

**LOUISIANA STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN**  
**NORTHEAST LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**



July 25, 2018  
 11:00AM – 1:00PM  
 West Monroe Convention Center  
 901 Ridge Avenue  
 West Monroe, LA 71291  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Barnes	Charles	Union Pacific
Barrett	Shelly	NW Region Coordinator
Beck	Sgt. C.J.	West Monroe Police Dept.
Bedwell	Jessica	LA Safety Coalition
Bell	Ben	Driving Done Right
Bell	Gary	Driving Done Right
Bell	Judy	Driving Done Right
Black	Whitney Williams	Southeast LA AHEC
Bordelon	Melissa	
Bradley	Everette	Union Pacific
Broemmelsiek	John	FHWA
Buchanan	Erin	LA DOTD
Burney	Mike	Acadian Ambulance
Campbell	Don	LHSC
Clampit	Jack	Ouachita Parish Police Jury
Cuenca	Eric	LSP Troop F
Dickerson	Sara	OPH
Fuselier	Paul	Acadian Ambulance Service
Goodfellow – Thompson	Autumn	LA DOTD
Guidry	Troy	Acadian Ambulance
Guy	Rod	City of Monroe
Hill	Jonathan	LHSC
Hill	Marshall	DOTD District 5
Hutson	Shelia	Region 8, Dept of Health
Johnson	Mark	ULM
Malmay	Tom	
McCormick	Antoinette	Vantage Health Plan
Mitchell	Doug	North Delta
Mitchell	Susan	NE Safety Coordinator
Moore	Michael	Ouachita Parish Sheriff Office
Morgan	Tammy	Region 8, Dept of Health

Newman	Glenn	DOTD District 5
Peters	Capt. John	LSP Troop F Captain
Phillely	Sheriff Jerry	West Carroll Sheriff
Phillips	Jonathan	University Health
Ray	Kathy	Sen. Hoffman's Rep
Reichardt	Michael	LSP Troop F
Robert	Angie	Senator Cassidy Rep
Terrell	Jeff	West Monroe Police
Torregrossa	Tom	ULM
Tramonte	Betsey	LA DOTD
Valenzano	Anne	St. Francis Hospital
Valenzano	Frank	1 <sup>st</sup> West Fairbanks Church
Walsworth	Senator Mike	LA Senator
Whittaker	Ron	LSP Retired
Wilkerson	Dean	LA.gov
Williamson	Casey	LSP Troop F

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Susan Mitchell/NELA Safety Coordinator

Susan Mitchell welcomed attendees and introduced herself as the NELA Regional Coordinator. Susan thanked everyone for coming for the worthy and important cause of “Destination Zero Deaths” by Reducing the number of fatal and serious injuries in our region by implementing our LA Strategic Highway safety Plan through our 5 emphasis areas.

Then she asked that everyone introduce themselves and their affiliation. Susan thanked everyone again and then introduced two student ambassadors that have helped her set up the meeting today. Hannan Mitchell a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Sallie Humble Elementary School and Bruin Foster a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Sterlington Middle School.

Susan Mitchell then introduced Pastor Frank Valenzano, the new pastor at the First West Fairbanks Campus Church in Sterlington. Him and his wife Anne and their 3 children are new to our community. Susan Mitchell asked that we welcome them into the community and to the meeting.

Susan Mitchell asked that everyone stand for the blessing.

## **BLESSING OF THE FOOD & LUNCH**

Pastor Frank Valenzano

First West Fairbanks Campus Pastor

Pastor Frank Valenzano blessed the food.

Susan Mitchell then welcomed everyone to the buffet that was provided by the North Delta Regional Planning and Development District along with the West Monroe Convention Center. She thanked North Delta again for making this happen.

Susan Mitchell introduced Glenn Newman with the DOTD with the Infrastructure's Report out because he had to leave to go to another meeting.

