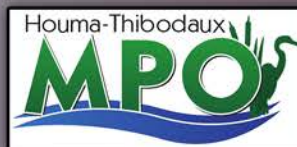


2013 Path Forward



SCPDC
South Central Planning &
Development Commission
Post Office Box 1870
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August 2013
Version 1

2013 OZONE ADVANCE

AUGUST 2013

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
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Path Forward

Introduction

On July 6, 2012, the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicating its participation in the Ozone Advance Program. Shortly thereafter, on April 23, 2013, the MPO followed up with another letter indicating its participation in the Particulate Matter Advance Program. These letters are included in Appendix A of this document. As a result of entering into the Advance Program, the MPO has developed this Path Forward document outlining the existing and current actions being undertaken to improve the air quality in the region.

SCPDC's participation in the program is predicated on the fact that the EPA is reviewing the air quality standard for Ozone and may issue a new, more stringent, air quality standard for Ozone in 2015. The agency recently established a new, lower standard for particulate matter (PM) 2.5. . This preliminary Path Forward planning document focuses on Ozone and PM in the three parishes of the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (the urbanized areas of Lafourche, Terrebonne and Assumption Parishes), referred to as "the MPO." This is the only MPO serving this particular area. This Path Forward document is intended to become part of a larger Path Forward plan for the entire South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) planning district (Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and Terrebonne Parishes). St. Charles and St. John the Baptist Parishes are included in the New Orleans Area MPO. SCPDC is currently working with its member parishes, including those in the local MPO, to develop a six parish regional Advance Program.

The South Central Planning and Development (SCPDC) District

The SCPDC region extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Mississippi River. This area has a linked economy based on transportation of raw materials (primarily oil and natural gas) produced offshore and on the coast for processing at refineries and feed stocks for chemi-

cal plants in the River Parishes. The raw materials are moved via a variety of transportation modes, including pipeline, marine barge, rail freight, and highway. The River Parishes also have grain elevators, where product transported down the river from farms in the Mid-West is stored prior to export.

As the SCPDC district effort develops, this Path Forward document for the MPO will serve as a template for the Path Forward for the larger, regional, six-parish document.

The Houma-Thibodaux MPO

The Houma-Thibodaux MPO is made up of the urbanized portions of Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. It is located in south Louisiana approximately 50 miles southwest of New Orleans. The cities of Houma, Thibodaux, and the Towns of Lockport and Golden Meadow, and the Village of Napoleonville are located within the MPO's urban and planning boundaries. The MPO's population as of the 2010 Census is 144,875, which classifies the area as a "small" MPO. **Map 1** shows the MPO's boundaries in relation to the rest of the South Central Planning and Development District.

Parish Population Trends

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, Terrebonne Parish has the area's largest population, with over 100,000 residents. Lafourche has a slightly smaller population, just under 100,000 residents, while Assumption is primarily rural, with less than 25,000 residents. Terrebonne and Lafourche have seen steady increases in population. Assumption's population has stayed steady, with a slight decrease.

Table 1
Population Projections

Parish	2000 Census	2010 Census	2011 Est.	2012 Est.
Assumption	23,388	23,421	23,176	23,026
Lafourche	89,974	96,318	96,931	97,029
Terrebonne	104,503	111,860	111,726	111,893



Parish	2000 Census	2010 Census	2011 Est.	2012 Est.
District Total	217,865	231,599	231,833	231,948

Vulnerable Populations

In all three parishes, about 20% of the populations falls into vulnerable categories—under school age and elderly. Both groups are especially susceptible to negative health effects related to air quality issues. Possible health effects include promotion of asthma and other respiratory ailments in young children and conditions like bronchitis or emphysema in older adults.

Table 2
Vulnerable Populations

Parish	2007-2011 Est.	Median Age	Below School Age	65 and Above
Assumption	23,421	39.1	1,446 6.2%	3,116 13.4%
Lafourche	95,895	36.5	6,690 7%	11,818 12.4%
Terrebonne	111,518	35.0	8,238 7.4%	12,533 11.2%

Settlement and Economic Activity

The three parishes have a mix of small cities, towns and more sparsely populated rural areas. Habitable land is limited, because much of the region is water, wetlands and marsh. Settlement patterns tend to be denser than in rural areas with more space. Settlement is generally oriented around the bayous, tidal driven water courses. Land closest to the bayous is high ground and therefore less prone to flooding. Lafourche and Assumption both focus around Bayou Lafourche, the largest bayou and the source of drinking water for the all or part of all three parishes. Terrebonne Parish has five smaller bayous. There are also manmade navigation channels, such as the Gulf Intra-Coastal Waterway (GIWW) and the Houma Navigation Canal. The primary economic activity in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes is on- and offshore oil and natural gas exploration and production,

as well as related support services (Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes).

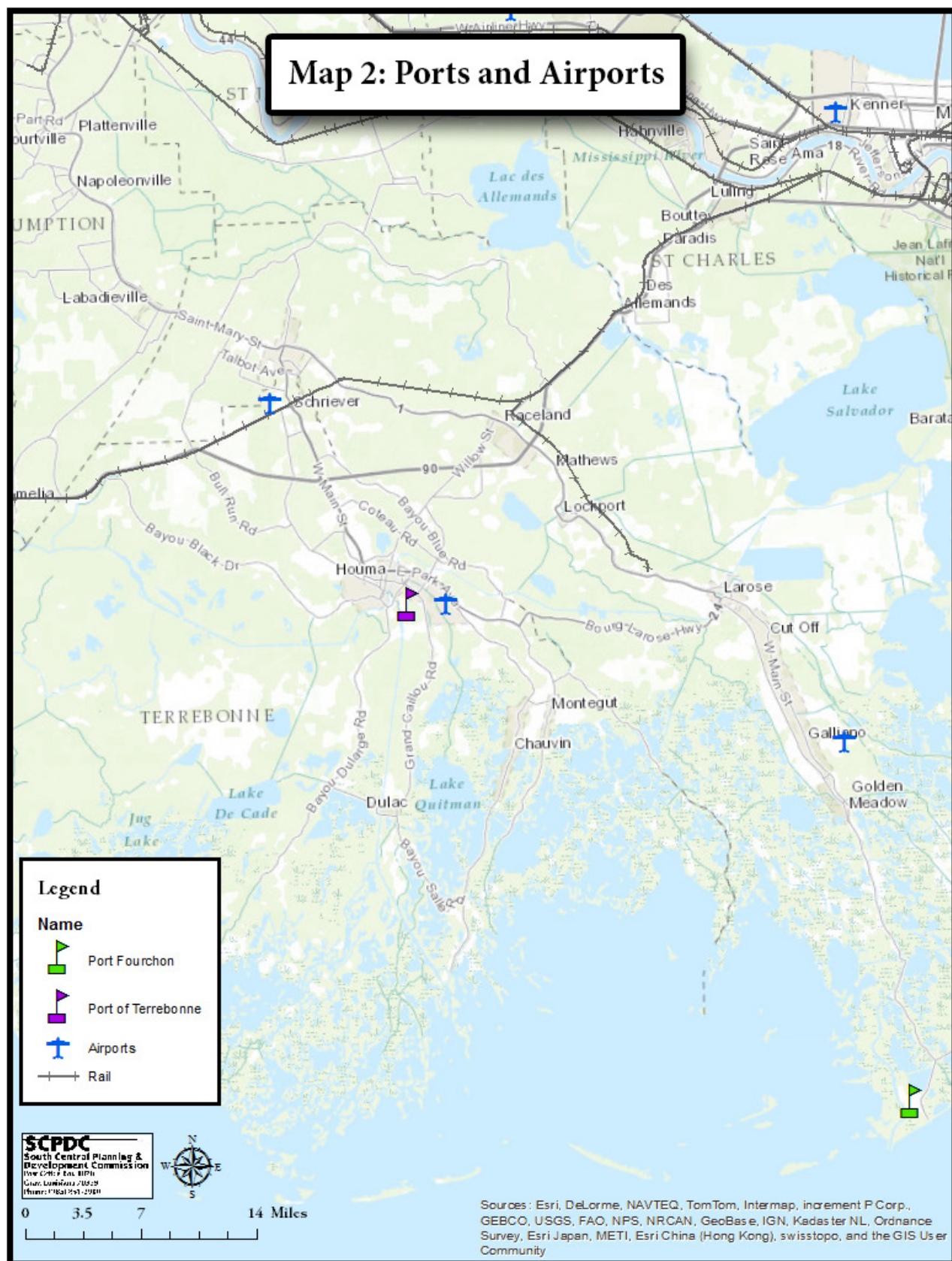
The three-parish area has two water ports. Port Fourchon, at the southern end of Bayou Lafourche, is the hub of deepwater offshore energy exploration and production in the Gulf of Mexico. As such, this port is critical to the nation's energy security. The Port of Terrebonne, on the Houma Navigation Canal and the GIWW is home base for a number of domestic and international companies involved in advanced-manufacturing fabrication of rigs and vessels for the offshore energy industry. An inventory-study of port-related ozone emissions at Port Fourchon was conducted in 2010 by Starcrest Consulting Group and the LSU Center for Energy Studies.

The MPO area has two airports, one in Houma operated by the Houma-Terrebonne Airport Authority and the other in Galliano operated by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, which also operates Port Fourchon. Both airports are used primarily by helicopters transporting workers to offshore rigs, as well as by small planes. Both airports are also major industrial parks. Sandblasting and spray painting at ship and boat yards generate VOCs and PM 2.5. All three parishes have some agricultural production, primarily cultivation of sugar cane, with attendant agricultural burning. There is also activity in raising of livestock, primarily cattle. There are a number of sugar mills in the parishes of Lafourche and Assumption.

Map 2 shows the ports, airports, rail, and major highways in the MPO planning area.

