance Program. Any findings, conclusions, or recommendations presented in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of LSU, DOTD, or FHWA.

### **LTRC Publications Staff**

Emily Wolfe, Public Information Director  
Jenny Gilbert, Editor  
Chris Melton, Photographer

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.