#### Infrastructure & Operations

Kirk Gallien, DOTD District 5

Natalie Sistrunk, DOTD District 5

John Eason, DOTD – Retired

Eric Cuenca, LSP – Troop F

Glenn Newman, Construction Coordinator with DOTD District 5 was requested by the traffic division to give a status update regarding the pedestrian issues we have had on Highway 165 in the Richwood area. There have been a couple of studies performed since 2014 in that location and currently we are moving forward with the State Zero which is evaluating the alternatives that we are pursuing in that location. The alternatives are the crossing which were discussed was potentially a tunnel which was not recommended due to safety concerns and flooding potential. It was also discussed putting in other at grade crossing systems with lights, however it is our recommendation that the speed of the traffic would not be safe. Our recommendation is putting in a pedestrian bridge elevated which would be just south of the Ollie Burn Public Library.

. Our concern is who would be willing to take over the cost of the expense once the project is completed. Also, we are talking about putting in side walks on both sides, which would be a quick process.

A question was asked if there would be any fencing in place. Glenn stated that there would not be any fencing just discourage pedestrians by using vegetation. There were no other questions

Susan Mitchell then spoke about what our Coalition Region includes:

- 12 Parishes and their Parish and City Governments and Law Enforcement Agencies
- Louisiana State Police Troop F
- DOTD Region 5 & Part of DOTD Region Chase
- An Estimated 355,761 Residents according to the 2010 census and
- 10,152.50 total miles of local roads, city streets, interstates and other state maintained roadways
- 2,799.96 miles of state highway according to the DOTD Website

Susan Mitchell said to keep in mind that although we are ½ way through with 2018, our goal today is to regain purpose of our Coalition, Re-build our Support of members and gear up for 2019 mission.

Susan Mitchell then presented the fatality count from the Destination Zero Deaths website. Last year from Jan 1 – July 24 there were 439 Fatalities; This year from Jan 1 – July 24 there are 330 fatalities which is 109 less than last year. She also reported that to date in our Region Troop F has investigated 18 crashes and we have had 21 fatalities on our roadways from various causes. Susan reiterated the importance of the Coalitions efforts and the importance of getting the data to Crash Data.

Susan Mitchell then Introduced the feature Speaker David Whitchurch who is the Business Analytics Manager at LSU's Highway Safety Research Group. His mission is to provide clear and relevant analysis of motor vehicle crash data to HSRG stakeholders. David received his M.S. Analytics degree from LSU and has a broad background which includes roles in operations management, human resources management, and information technology. His current role at HSRG includes developing, updating and maintaining data analytics applications and reporting services solutions. His recent projects include development of an updated classification model for alcohol involved crashes, documentation of HSRG's data warehouse, and updating Louisiana's SHSP dashboard system. Welcome David Whitchurch.

## **LSU CRASH DATA PRESENTATION**

David Whitchurch

Highway Safety Research Group

David went over the 2017 crash data, the 5 year trend. and gave a demonstration of how to use the SHSP reports. David mentioned that these numbers are available to the public. Louisiana had 773 number of fatalities in 2017. Northeast Louisiana had 66 fatalities in 2017 which was up 14 from the previous year which was the largest increase in the state. The 5 year trend is flat. Severe injury count was 75 in 2017 which was a 20 percent decrease.

David covered Parish comparisons. Ouachita has the highest numbers. The ones that were trending up was Franklin Parish, Madison, Ouachita and West Carroll Parish.

Parishes trending down were Lincoln, Morehouse and Union Parish.

David went over each of the contributing factors. He began with Alcohol impaired. David demonstrated how to use the dash board for everyone so that Parishes can use this information. David did state that he did not have much data from East Carroll Parish so he could not give accurate information regarding that Parish. David also stated that Distracted Driving is hard to detect by the Officer.

David asked if there were any questions, and also put his contact information on the screen for anyone that wanted to get in touch with him. A question was asked why the pedestrian fatalities were increasing. But for 14 and under age it doubled. David said he would do more research into that area. David thanked everyone for their time.

Susan Mitchell thanked David Whitchurch for his presentation and explained to the Coalition the importance of reporting your crash information to the Highway Safety Research Group because this is how we develop roadway projects and safe routes and because of receiving funding for projects.

## **EMPHASIS AREA REPORTS**

### **Occupant Protection**

Michael Reichardt, LSP-Troop F

Sara Dickerson, RN

Michael Reichardt stated that Occupant Protection has to do with seatbelt usage and that we need to do a better job of getting that information out there. This year we have had one more fatal crash, 22 people died and 9 were not restrained.