MPO Structure

The MPO is staffed by the South Central Planning and Development Commission. SCPDC is one of the state's eight regional planning and development districts, and is governed by a board of directors made up of local elected officials and business leaders. MPO's are federally designated as the party responsible for transportation planning in urban areas. As such, MPO's are often affected when urban areas fall out of attainment due to poor air quality. This fact requires MPO's to consider the environmental effects of transportation projects and



locals.”

- October 8, 2009. “Everyone would pay for new rules.”
- January 9, 2010. “Ozone standards could bring new regulations.” By Nikki Buskey.
- January 20, 2010. “Industry officials learn about new federal ozone standards.” By Nikki Buskey.
- July 25, 2010. “Ongoing air testing along Gulf Coast is a first.” by Naomi King.
- October 22, 2010. “You’re invited to help clear the air.” By Nate Monroe.
- May 3, 2012. “Houma-Thibodaux area ranks high for healthy air.” By Nikki Buskey.
- May 7, 2012. “We can all breathe a little easier.”
- May 18, 2013. “Terrebonne leading the way on regional coalition to combat ozone.” By Chance Ryan.
- May 21, 2013. “Terrebonne agrees to join ozone coalition.” By Chance Ryan.

An article titled “DEQ urges steps to reduce ozone air pollution” also appeared in the Bayou Journal on May 14, 2013.

Copies of these articles are included in **Appendix C**.

Collaboration

In our effort to spread the word within the area, the MPO will continue to utilize regional data such as traffic counts. The MPO will also track data on cross-commute patterns. The Houma-Thibodaux MSA represents the third leg of an economic triangle that links this area to New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Louisiana Economic Development and the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center have recognized high incidences of commuting from the MPO area into New Orleans and into the MPO area from New Orleans (see Map). We will also, where applicable, use relevant FHWA information, such as 2008 ozone attainment maps and Conformity Practices Website for ozone and PM 2.5.

We will utilize best-practice resources such as the Housing + Transportation (H+T) Index to track common travel patterns and associated costs in the MPO area. The index was originally developed by the Center for Neighborhood Technology, by has been adopted by the

federal Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development. By linking transportation, land use planning and air quality, the H+T Index helps track cost burdens for business, industry and families. Such information will be important in encouraging stakeholders like private businesses and families to participate in emission reduction efforts.

We will continue close collaboration already begun with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. DEQ databases are critical to developing the kind of information necessary to encourage broad participation in the Advance Program. The MPO and its service area will benefit from top-notch air-quality modeling developed under contract with DEQ. Models run with additional analysis specific to our geographic area will give the MPO access to local and regional resources as the basis for identifying appropriate emissions reduction strategies.

SPDC staff has developed and continues to refine a number of power point presentations on Ozone and PM 2.5 issues. This agency has invited Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality staff to make presentations on air quality at quarterly SCPDC Commission meetings. These include the meetings of January 8, 2013, April 18, 2013 and June 14, 2013. MPO staff has made presentations on the issue at regular MPO meetings. Minutes from meeting where presentations were made are included in Appendix B.

SCPDC staff has also made presentations to Parish Councils and Police Juries in the MPO area, as follows:

- Assumption Parish - May 8, 2013
- Terrebonne Parish - May 6, 2013

SCPDC staff also had informal discussions with Lafourche Parish Council members regarding air quality issues.

Nearby Examples

The Baton Rouge area borders the MPO and has over 20 years of experience in developing and maintaining strong public-private partnerships to address air quality

issues. That Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition provides a best-practice model for the state. The Houma-Thibodaux MPO region has lower population densities and less high-emission industry. It may not need the full range of techniques and strategies developed in Baton Rouge. Yet many of the approaches already tested there can be adapted to the local situation to help encourage public and private sector buy-in to improving regional air quality. **Map 3** shows commute patterns between Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Houma, highlighting the relationship between the regions.

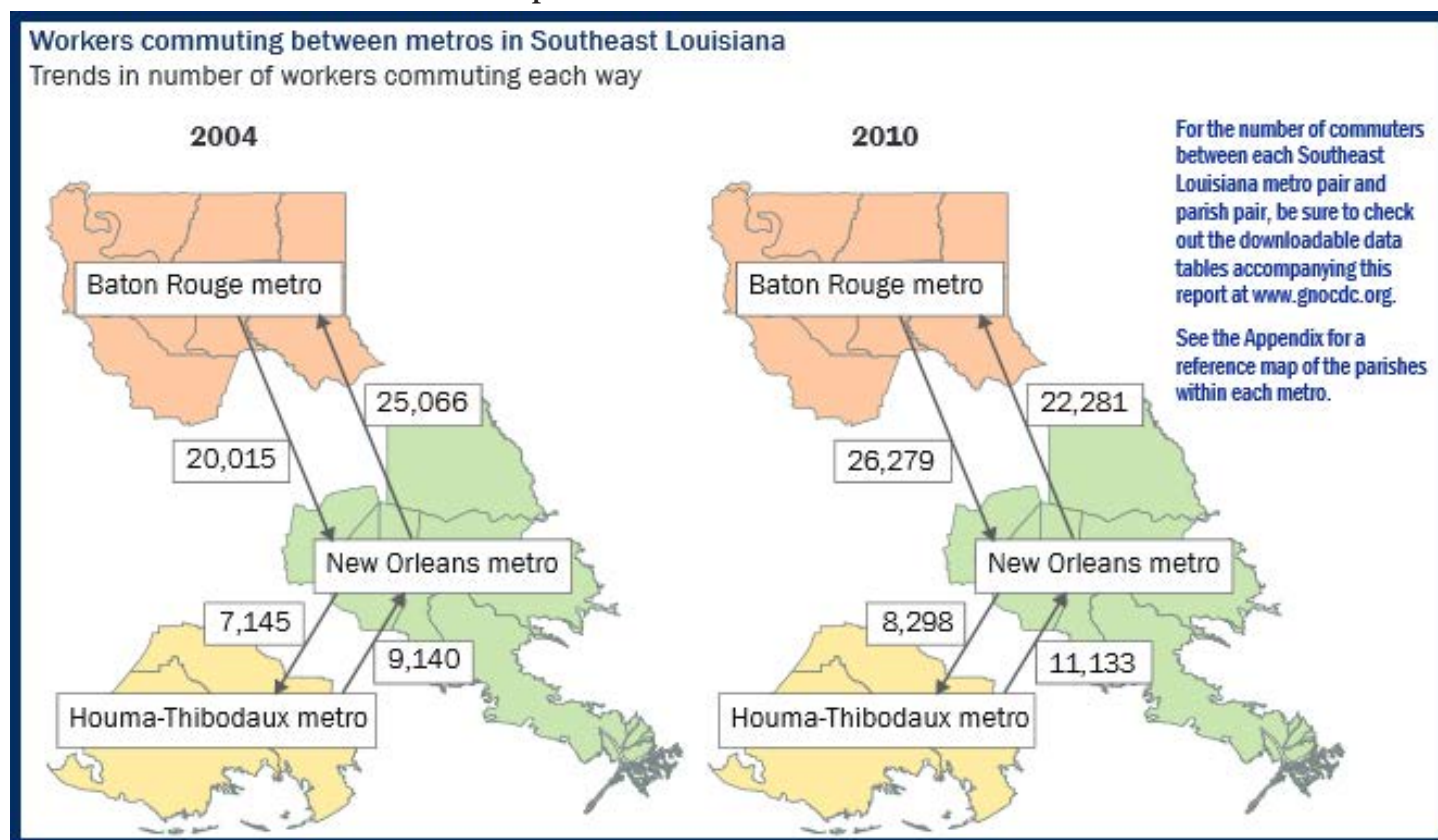
It should be noted that as the district-wide Path Forward plan is developed, Baton Rouge strategies will likely be more applicable to SCPDC's River Parishes, an area that has a significant incidence of high-emissions industry such as refineries and chemical plants. Although this Path Forward does not, at present, include the River Parishes (St. Charles, St. James and St. John the Baptist), the modeling for the MPO area will incorporate consideration of wind currents and directions for potential

to carry emissions from refineries, chemical plants and other activities near the River into the MPO area.

Potential Strategies

SCPDC recognizes that a variety of factors should be taken into account in developing effective Ozone and PM 2.5 reduction strategies. A standard, "one size fits all" approach may fail to meet regional needs and might even spark resistance. Inflexible, narrowly-drawn, strategies could limit capacity to adjust to emerging innovations in emissions monitoring and reduction technologies. SCPDC will therefore focus on matching strategies to regional conditions. An early initiative will be recruiting private and public entities to participate in the regional Clean Air Coalition. Other recruitment efforts will identify entities willing to serve as "early adopters" of emissions reduction strategies and/or technologies. This direct, hands-on, experience will provide local test cases, under actual, "real-time" conditions. Such experiences will also create opportunities to generate word-

Map 3: LA Metro Commute Patterns



Source: Greater New Orleans Community Data Center

policies and has compelled the Houma MPO to enter into the Advance Program.

The Houma MPO has been monitoring Air Quality issues for many years. Although the area has never been in non-compliance, readings from local monitors are recorded as narrowly achieving compliance. SCPDC, therefore, has been closely monitoring news related to the updated ambient air quality standards. **Appendix B** documents both SCPDC board meeting and MPO committee meetings during which air quality issues were discussed as far back as 2009.

Measuring Air Quality

Air quality in the MPO area is measured by the monitors described below.

Ozone: Monitor #220570004, located south of Thibodaux, on Nicholls State University Farm

Table 3
8-Hour Design Values: Parts Per Million

	2010	2011	2012
Ozone	0.071	0.072	0.074

According to the readings above, the urban area is in compliance with the existing standard of 0.075 PPM. The region is, however, creeping upward, moving from 0.071 in 2010 to 0.074 in 2012. With a current three year average of 0.072, an adjustment in the standard lower than the existing 0.075 would likely result in non-compliance. SCPDC intends, therefore, to develop strategies aimed lowering future monitor readings.

PM: Monitor #221090001, located at State Police Troop C Headquarters in Gray, north of Houma

Table 4
Particulate Matter Readings

	2009	2010	2011
24-Hour Standard - 35µg/m3	17	17	19
Annual Standard - 12 µg/m3	8.3	8.3	8.7

At present, the area seems to be well in compliance with the newly establish standards relative to particulate matter. With this in mind, SCPDC intends to develop

strategies aimed at remaining in compliance with the existing standards.

Outreach and Education

In the beginning, it can be anticipated that the MPO area could experience some challenges in responding to the new air quality standards. Although the area has been on the cusp of non-compliance for a number of years, public and private sector actors have not yet experienced the consequences of non-compliance and may therefore lack a full comprehension of the issues. They are thus likely to need some convincing that this is a real issue that could have real health, environmental and economic impacts on communities and industry. The situation makes it appropriate to put early emphasis on connecting with stakeholders and their interests and needs. This will be accomplished by providing stakeholders with data, scenarios and examples of the consequences of failing to meet air quality standards. Outreach and education efforts will begin with the organization of a Regional Clean Air Coalition of interested stakeholders. Membership will include the three parish and four municipal governments, the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, the Terrebonne Port Authority, The Terrebonne Economic Development Authority, the Houma Airport Authority, local business groups like the South Central Industrial Association and the Bayou Industrial Group, local development organizations like the South Louisiana Economic Council, and utilities such as Entergy, SLECA, and Terrebonne Parish's Houma Municipal Power Plant.

SCPDC staff has reached out to encourage news coverage to raise public awareness and understanding of air quality issues. The Houma Today website (www.HoumaToday.com) provides on-line access to articles from both the Houma Courier and the Thibodaux Comet, the two major newspapers serving the Houma-Thibodaux MSA. A selection of articles published since 2008 includes:

- March 12, 2008. "Update: Houma-Thibodaux could face ozone regulations. Associated Press.
- January 7, 2009. "Local air pollution still violates EPA standards."
- October 6, 2009. "New air-quality rules could affect

of-mouth, “buzz” to attract additional participants, while also building broad-based regional capacity.

While continuing to pursue buy-in and adherence from public and private sector actors, SCPDC will also expand on efforts already begun to identify existing, ongoing, activities that contribute to reducing emissions.

Examples include:

- **Terrebonne Parish** plans to convert its entire vehicle fleet to compressed natural gas (CNG). This includes Good Earth Transit (GET) system, which currently consists of 12 heavy-duty busses and 5 cutaway busses. The heavy-duty fleet will likely be replaced with CNG-fueled vehicles when existing vehicles reach the end of their life cycles, around 2020. CNG may not be available for the cutaway busses at present, but GET will replace cutaways at the end of their life cycles with CNG-fueled vehicles, if available. A natural gas fueling station is being developed in Terrebonne Parish to support CNG parish and transit vehicles.
- **The Greater Lafourche Port Commission (GLPC)** is exploring potential to convert its fleet of 34 administrative, harbor police and maintenance vehicles to natural gas. The GLPC is also moving to secure a site for development of a fueling station at Port Fourchon.
- **Other self-directed initiatives** include fleet expansion by the Chouest Group, which will include construction of 17 new diesel-electric powered vessels, which the company leases with crews. Electric backup power reduces use of diesel to power vessels when they are in port at Port Fourchon or the Port of Terrebonne.

At this early stage, SCPDC has identified a number of emission reduction strategies that seem suited for regional implementation. The selected strategies relate to EPA’s list of major source sectors relevant to communities with primary economic activities in oil and gas production, agriculture and related support services. Major sources include: dust from construction and unpaved roads; fires due to agricultural field burning; electric generation using oil or natural gas; cement manufactur-

ing; chemical manufacturing; oil and gas production; waste disposal; commercial marine vessels; non-road diesel equipment; on-road diesel vehicles; degreasing; dry cleaning; industrial surface coating and solvents.

As noted above, SCPDC has also begun to identify and research existing instances of related activity already underway or planned that could have potential for expansion and scaling to help reduce emissions. Examples to be considered are summarized below.

- Establishing a Regional Clean Air Coalition/Committee—recruiting stakeholders to participate; developing ongoing public-private partnerships;
- Establishing additional natural gas fueling stations—The Greater Lafourche Port Commission has expressed interest in setting up a CNG fuelling station at Port Fourchon;
- Converting auto and truck fleets to compressed natural gas;
- Helping fleet owners to convert vehicles to CNG and utilize any available Louisiana State Tax Credits;
- Installing electric parking spaces at truck stops to reduce idling when trucks are parked;
- Installing electric backup power sources for vessels when in port--Staff research is focusing on costs, flexibility and impacts on regional ports’ economic viability moving forward. Research based on studies done for other ports around the world indicates that installing permanent power grids and retrofitting vessels at any meaningful scale could be cost prohibitive. Such efforts might also raise port fees and thus restrict port competitiveness. This could spark significant resistance by ports and stakeholders. Studies of alternate approaches, such as using barges with fuel cells might offer advantages of portability, indicate some potential to lower costs and maintain flexibility and thus promote competitiveness.
- Researching evaporation, emissions and release potential of tank farms and pipelines and identifying possible technologies available to reduce potential for such events;
- Sharing information like the H+T Index to enable private industry and the general public to understand the relationships among transportation, land

use, air quality and related costs.

- Using catalytic converters or other emission reduction technologies on marine engines, boilers, etc.
- Expanding existing van pooling by industry, such as offshore operators—This approach had potential to reduce costs for workers by reducing their need to use private vehicles;
- Installing plug-in recharging stations at workplaces for workers with hybrid vehicles—This approach also has potential to aid workers while reducing emissions.

The Gantt Chart below (Table 4) provides greater detail, as well as timelines.

Promotional Activities

To help spread the word, the MPO may also purchase and distribute promotional items to encourage participation in the Advance Program. EPA's EnviroFlash air quality notice system and mobile source voluntary emission reduction applications could be developed to raise awareness of Ozone Action Days and opportunities to reduce emissions.

Questions

A number of questions have arisen in the course of developing this preliminary Path Forward document. Most questions relate to gaining access to the type of information needed to maximize the effectiveness of regional air-quality efforts. A few of the most salient questions to date are listed below. Finding answers will be an ongoing process that SCPDC hopes will lead to lessons learned for continuing improvement, partnering and participation.

Are there sources that can offer case studies of strategies tested in other areas where conditions are similar to ours?

Are there guidelines explaining the relationship and possible interactions between Stationary and Mobile Sources?

Is there a useful formula regarding traffic volumes and generation of NO_x? It seems likely EPA already has some information on this.

Is there a formula regarding the ratio of NO_x and VOCs in Ozone formation? If so, is the formula particular to each geographic area? DEQ has indicated we will be able to get this kind of information once the modeling work is completed.

Table 4
Gantt Chart

Houma-Thibodaux MPO Advance Program	Existing	2015		2016					
Strategies and Action Steps		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
ORGANIZE REGIONAL CLEAN AIR COALITION COMMITTEE (adapt from Baton Rouge model)									
<i>Recruit Members from regional government, business & industry, environmental groups</i>									
<i>Work with Coalition/Committee to Map Out Strategies</i>									
<i>Develop Plan for Outreach and Education Efforts</i>									
<i>Work with Coalition/Committee members to promote Stakeholder buy-in</i>									
DEVELOPING DATA BASE TO TARGET ACTION:									
<i>Use DEQ Modeling Data as Basis for running "What If" scenarios in-house</i>									
<i>How do prevailing winds, air currents, affect ozone levels among the parishes?</i>									
<i>Identify major emitters? Develop management methods for working with them.</i>									
SUGGESTED STRATEGIES: Actual choices to be approved by Coalition/Committee									
FUEL 1: Recognize/Identify existing natural gas filling station(s)									
GOAL 1: Establish additional natural gas filling									
<i>Start conversation with proprietor of existing station</i>									

Houma-Thibodaux MPO Advance Program	Existing	2015				2016			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<i>Interest by GLPC in establishing possible natural gas filling station</i>									
<i>Identify possible funding sources(s)</i>									
<i>Identify possible incentives</i>									
<i>Identify potential for group purchasing to reduce per unit costs</i>									
FUEL 2: Recognize/Identify existing conversion of auto, truck, bus fleets to nat. gas									
Terrebonne Parish Good Earth Transit bus fleet converting to nat. gas									
GOAL 2: Increase number of vehicles/fleets converted to natural gas									
<i>Terrebonne Parish already converting other fleets?</i>									
<i>Interest by GLPC in converting ground fleet</i>									
<i>Identify possible funding source(s)</i>									
<i>Identify potential for group purchasing to reduce per units costs</i>									
EMISSIONS 1: Reduce truck idling									
GOAL 1: Increase electric parking spaces at truck stops to reduce idling									
<i>Research: Do we have any existing truck stops with electric parking places?</i>									
<i>Identify truck stop willing to have electric parking spaces installed</i>									
<i>Identify possible funding source(s)</i>									
<i>Identify potential for group purchasing to reduce per unit costs</i>									

Houma-Thibodaux MPO Advance Program Strategies and Action Steps	Existing	2015		2016		2017		2018	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EMISSIONS 2: Reduce vessel idling while in port									
GOAL 2: Increase installation of electric backup power on offshore vessels									
Edison Chouest already installing in vessels they build and charter									
[how many vessels?]									
Research potential and cost of retrofitting existing vessels--feasible or not?									
Identify possible funding sources									
Identify potential for group purchasing to reduce per unit costs									
EMISSIONS 3: Reduce emissions from marine engines									
GOAL 3: Use catalytic converters or other emission reduction tech on marine engines									
Research potential and costs of various technologies									
Identify possible funding sources									
Identify potential for group purchasing to reduce per unit costs									
TRANSPORTATION 1: Increase van pooling by industry									
GOAL 1: Research existing programs operating locally--like for offshore industry									
Are there FEES/costs to workers?									
How many workers currently use?									
Research impact on use of personal cars									

Houma-Thibodaux MPO Advance Program Strategies and Action Steps	Existing	2015				2016			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Research Housing + Transportation costs for workers									

Appendix A: Letters of Participation



South Central Planning & Development Commission

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Phone: (985) 851-2900 • Facsimile: (985) 851-4472

Serving:
Parishes: Assumption • Lafourche • St. Charles • St. James • St. John • Terrebonne
Municipalities: Golden Meadow • Gramercy • Lockport • Lusher • Napoleonville • Thibodaux

Friday, June 15, 2012.