156 car seat checks have been performed. Car Seat Events have been held in 9 Parishes and the other 3 are scheduled to do. Michael asked that if anyone from Madison, Tensas and Caldwell were in attendance to let him know. He stated that the Seat Belt checks have been being done at the health units so just let him know where they could perform these seat belt checks.

Michael also mentioned that within the past 6 weeks there have been 3 seat belt events at Centric Federal Credit Union. 19 seats have been checked. One more event with them will be this Friday in Ruston.

National Seat Check is September 29<sup>th</sup> at Hixson Ford on Frontage Road. We have partnered with Sonic and Sonic buys seats for every Troop in the State. On Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> we will have 50 free car seats. Then Sonic will give 35 later in the year to give out.

Michael mentioned that it is hard for him to go to a presentation and tell adults to wear their seatbelts because they are all grown. Michael has contacted the West Monroe REC and the Senior Center along with the Council on Aging and set up dates with them. Also, Vantage Health has Talk on Tuesdays and he will speak to their employees. Michael asked for the Coalitions continued support.

### **Impaired Drivers**

CJ Beck – West Monroe Police Department

Bobby Brinkerhoff – Troop F

Susan Thompson – LA Tech

Sgt. C.J. Beck with the West Monroe Police Department. C.J. had a power point of checkpoints. The check points are Occupant Protection and DUI checking points. June 15 – July 29<sup>th</sup>. The

SOBRIETY AND OCCUPANT PROTECTION CHECKPOINT

JUNE 15, 2018

100 BLOCK OF JONESBORO HIGHWAY

Total Number of vehicles:	<u>1203</u>
Total Number of contacts:	<u>2058</u>
DWI Arrests:	<u>2</u>
SFST:	<u>3</u>
Adult Seatbelt Citations:	<u>10</u>
Child Restraint	<u>5</u>
Expired MVI:	<u>6</u>
Switched MVI:	<u>1</u>
Open Container:	<u>2</u>
Illegal Tint:	<u>1</u>
Driving Under Suspension:	<u>1</u>
No Insurance:	<u>2</u>
No License Plate:	<u>1</u>
No Driver's License:	<u>10</u>
Improper Turn:	<u>1</u>
Possession of Methamphetamine:	<u>1</u>
Warrant Arrests:	<u>9</u>

SOBRIETY AND OCCUPANT PROTECTION CHECKPOINT

JUNE 29, 2018

300 Block of Stella Street (LA HIGHWAY 34)

Total Number of vehicles:	<u>889</u>
Total Number of contacts:	<u>1426</u>
DWI Arrests:	<u>1</u>
SFST:	<u>1</u>
Adult Seatbelt Citations:	<u>6</u>
Child Restraint	<u>2</u>
Expired MVI:	<u>13</u>
Illegal Tint:	<u>1</u>
Driving Under Suspension:	<u>5</u>
No Insurance:	<u>3</u>
Expired License Plate:	<u>1</u>
No Driver's License:	<u>2</u>
Failure to Register Vehicle:	<u>1</u>
Child Endangerment:	<u>1</u>
Possession of Marijuana:	<u>1</u>
Warrant Arrests:	<u>4</u>

**WMPD – 7 Officers**

**LSP - 6 Troopers**

**MPD – 1 Officer**

SOBRIETY AND OCCUPANT PROTECTION CHECKPOINT

JULY 13, 2018

300 BLOCK OF STELLA STREET (LA HWY 34)

Total Number of vehicles:	<u>1051</u>
Total Number of contacts:	<u>1668</u>
DWI Arrests:	<u>0</u>
SFST:	<u>0</u>
Adult Seatbelt Citations:	<u>10</u>
Child Restraint	<u>8</u>
Expired MVI:	<u>3</u>
Expired License Plate:	<u>1</u>
No License Plate:	<u>1</u>
Stop Sign:	<u>1</u>
Improper Lane Use:	<u>1</u>
No Insurance:	<u>1</u>
Driving Under Suspension:	<u>1</u>
No Driver's License:	<u>2</u>
Smoking in Vehicle with Juveniles:	<u>2</u>
Possession of Marijuana:	<u>1</u>
Possession of Ecstasy:	<u>1</u>
Possession of Scheduled IV:	<u>1</u>
Possession of Scheduled II:	<u>1</u>

CDS in the Presence of a Juvenile: 1

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia: 1

check points were performed by Louisiana State Police, West Monroe Police Department, Ouachita Parish Sheriff and Monroe Police.