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)
Attention: Laura Bunte – Ozone Advance Program C304-01
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

RE: Notice of Intent to Join Ozone Advance Program
South Central Planning & Development Commission

Dear Ms. Bunte:

Please accept this letter as our Notice of Intent and request to be accepted into the EPA's Ozone Advance Program. The South Central Planning & Development Commission represents the Parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne within the State of Louisiana. Our mission is to help member parishes and municipalities to plan for the future.

Our area of the state is monitored for the pollutant ozone at the following locations:

Thibodaux	220570004 – Thibodaux Site
Garyville (St. James)	220950002 – Garyville Site

At the present time, our area is currently designated as attainment for the pollutant ozone. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to input required emission inventory information into the National Emissions Inventory System (NEI) for all relevant point sources within the boundaries of our MSA and the region of South Central Planning & Development Commission. We believe that our current attainment status makes us a worthy candidate for the Ozone Advance program.

We wish to work proactively with business and community leaders to identify and implement programs that result in cleaner air for our citizens. It would benefit us to make every reasonable effort to avoid a future non-attainment designation. In addition to the health concerns (and stigma) associated with such a designation, there are tremendous economic impacts. Stricter permitting and emissions requirements imposed when an area is designated as non-attainment will make it more difficult for us to attract new industry and stifle existing industries wishing to expand. As you know, new regulations and requirements could also increase the cost of gasoline and other goods and services – costs that our communities will be forced to bear.

Michel Claudet
CHAIRMAN
President
Terrebonne Parish Council

VJ St. Pierre
VICE CHAIRMAN
President
St. Charles Parish Council

Arlanda Williams
TREASURER
Minority Representative
Terrebonne Parish Council

Ellis Alexander
SECRETARY
Minority Representative
St. Charles Parish Council

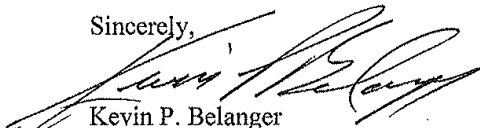
Kevin Belanger
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Page 2 of 2

During the course of the next year, we will be using our best efforts to develop a plan of action. We want to move quickly toward identifying steps that may reduce ozone levels within our area. It is our intent to implement programs and measures as soon as possible so that we can begin collecting information as to our plan's effectiveness.

We look forward to receiving notification that we have been accepted into the Ozone Advance Program. Please contact Kevin Belanger, CEO at (985) 851-2900 or kevin@scpd.org should you require further information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Belanger
CEO – South Central

cc: DEQ Air Permits Division

Michel Claudet
CHAIRMAN
President
Terrebonne Parish Council

VJ St. Pierre
VICE CHAIRMAN
President
St. Charles Parish Council

Arlanda Williams
TREASURER
Minority Representative
Terrebonne Parish Council

Ellis Alexander
SECRETARY
Minority Representative
St. Charles Parish Council

Kevin Belanger
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Parishes: Assumption • Iberville • St. Charles • St. James • St. John • Terrebonne
Metropolitan: Golden Meadow • Gretna • Lakeport • Lusher • Napoleonville • Thibodaux

SCPD:

July 06, 2012

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)
Attention: Laura Bunte—Ozone Advance Program C3M4-D1
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

RE: Notice of Intent to support our MPO region in regards to the Ozone Advance Program
Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization

Dear Ms. Bunte:

Please accept this letter as our Notice of Intent to support our Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) region in regards to their request to be accepted into the EPA's Ozone Advance Program. The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) represents the Parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Assumption within the State of Louisiana. Our mission is to have a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process that results in plans, programs, and projects that consider all transportation modes and support metropolitan community and economic development and social goals.

Our area of the state is monitored for the pollutant ozone at the following locations:

Thibodaux	220570004—Thibodaux Site
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At the present time, our area is currently designated as attainment for the pollutant ozone. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to input required emission inventory information into the National Emissions Inventory System (NEI) for all relevant point sources within the boundaries of our planning district. We believe that our current attainment status makes us a worthy candidate for the Ozone Advance program.

We wish to work proactively with business and community leaders to support their efforts in identifying and implementing programs that result in cleaner air for our citizens. It would benefit us to make every reasonable effort to avoid a future non-attainment designation. In addition to the health concerns (and stigma) associated with such a designation, there are tremendous economic impacts. Stricter permitting and emissions requirements imposed when an area is designated as non-attainment will make it more difficult for us to attract new industry and stifle existing industries wishing to expand. As you know, new regulations and requirements could also increase the cost of gasoline and other goods and services—costs that our communities will be forced to bear.

Michael Chabot
CHAIRMAN
President
Terrebonne Parish Council

VJ St. Pierre
VICE CHAIRMAN
President
St. Charles Parish Council

Arinda Williams
TREASURER
At-Large Representative
Thibodaux Parish Council

Ellis Alexander
SECRETARY
At-Large Representative
St. James Parish Council

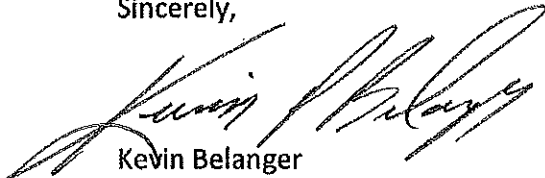
Kevin J. Belanger
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Page 2 of 2

During the course of the next year, we will be using our best efforts to support our parishes in their development of a plan of action. We look forward to assisting our parishes identify steps that may reduce ozone levels within our area.

We look forward to receiving notification that our letter of support in regards to the Ozone Advance Program has been received. Please contact Kevin Belanger at 985-851-2900 or kevin@scpdc.org should you require further information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Belanger", is written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Belanger
CEO, South Central Planning and Development Commission

Cc: DEQ Air Permits Division



South Central Planning & Development Commission

5058 W. Nolia Street, Houma, LA 70360-8260 • Post Office Box 1870, Gray, LA 70359
Phone: (504) 851-7960 • Facsimile: (504) 851-4472

Serving:
Parishes: Assumption • Lafourche • St. Charles • St. James • St. John • Terrebonne
Municipalities: Garden Meadow • Gramercy • Lockport • Lulcher • Napoleonville • Thibodaux

April 23, 2013

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)
Attention: Laura Bunte – Ozone Advance Program C304-01
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

RE: Notice of Intent to Join PM Advance Program
South Central Planning & Development Commission

Dear Ms. Bunte:

Please accept this letter as our Notice of Intent and request to be accepted into the EPA's PM Advance Program. The South Central Planning & Development Commission represents the Parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and Terrebonne within the State of Louisiana. Our mission is to help member parishes and municipalities to plan for the future.

Our area of the state is monitored for the pollutant PM_{2.5} using FRM monitors at the following locations:

Houma (Gray)	221090001 – Houma Site
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At the present time, our area is currently designated as attainment for the pollutant PM_{2.5}. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to input required emission inventory information into the National Emissions Inventory System (NEI) for all relevant point sources within the boundaries of our MSA and the region of South Central Planning & Development Commission. We believe that our current attainment status makes us a worthy candidate for the PM Advance program.

We wish to work proactively with business and community leaders to identify and implement programs that result in cleaner air for our citizens. It would benefit us to make every reasonable effort to avoid a future non-attainment designation. In addition to the health concerns (and stigma) associated with such a designation, there are tremendous economic impacts. Stricter permitting and emissions requirements imposed when an area is designated as non-attainment will make it more difficult for us to attract new industry and stifle existing industries wishing to expand. As you know, new regulations and requirements could also increase the cost of gasoline and other goods and services – costs that our communities will be forced to bear.

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VICE CHAIRMAN
Municipal Representative
Terrebonne Parish Council

Al Badaux, Jr.
TREASURER
Private Sector Representative
Terrebonne Parish Council

Ellis Alexander
SECRETARY
Municipal Representative
St. Charles Parish Council

Kevin Belanger
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


EPA PM 2.5 Advance--SCPDC

2

During the course of the next year, we will be using our best efforts to incorporate a plan of action into our efforts to reduce both PM and ozone. We want to move quickly toward identifying steps that may reduce pollutant levels within our area. It is our intent to implement programs and measures as soon as possible so that we can begin collecting information as to our plan's effectiveness.

We look forward to receiving notification that we have been accepted into the PM Advance Program. Please contact Kevin Belanger at (985) 851-2900 or Kevin@scpd.org should you require further information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Belanger
CEO

cc: DEQ Air Permits Division



South Central Planning & Development Commission

5058 W. Main Street, Houma, LA 70360-4900 • Post Office Box 1870, Gray, LA 70359
Phone: (985) 851-2900 • Facsimile: (985) 851-4472

Serving:
Parishes: Assumption • Lafourche • St. Charles • St. James • St. John • Terrebonne
Municipalities: Golden Meadow • Gramercy • Lockport • Litcher • Napoleonville • Thibodaux

April 23, 2013

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)
Attention: Laura Bunte – Ozone Advance Program C304-01
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

RE: Notice of Intent to Join PM Advance Program
Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization

Dear Ms. Bunte:

Please accept this letter as our Notice of Intent and request to support our Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) region in regards to their request to be accepted into the EPA's PM Advance Program. The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) represents the Parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche and Assumption within the State of Louisiana. Our mission is to have a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process that results in plans, programs, and projects that consider all transportation modes and support metropolitan community and economic development and social goals.

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We wish to work proactively with business and community leaders to identify and implement programs that result in cleaner air for our citizens. It would benefit us to make every reasonable effort to avoid a future non-attainment designation. In addition to the health concerns (and stigma) associated with such a designation, there are tremendous economic impacts. Stricter permitting and emissions requirements imposed when an area is designated as non-attainment will make it more difficult for us to attract new industry and stifle existing industries wishing to expand. As you know,

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Ellis Alexander
SECRETARY
Minority Representative
St. Charles Parish Council

Kevin Belanger
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Page 2 of 2

new regulations and requirements could also increase the cost of gasoline and other goods and services – costs that our communities will be forced to bear.

During the course of the next year, we will be using our best efforts to incorporate a plan of action into our efforts to reduce both PM and ozone. We want to move quickly toward identifying steps that may reduce pollutant levels within our area. It is our intent to implement programs and measures as soon as possible so that we can begin collecting information as to our plan's effectiveness.

We look forward to receiving notification that we have been accepted into the PM Advance Program. Please contact Kevin Belanger at (985) 851-2900 or Kevin@scpd.org should you require further information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Belanger
CEO

cc: DEQ Air Permits Division

VJ St. Pierre
CHAIRMAN
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Kevin Belanger
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Appendix B: Meeting Minutes

Houma – Thibodaux
Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO)

South Central Planning and Development Commission Office
5058 West Main Street, Gray, LA 70359
985-851-2900

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting **Date:** May 14, 2009

Meeting Location: SCPDC's Pelican Room, Gray, LA.

In Attendance

Committee:	Terrebonne Parish President, Michel Claudet – Present City of Thibodaux Mayor, Charles Caillouet – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Peter Lambert – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Johnny Pizzolatto - Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Arlanda Williams – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Clayton Voisin – Present LADOTD, Michael Stack – proxy Lyle Leblanc Lafourche Parish President, Charlotte Randolph – proxy Terry Arabie Town of Lockport Mayor, Richard Champagne – Present Assumption Parish President, Marty Triche – proxy Kim Torres FHWA, Jamie Setze – Absent
Staff:	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Joshua Manning, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Shane Guin – Duplantis Design Group Yousheng Zeng – Providence Dennis Hebert – LA DOTD Glen Graham – ABMD LP Ledet – NSI Emery Chauvin – LA DOTD Peggy Krieg – Lafourche ARC George Stack – Lafourche ARC Joan Schexnayder – TPCG Greg Bush – TPCG Alvin Tillman – Terrebonne Parish Council Mart Black – Providence Perry Blanchard – TPCG Ronnie Shaw Pat Gordon - TPCG

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20090514 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Call to Order

C. Voisin called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Invocation

A. Williams led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

C. Caillouet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

E. Bergeron called roll.

Agenda Item # 1

Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting

It was motioned by A. Williams to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2009 meeting, J. Pizzolatto seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2

Public Comment

Chairman Voisin asked if there were any public comments.

R. Shaw addressed the committee and asked questions pertaining to the cost estimated in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. First, he wanted to know who prepared the cost estimates, and also if the estimates were adjusted for inflation in the later phases. He also expressed his concern relative to flooding on evacuation routes, particularly LA 24 near LA 316 and UPS.

L. Marretta explained that the MTP's cost estimates were an average estimate prepared by Neel-Schaffer. As projects from the MTP are studied further during the Stage 0, DOTD begins to update the numbers. Furthermore, as the projects are engineered and move into the TIP, the numbers become more solid. The TIP is also required to use a 4% annual increase to account for inflation.

L. Marretta then asked either L. Leblanc or M. Claudet to address the flooding on LA 24. M. Claudet stated that he's looked into the LA 24 flooding, and the area in question has only flooded very rarely in the past, and only for major rain events. Since this is a state route, he explained, he will be pushing the state delegation to address the issue.

L. Marretta then read an email from Ed Hammerli into the record concerning the MTP:

"I see a nominal nod to bicycle paths, but nothing concrete (pun intended). Improvements could include bicycle shoulders as well as pedestrian sidewalks. Thanks, Ed Hammerli"

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20090514 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

C. Voisin again asked for public comments. He then acknowledged Terrebonne Parish Councilman Alvin Tillman in attendance and asked others in attendance to introduce themselves.

L. Marretta then brought up the LA 311 scoping meeting. He explained that advocates for bike lanes expressed a desire to have them included in the project.

C. Voisin asked for any more public comments.

There being no public comments, C. Voisin moved to the next item on the agenda. (NO ACTION NECESSARY)

Agenda Item # 3
New Intergovernmental Agreement
HTMPO Staff

L. Marretta explained that a new intergovernmental agreement between the MPO jurisdictions is now needed in order to make the inclusion of Lockport and Assumption Parish official. He asked all committee members to bring the document before the respected parish or city councils to be accepted. After this is complete, then the MPO staff will collect signatures and send the document to the Governor's office for his signature.

C. Voisin asked if any committee members had questions pertaining to this document. Seeing none, he moved to the next item on the agenda. (NO ACTION NECESSARY)

Agenda Item # 4
LADOTD Projects Update
Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD Area Engineer

L. Leblanc explained that the Leeville Bridge will be opened in July and then discussed various improvements on LA 308 in Thibodaux, LA 315, LA 56, and other area overlays. Discussion ensued. No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 5
Review "Interim" MTP Update for Adoption
HTMPO Staff

L. Marretta explained that the MTP is the long-range document forecasting 25 years out. DOTD had let the contract for the update to Neel-Schaffer. The contract with Neel-Schaffer, however, does not allow for them finishing the update until after the federal deadline for the current plan to be updated. This "interim" plan updates the text, costs, and project timelines. He explained that, if this plan is adopted, it will allow federal funds to continue to flow while MPO staff works with Neel-Schaffer to update the model. Marretta then asked L.P. Ledet to explain Neel-Schaffer's status on the project.

Ledet explained that the travel survey was delayed due to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The surveys have just been completed and other traffic counts are being done to

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20090514 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

calibrate the model. Building permits are also being added, and a “mock assignment” has just been run. The model still needs further refinement of the TAZs, but once complete it will be ready to assign routes and do model runs.

L. Marretta explained that part of this process is switching to new modeling software, and asked J. Manning to explain the “interim” plan.

Manning explained that the text has been updated from TEA-21 to SAFTEA-LU and 2004 dollars were updated to 2009 dollars. He explained that no new projects were added to the old plan, but that completed projects were taken out. Once the new model is completed, new projects can be added.

C. Voisin asked if there were any questions for the staff. Seeing none, he said there could be a vote. He also pointed out that K. Torres could not yet vote as M. Triche’s letter had not yet been delivered to the office.

A. Williams motioned to adopt the plan; seconded by P. Lambert. Motion passed.

Agenda Items # 6

**HTMPO Website Live Demo of ARRA Project Lists, Backup Project Discussion and Amend TIP to Include Any New Policy Committee Approved Projects
HTMPO Staff**

L. Marretta said that the TIP was amended at the last Policy Committee meeting to include projects for ARRA funding. The purpose today, he explained, is to add backup projects.

J. Manning opened the MPO’s website, HTMPO.org, and presented out the ARRA projects are currently listed on the web. Marretta reiterated that if jurisdictions had not yet turned in their projects on letterhead, they needed to do so. Manning then continued his presentation and pointed out the backup projects submitted.

C. Voisin asked if any member jurisdiction had any changes it wished to make. T. Arabie stated that Lafourche Parish would like to add an extension of the current LA 1 project, and to move Lafourche Parish’s submitted turn lanes and Tiger Drive overlay as backup projects. Much discussion ensued concluding with a motion to keep Lafourche’s turn lanes and Tiger Drive overlay as ARRA projects in the TIP, and the LA 1 project as a backup.

T. Arabie motioned to accept the backup projects as listed with the inclusion of Lafourche’s LA 1 project. Seconded by C. Caillouet. Motion passes.

Agenda Item # 7

**Review 2009-2010 UPWP for Adoption
HTMPO Staff**

L. Marretta explained the UPWP needs to be adopted. He said the numbers from the last year had been updated to reflect the new planning funds, and that the document is needed to receive planning monies from the federal government.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20090514 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

P. Gordon asked how much money the MPO is devoting to traffic services and studies.

Marretta explained that the money is currently lumped together and used on an as-needed basis. He also explained that the MPO staff can easily do traffic counts and turning movement data collection; however, as the staff are not engineers, it is not possible to professionally evaluate that data. At that point, a consultant would need to be brought in.

P. Gordon asked if staff would be willing to undergo some type of training.

L. Marretta said he thought that would be a good idea.

A. Williams pointed out several spots in the UPWP that listed "Houma-Terrebonne MPO" instead of "Houma-Thibodaux MPO."

J. Manning pointed out that Assumption and Lockport had not been added to the document.

A. Williams motioned to adopt the UPWP with the typos corrected. Seconded by P. Lambert. Motion passed.

Agenda Item # 8
Air Quality Standards
Providence Engineering

M. Black and Y. Zeng from Providence Engineering made a presentation on air-quality issues and how they affect the MPO.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 9
Other Business

L. Marretta presented an updated version of the by-laws and an old version of the intergovernmental agreement that is currently being updated to include Assumption and Lockport in the MPO. He also presented the latest letting schedule and an MOU concerning ITS Phase III, which will hook all service providers up to the system.