C.J. explained that they have Trustees that count the vehicles. See the attached sheets. The importance is getting the information out. The lower number of DWI arrest is an accomplishment. They have made over 5000 contacts. This shows that what we are doing as an agency is working.

C.J. also talked about the DRE training classes and Intoxilyer 9000 classes. We have 2 Trooper and 2 Wildlife Agents signed up for class.

Currently we have 3 DRE from Troop F, 4 from Wildlife, 1 from Monroe PD , 2 from Ruston 3 from West Monroe. C.J. mentioned the importance of DRE for all law enforcement agencies and said to contact him regarding classes.

June 25,26 and 27-28 the intoxilyer 9000 classes were held in Monroe and a total of 42 students completed the certification. The goal is to have ALL officers in our Region trained with also the hopes of bringing ARIDE. Check points are funded by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission.

One of the things we want to do for Homecoming or Prom is to have the “Every 15 minutes” program at West Monroe High School to start and then go into the other schools. C.J. showed a video regarding the “Every 15 minutes” program which included a Mock crash at the school and had all of the First Responders there. During this program a student is pulled out of class by the Grim Reaper every 15 minutes. We would like to get this to every high school in our region.

#### **Distracted Driver**

Michael Reichardt, LSP – Troop F

Randall Lowery, LSP – Troop F

Philip Zalewski, LSP – Troop F

Casey Williamson, LSP – Troop F

Susan Mitchell showed a video from AT&T It Can Wait called “Wait for it – Summer Break”

We got through ½ way of the video and the video stopped.

Susan explained the end of the video and the impact that it had on the participants.

Susan mentioned that there was not a representative from Young Drivers in attendance to the meeting so we would not have a report out from Young Drivers today.

Susan mentioned that Sheila Hutson, R.N. would speak about “Stop the Bleed”

Sheila Hutson from Region 8 stated this is new and that there will be several that are instructors. This has to do with school shooting and car accidents. The goal is to train

individuals on how to stop a bleed in order to save lives. Training will be various in time and schedule.

### **UPCOMING SAFETY CAMPAIGNS AND CLOSING REMARKS**

Susan Mitchell provided a DZD Campaign Scheduler with the upcoming campaigns and asked that each attendee post the campaigns on their websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or their front door or their bulletin board at their office, church or community hall. As long as they get the message out.

Susan Mitchell also directed the attendees to the information table that had Driving School Packets, Distracted Driving Cards, Bike and Ped Pamphlets, Cannabis Recognition Cards, DZD Brochures about our purpose and the “Join the Journey” Commitment Card.

### **CHALLENGE AND COMMITMENT**

Susan Mitchell asked for commitment to the Coalition and then discussed the challenges to the Coalition for the next meeting.

#1 Susan Mitchell Challenged the Coalition to see how many different uniforms or agencies we can have represented at the next meeting. She asked if you were a Mayor, to make sure that your Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, Police Juror and/or School Board President were to attend. She also said that if you were a coalition member and did not see your community represented to help her reach out to those people and get them to the next meeting.

#2 Susan Mitchell discussed the new format of the meeting where in there would be a break out session into the emphasis areas to discuss the strategies and goals for 2019.

#3 Susan Mitchell also said that at the next meeting there would be a time for the Parish Representatives or coalition members to present any concerns, accomplishments, etc. that are going on in their area related to Safety and community involvement.

#4 Susan announced that there would be a Chili Cook Off at the next Coalition Meeting. They fixings would be provided but to email her and let her know if you want to participate and bring your best pot of Chili.

Susan Mitchell said that those were just a few things that would be happening at the October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting but she still had some other surprises.

Susan opened the floor to questions or comments.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Susan Mitchell Thanked everyone for coming and announced the next coalition meeting and wished everyone safe travels!

**Next Quarterly Coalition Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 30, 2018**  
**Place to be determined**  
**[www.destinationzerodeaths.com](http://www.destinationzerodeaths.com)**