Marretta then announced that the MPO has submitted proposals to Congressman Charlie Melancon's office to include funding for the North-South Corridor and the ITS system in the next transportation bill.

C. Voisin asked if there was any other business. Seeing none, he announced M. Triche's letter allowing K. Torres to proxy had arrived and she may now vote.

No action necessary.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20090514 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Agenda Item # 10
Next HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

It was motioned by T. Arabie and seconded by K. Torres for the next meeting date of the Houma-Thibodaux MPO Policy Committee to be held on Aug. 13, 2009 at 12:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 11
Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by K. Torres seconded by R. Champagne. Motion carried unanimously.

Date: _____
Copies to: MPO Policy Committee, MPO Interested Parties List, file

Houma – Thibodaux
Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO)

South Central Planning and Development Commission Office
5058 West Main Street, Gray, LA 70359
985-851-2900

(As approved by the Policy Committee on May 13, 2010)

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Date: January 21, 2010

Meeting Location: SCPDC's Pelican Room, Gray, LA.

In Attendance

Committee:	Terrebonne Parish President, Michel Claudet – Present City of Thibodaux Mayor, Charles Caillouet – Proxy Bonnie Lafont Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Peter Lambert – Proxy Pat Gordon Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Johnny Pizzolatto – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Arlanda Williams – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Clayton Voisin – Present LADOTD, Michael Stack – Proxy Lyle Leblanc Lafourche Parish President, Charlotte Randolph – proxy Terry Arabie Town of Lockport Mayor, Richard Champagne – Present Assumption Parish President, Marty Triche – proxy Erin Watson FHWA, Jamie Setze – Present
Staff:	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Joshua Manning, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Kevin Belanger, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Dennis Hebert – LA DOTD Gregory Boudreaux – Bayou Cane Fire Department Kermit Kramer – BDR Pat Matherne – Lafourche Parish Government Eric Fauchaux – City of Thibodaux Joan Schexnayder – TPCG Al Levron – TPCG Dawn R. Sholmire – LA DOTD Dan Broussard – LA DOTD Rosa Lou Molaison – Assumption COA Charlene Rodriguez – Lafourche COA Linda Pertait – Lafourche COA Wendell Voisin – TPCG Doug Bourg – TPCG Sheila Bella – TEDA A. F. "Bob" Blair, Jr. - Citizen Clay Breaud – GSE Jeff Messina – Urban Systems

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20100121 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Call to Order

C. Voisin called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

Invocation

J. Pizzolatto led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

T. Arabie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

L. Marretta called roll.

Before beginning Agenda Item #1, C. Voisin explained that the MPO Bylaws state that the MPO Chairman and Vice Chairman are to be elected during the first Policy Committee meeting of even-numbered years. This was left off the agenda due to administrative oversight and must be added on by motion and vote before any action can be taken.

It was motioned by J. Pizzolatto to add Election of MPO Officers to the agenda, P. Gordon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of MPO Officers

P. Gordon nominated C. Voisin for MPO Chairman. J. Pizzolatto moved to close nominations. Motion passed unanimously. C. Voisin elected MPO Chairman.

M. Claudet nominated R. Champagne as MPO Vice Chairman. T. Arabie moved to close nominations. Motion passed unanimously. R. Champagne elected MPO Vice Chairman.

Agenda Item # 1

Approval of Meeting Notes from November 12, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting

It was motioned by J. Pizzolatto to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2009 meeting, M. Claudet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2

Public Comment

Chairman Voisin asked if there were any public comments.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 3

*Existing Transportation Project Update
Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD Area Engineer*

L. Leblanc updated the Policy Committee on DOTD District 02 projects currently under construction or soon to be let to bid.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20100121 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

A. Williams entered the meeting during the presentation at 12:10.

L. Marretta explained that the area engineer for DOTD District 61, the district covering Assumption Parish, was not able to make it to the meeting, but will try to attend in the future.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 4

ARRA Projects Update

Each Jurisdictions Staff and/or Consultants; Dawn Sholmire, LA DOTD

D. Sholmire gave a status update in each of the ARRA projects. She explained that the continuous turn lane in Matthews needed to increase in funding to \$2.2 million in order to be constructed to DOTD's standards, and asked that the TIP be amended to reflect this increase.

T. Arabie asked why the increase occurred. L. Leblanc explained that it was to increase the structural integrity of the shoulders.

K. Belanger and L. Marretta asked if the increase in funds would be the responsibility of the local jurisdictions or the MPO's STP<200K funds. D. Broussard of DOTD said the intention is to shift ARRA funds from projects coming in below bid to this one. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by M. Claudet to amend the TIP to reflect the changes to the LA 1 continuous turn lane in Matthews funding, L. Leblanc seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Sholmire continued the presentation on the other ARRA projects. No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 5

Planned Transportation Projects Update

HTMPO Staff

North-South Hurricane Evacuation Corridor

K. Belanger updated the committee on the N-S Corridor's status. He explained that the project is in the Environmental Stages and that consultants are in the process of vetting all the different alternatives for the placement of the route. Discussion ensued.

ITS – Phase III and Phase IV

L. Marretta asked L. Leblanc to explain the upcoming traffic signal updates on LA 24 due to ITS improvements. L. Leblanc explained that that Neel-Schaffer recently completed a traffic signal warrant-analysis study on the LA 24 corridor to determine which lights were necessary and which were unnecessary. He said that the unnecessary lights would soon be removed from the corridor and that the remaining ones would be upgraded with ITS technology. As a result, the new lights will have much better synchronization, causing traffic to flow more freely. Discussion ensued.

L. Marretta explained that these updates are part of ITS Phase IV, and said that the TIP needs to be amended to reflect these changes.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20100121 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

K. Belanger said that bids for this project are expected to be approximately \$800,000 less than originally expected, and recommended the TIP be amended to use the extra funds to go towards the construction of a Traffic Management Center to be based at South Central Planning. Discussion ensued.

M. Claudet motioned to amend the TIP to reflect the initial ITS changes mentioned by L. Marretta; seconded by P. Gordon. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment "A")

It was motioned by P. Gordon to amend the TIP to reflect that any additional funding left over after ITS Phase IV completion be used towards the construction of a Traffic Management Center, M. Claudet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items # 6

Changes to the Current TIP

Leo Marretta, MPO Administrator

J. Manning presented proposed changes to the TIP to ensure fiscal constraint. During this presentation, J. Pizzolatto exited the proceedings and appointed A. Levron as his proxy.

It was motioned by M. Claudet to amend the TIP to reflect the changes needed to bring the TIP into fiscal constraint, R. Champagne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment "B")

L. Marretta then explained the need to issue letters to transit providers on an annual basis. He said that if LADOTD decides to award certain grants to providers, then the expenditures will be included in the TIP. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by T. Arabie to issue the letters to the Terrebonne Parish Council on Aging, the Assumption Parish Council on Aging, the St. James Parish Government, the Assumption ARC, the Lafourche ARC, and the Lafourche Council on Aging, the Lafourche Special Ed. District No. 1, Good Earth Transit, and South Central Planning. R. Champagne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment "C")

W. Voisin from Good Earth Transit then presented GET's 2010 program of projects for inclusion in the TIP.

It was motioned by P. Gordon to amend the TIP to include GET's 2010 program, A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment "D")

At this time, D. Sholmire of LADOTD asked to address the committee on an additional TIP amendments needed to advance an LA DOTD project. She requested the TIP to be amended to include the phrase "Advance Construction" in the funding source for the LA 1 overlay in Lafourche Parish. Discussion ensued as to the scale and location of the project.

It was motioned by T. Arabie to amend the TIP to include the project requested by D. Sholmire of LA DOTD, L. Leblanc seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20100121 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Agenda Item # 7

FHWA / LADOTD Approved "Policy and Procedures for the Employment of Consultants"
Leo Marretta, HTMPO Administrator

L. Marretta presented the document entitled "Policy and Procedures for the Employment of Consultants" for adoption by the Policy Committee. He explained that adoption of the document would allow the MPO to employ consultants for certain projects. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by L. Leblanc to adopt the document, R. Champagne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 8

Public Participation Plan
Josh Manning, HTMPO

J. Manning explained that the MPO needs to update the Public Participation Plan to comply with SAFETEA-LU standards. L. Marretta said this process will require a 45-day public input process that will begin soon.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 9

Livability, Sustainability and Air Quality
Jamie Setze, FHWA

J. Setze stated that livability initiatives are being directed at MPOs and communities at the President's direction. He briefly defined livability and explained the reasons for the initiative.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 10

2010 HTMPO Compliance Review and Certification
Genevieve Smith, FHWA

J. Setze stated that the FHWA will be reviewing the HTMPO in February to make comments and suggestions on the organization.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 11

Other Business

J. Manning updated the committee on the 2009 traffic counting program.

L. Marretta explained the Superbowl planner and letting schedules included in the meeting packet. He then reviewed the upcoming Metropolitan Transportation Plan update timeline.

Agenda Item # 12

Next HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20100121 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

It was motioned by B. Lafont to that the next Policy Committee meeting be held on May 13, 2010, R. Champagne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 13

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by M. Claudet seconded by R. Champagne. Motion carried unanimously.

Date:

Copies to: MPO Policy Committee, MPO Interested Parties List, file

Taking Action

New Ozone
Standard

SCPDC
District

At Stake

A Local
Solution

SCPDC
South Central Planning &

for Regional Ozone Attainment

EPA is currently reconsidering the national ambient air quality standard for ozone. It is anticipated that the revised standard will be more stringent than the standard originally set to go into effect in 2010 (0.075 parts per million). Areas that do not attain the minimum standard within a set amount of time will be subject to federally required emission reduction standards.

Preliminary information released by DEQ indicates that several parishes in the SCPDC district may be affected by the more stringent ozone standard. In the past, EPA has required that DEQ make its designations by metropolitan statistical area (MSA). This means that neighboring parishes could also be affected.

Non-attainment affects industry and economic development and may lead to loss of federal highway and transit funding and technical and formula changes to products like paint. It also triggers EPA oversight requirements that could affect future economic growth:

- Environmental upgrades increase capital and operating costs for regional power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and metal shaping, painting, coating and degreasing at shipyards and fabrication yards.
- Vehicle emission programs increase costs for truck and marine fleets serving Port Fourchon and the Port of South Louisiana and mandate retrofitting of fuel pumps.
- Emission offset limits will restrict growth by requiring lower emissions or closure of an existing facility before another can expand or a new facility can locate to the area.

Communities can take action by developing voluntary, flexible, locally-driven emission reduction strategies that respond to local conditions. SCPDC proposes a joint effort with regional governments, industry, and Nicholls State University in a locally-driven initiative that combines use of technology and best-practice models for self-assessment and emission reduction. Economies of scale will lower costs at individual facilities to help retain business, industry and jobs and maintain local tax bases.

Houma – Thibodaux
Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO)

South Central Planning and Development Commission Office
5058 West Main Street, Gray, LA 70359
985-851-2900

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

(Approved by the HTMPO Policy Committee on April 14, 2011)

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting **Date:** January 27, 2011

Meeting Location: SCPDC's Pelican Room, Gray, LA.

In Attendance

Committee:	City of Thibodaux Mayor, Tommy Eschete – Proxy, Luci Sposito Town of Lockport Mayor, Richard Champagne – Absent Terrebonne Parish President, Michel Claudet – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Peter Lambert – Proxy, Pat Gordon Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Johnny Pizzolatto – Present Lafourche Parish President, Charlotte Randolph – Proxy, Terry Arabie FHWA, Jamie Setze – Absent LA DOTD, District 02 Engineer Administrator Michael Stack– Proxy, Lyle LeBlanc Assumption Parish President, Marty Triche – Absent Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Clayton Voisin – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Arlanda Williams – Proxy, Al Levron
Staff:	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Joshua Manning, SCPDC Dynah Capone, SCPDC Garrrick Rose, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Dan Broussard, LA DOTD - Office of Planning & Programming Ron Whittaker, LA DOTD Bruce Richards, N-Y Associates Matt Trahan, LA State Police Troop C Darla Cantrelle, Terrebonne Council On Aging Kermit Kramer Ryan Perque, City of Thibodaux Dorrie Rambo, Elder Outreach Donna Vice, Elder Outreach Jack Gardner, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Warren Gonzales, Assumption ARC Doug Bourg, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Joan Schexnayder, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Kainen LeBlanc, Duplantis Design Group Pat Matherne, Lafourche Parish Government Dennis Herbert, LA DOTD, District Traffic Engineer

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20110127 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Lunch and Learn

L. Marretta introduced Dynah Capone, SCPDC Transportation Division Regional Transportation Safety Planner. While the attendees ate lunch an introduction the Safe Community Partnership and the Regional Transportation Safety Planning effort was presented.

Call to Order

C. Voisin called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Invocation

J. Pizzolatto led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

T. Arabie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call and Introductions

L. Marretta called roll.

Agenda Item # 1

Approval of Meeting Notes from the November 4, 2010 Policy Committee Meeting

It was motioned by Al Levron to approve the minutes from the Nov 4, 2010 meeting, T. Arabie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2

Public Comment/Public Hearing

Chairman Voisin asked if there were any public comments. Seeing none, he moved on.

L. Marretta explained that at each meeting we open the floor to comments, questions and suggestions from the public. This is required as part of the MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP) and helps to fulfill federal transportation planning regulations. Emails from the public can be substituted for speaking before the Policy Committee and will be read into the meeting record if so specified.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 3

Existing Transportation Projects Update

Lyle LeBlanc, LADOTD, District 02 Houma Sub-District, Operations Engineer

L. LeBlanc updated the Policy Committee on DOTD District 02, Houma Sub-District projects currently under construction or soon to be let to bid. He mentioned that this is the most activity he has seen in this area in his 27 year tenure with DOTD. Payments to contractors are averaging \$10-\$15 million a month. Discussion ensued.

L. Marretta mentioned that the latest DOTD Letting Schedule is included as Tab #3 in the meeting packet and gave an update on the Houma ITS project and the plans for the new \$600,000 Traffic Management Center (TMC). No action necessary.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20110127 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Agenda Item # 4

*Locally Funded Projects Update
Each Jurisdiction's Staff and/or Consultants*

J. Schexnayder reported on Terrebonne Parish projects. T. Arabie reported on Lafourche Parish projects. L. Sposito reported on City of Thibodaux projects. The roundabout for the Acadian Road project, the roundabout at Percy Brown and Acadian and the new transit route were mentioned. Discussion ensued.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 5

*Planned Transportation Projects Update / Changes to the Current TIP
HTMPO Staff*

Agenda Item # 5 - A

J. Manning reviewed administrative modifications made to the TIP since it was adopted in October 2010. (Appendix A).

P. Gordon motioned that the Policy Committee accept the administrative modifications. A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 5 - B

J. Manning introduced a TIP Amendment (Appendix B)

It was motioned by P. Gordon to amend the TIP, A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 5 - C

L. Marretta explained that, as part of their annual grant process, several local transit agencies have requested that the MPO provide them with a letter stating that their program will be placed in the TIP is awarded by DOTD.

Several of these had been approved at the November 2010 Policy Committee meeting. The MPO had received new applications since that meeting and L. Marretta announced what agencies have applied. Arkansas Elder Outreach, a nursing home in Lockport and Assumption ARC for one 16 passenger van each through the Elderly and Disabled Program - Section 5310 - Capital Assistance Grant program. St James Parish Government for Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program - 49 CFR 5311 - Operating Assistance Grant; JARC, Title 49 CFR 3037/5316 - Operating Assistance Grant and 5317 New Freedom. SCPDC for transit assistance through 5317 New Freedom program.

It was motioned by J. Pizzolatto to allow the MPO staff to issue letters stating that the awarded grants would be placed in the TIP, T. Arabie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20110127 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Agenda Items # 6

SCPDC Transportation Division Sub-Committee Reports

Active Transportation (Bicycle and Pedestrian), Regional Transit and Transportation Safety planning functions are inclusive of all 6 SCPDC Parishes, including MPO's Urbanized Area. Grant funds have been made available to enable transportation planners (when working outside of the urbanized area) to bill their efforts to those additional grants rather than the MPO's Planning Grants.

Active Transportation Subcommittee (Bicycle and Pedestrian and ...) Meeting Dates and Membership, Garrick Rose, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff

G. Rose described the work that the new committee has undertaken to create a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan. Maps for recording existing and proposed bike and pedestrian facilities had been created from the previous Active Transportation Sub-Committee meeting and were made available after this Policy Committee meeting for review and additional input from the Policy Committee. Discussion ensued.

No action necessary.

South Central Safe Communities Partnership and Regional Transportation Safety Plan, Dynah Capone, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff

In addition to today's Lunch and Learn presentation, Safe Routes to School and Transportation Enhancement grant programs were discussed. A media blitz transportation safety campaign is in the works.

No action necessary.

Transit / Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning Group, Garrick Rose, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff

Staff is submitting an application for the next round of New Freedom grant funding to support transit planning in the region. 20% local will be required.

No action necessary.

Transit in Levy Town, L. Marretta, SCPDC Staff

At the request of C. Voisin and A. Williams, both TPCG Council members as well as HT MPO Policy Committee members, the MPO has been asked to review the request made by residents of Levy Town with regard to transit routes and the provision of service to their neighborhood. A short presentation of the 2000 US Census demographics for that area was made. It was mentioned that the 2010 Census data will be released in the near future and that this will provide an opportunity to revisit the demographics Parish-wide to assure that transit is being provided in the most fair, efficient and cost effective manner possible.

No action necessary.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20110127 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Agenda Item # 7

New Documents submitted for adoption by the HT MPO Policy Committee

HT MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP)

L. Marretta presented the newly updated PPP.

It was motioned by A. Levron to adopt the update of the HT MPO Public Participation Plan, P. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Marretta remarked that now that the PPP is adopted staff will add the document to the others necessary to meet the Federal Regulatory requirements regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

New MPO / DOTD / GET Agreement (as per the latest FHWA Review of the HT MPO)

L. Marretta, HTMPO STAFF and Dan Broussard, LA DOTD - Office of Planning & Programming

Request for adoption of this document was withdrawn upon the recommendation of Mr. Broussard. Motioned by P. Gordon, seconded by J. Pizzolatto, the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 8

Air Quality, L. Marretta, SCPSC Staff

EPA proposes to promulgate new standards in July 2011.

Agenda Item # 9

HTMPO Quarterly Report - L. Marretta, SCPSC Staff

Agenda Item # 10

HTMPO 2011 Meeting Calendar (Appendix C)

Agenda Item # 11

Other Business

Agenda Item # 12

Next HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting - April 14, 2011.

Agenda Item # 13

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by M. Claudet, seconded by J. Pizzolatto. Motion carried unanimously.

Date:

Copies to: MPO Policy Committee, MPO Interested Parties List, file

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20110127 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Appendix A

Changes to the TIP in 2010

June 23, 2010 – Administratively Changed some text and typos in the document. Also subtitled project number 737-55-0011 as ITS Phase 4 – LA 24 Corridor and added details and correct funding amount to FFY 2010-2011 line item 10, Houma TMC Equipment.

June 23 - Administratively Changed S.P. 737-55-0011 to include proper name, project clarification, and correct funding amount.

August 5 - Administratively Changed contingency amount from 13% to 10%. Added contingency costs to all projects.

August 5 - Administratively Changed removed project numbers on all line items.

August 5 - Administratively Changed S.P. 855-12-0008 - removed from TIP and the project has already been let.

August 12 - Amended S.P. 065-91-0017 (LA 24, Company Canal Bridge Replacement) cost estimate and FY.

August 12 - Amended S.P. 855-07-0010 (LA 660, Bayou Terrebonne Bridge Replacement) cost estimate and FY.

August 12 - Amended S.P. 742-55-0002 (Hollywood Road) cost estimate.

August 12 - Amended S.P. 713-55-0100 (St. Anne Bridge) cost estimate.

August 12 - Amended S.P. 829-10-0018 (LA 654 Overlay) cost estimate.

August 12 - Amended S.P. 005-07-0057 (LA 182 - Drain Canal Bridge) cost estimate.

August 12 - Amended S.P. 065-06-0040 (Grand Bayou Bridge Replacement) cost estimate.

August 12 - Amended to add S.P. 407-04-0043 (LA 308 Curve Improvement) to TIP in FFY 11 at a cost estimate of \$400,000 using HSIP funds.

August 12 - Amended to add S.P. 407-04-0044 (LA 308 Curve Improvement) to TIP in FFY 11 at a cost estimate of \$400,000 using HSIP funds.

August 12 - Amended to add S.P. 742-04-0100 (Assumption Pr. Police Jury SR2S) to TIP in FFY 11 at a cost estimate of \$302,000 using HSIP funds.

August 12 - Amended to add S.P. 742-29-0002 (Town of Lockport SR2S Project) to TIP in FFY 11 at a cost estimate of \$214,000 using HSIP funds.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
20110127 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Appendix B

TIP Amendment

FFY 10-11	FFY 11-12	FFY 12-13	FFY 13-14
S. P. 742-55-0002 Hollywood Road Utilities \$3.5M, STP<200K	S.P. 742-55-0102 Country Drive Ph. A R/W & Util. \$2.3M, STP<200K	S.P. 742-55-0002 Hollywood Road Construction \$5.6M, STP<200K	S.P. 742-55-0102 Country Drive Ph. A Construction \$4M, STP<200K
	S.P. 742-29-0001 Acadian Road R/W & Util. \$1.2M, STP<200K		

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Date: July 05, 2012

Meeting Location: SCPDC's Pelican Room, Gray, LA.

In Attendance

Committee:	Danny Babin, MPO Chairman (TPCG Council Member) – Present Tommy Eschete, MPO Vice Chair (Mayor City of Thibodaux) – Proxy Luci Sposito Arlanda Williams (TPCG Council Member) – Proxy Doug Bourg Brandon Buckner (FHWA, Non-Voting) - Present Charlotte Randolph (Lafourche Parish President) – Absent Dirk Guidry (TPCG Council Member) – Present Greg Hood (TPCG Council Member) – Present Marty Triche (Assumption Parish Police Jury President) – Absent Michael Stack (LA DOTD District 02 Administrator) – Absent Michel Claudet (Terrebonne Parish President) – Present Richard Champagne (Mayor Town of Lockport) – Absent
Staff:	Joshua Manning, SCPDC Rudynah Capone, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Ron Whittaker, DOTD Wendell Voisin, TPCG Chris Pulaski, TPCG Glen Graham, ABMB Patrick Gordon, TPGC Duffy Duplantis Jr., TPCG Budd Cloutier, Planning and Zoning Jimmy Ledet, T. Baker Smith Matt Trahan, Louisiana State Police- Troop C Wayne Thibodaux, HTHA Bernadette Fisher, St. John Parish

D. Babin called the meeting to order at approximately 11:40AM.

Invocation: D. Bourg

Pledge of Allegiance: D. Guidry

Roll Call and Submittal of Proxy Letters: D. Babin.

Agenda Item # 1*Public Comment or Public Hearing (if applicable)*

D. Babin asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to address the committee. W. Thibodaux, who resides on West Main Street in Gray, Louisiana, addressed the committee regarding agenda item number six, the Safe Community Task Force update, from the previous Policy Committee meeting which took place on April 05, 2012.

W. Thibodaux refers to the development along Highway 24 North in Gray. He believes that it is a detriment to the health, safety, and welfare of the vehicles travelling along the roadway. According to W. Thibodaux, what appears to be happening on the above mentioned roadway is the same thing that is happening on Martin Luther King Boulevard; there are multiple cuts of ingress and egress, allowing vehicles to travel on and off of a busy thoroughfare.

He further stated that he believes the state has a lot to do authorizing these cuts of ingress and egress; however, local officials and citizens should be complaining about it. At this time, he explained, there are six or seven cuts that are for ingress and egress just south of Mobile Estates. He believes that the multiple cuts are an issue and should be a concern as planning and development continues with regards to the Safe Community Task Force's mission.

D. Babin asks J. Manning if he has any comments on this matter. J. Manning states that he agrees with W. Thibodaux. He too believes that Martin Luther King's access control was poorly designed. He adds that the state has recently adopted a new access control policy, which states that when any building is placed on a state highway, the owner of that building is required to conduct a traffic impact study. The owner is then responsible for making improvements. For example on Highway 24 now, the new building being built by Clayco Construction, a turn lane was placed to prevent a vehicle from having to stop traffic to turn. J. Manning also explained that the more that DOTD is aware of these issues, the more that they can do to assist us with our efforts.

Agenda Item # 2*Approval of Minutes from April 05, 2012 meeting*

It was motioned by G. Hood to approve the minutes from the April 05, 2012 meeting. D. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3*Current LADOTD Projects Update (Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD Area Engineer)*

D. Babin informed the committee that no one from DOTD was present to give an update. He then requested that J. Manning give any updates with regards to the letting schedule.

J. Manning requested that the committee review the letting schedule which was provided in the meeting packet and offered to answer any questions.

There were no questions.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2012-07-05 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Agenda Item # 4

Locally Funded Projects Updates (Parish/Municipal Staff and/or Consultants)

City of Thibodaux:

L. Sposito gave locally funded project updates for Lafourche Parish.

- The capital outlay request to complete the Canal Boulevard widening project was granted \$250,000 from Senator Bret Allain and that DOTD will fund the shortfall in the amount of \$1.765 million through the safety funds. The project will move forward in the fiscal year 13-14.
- The Canal Bridge pedestrian project has been in the works since 2002. This project should take place before the fall of this year.
- The Tiger Drive Bridge will receive a notice to proceed. T- Baker Smith is working on this project. The city of Thibodaux anticipates that this project will take place in the fall or early spring.
- Starting one week from today, the city of Thibodaux has a new Emergency Preparedness person, Tom Simon.
- The airport lighting project- beginning in December, the airport will be closed for the lighting to be changed.

Terrebonne:

M. Claudet gave locally funded project updates for Terrebonne Parish.

- The embankment is almost complete for the Thompson Road Extension. It will have to sit for approximately one and one half to two years before it will be overlaid.
- St. Anne Bridge has been demolished, and the construction is taking place. It should be completed one year from now, July 2013.
- Prospect Street is said to be completed by September; however, Terrebonne Parish has been told numerous completion dates. M. Claudet states that he hopes that this is the date that it will be completed.
- Valhi extension is under construction and the anticipated completion date is prior to December 31, 2012.
- Terrebonne is about to receive the final pipeline agreement for the Bayou Gardens extension. Once received, the project will go out for bid. Terrebonne is anticipating construction begin towards the end of year 2012 or beginning of year 2013.
- Hollywood Road overlaying acquisitions have been done. He stated that in the schedule, the project is to be let on September 2013.
- The Alma Street turn lane has been completed at the intersection of Alma Street and Hollywood Road.
- Terrebonne is currently in the process of designing a turn lane at the intersection of Denley Road and Industrial Boulevard (On the side of Chabert Hospital).
- The pedestrian bridge and sidewalks near H.L. Bourgeois High School are completed. There were also sidewalks that were completed at Evergreen Jr. High School.
- Just completed the East Houma sidewalk project, underneath the Twin Spans.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2012-07-05 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

- Terrebonne is in the land acquisition state for the Country Drive project. The appraisers and negotiators have been appointed and they are in the process of acquiring the properties.

P. Gordon adds to the project updates

- The grant was approved for the Valhi Loop bike path; therefore, the construction will be started shortly.
- Currently waiting for more information regarding another bike trail along Highway 57.
- Terrebonne is in the final stages of completing their Comprehensive Plan, and will be submitting it to the Planning Commission next month.
- In the process of updating the Transportation Thoroughfare Plan.
- Terrebonne is trying to overlay the Master Transportation Plan for the region and apply that to the Thoroughfare Plan, as per The Planning Commission's recommendations.

There was no representative from Assumption Parish or Lafourche Parish to give an update.

Agenda Item # 5

South Central Planning and Development Commission's Transportation Division Quarterly Activity Reports & Sub-Committee Reports

South Central Regional Transportation Safety Program Update
(Rudynah Capone/Cassie Parker, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff)

C. Parker informed the committee that the first Road Safety Assessment (RSA) was completed on April 19, 2012 for Lafourche Parish. The three roadways that were assessed were Forty Arpent, Gheens Shortcut, and Lefort Bypass. The next RSA, which will be done for the City of Thibodaux, is currently in the planning stages. She also stated that on April 21, 2012, R. Capone and C. Parker participated in the Troop C Safety Expo at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center. There was a Safe Community Partnership meeting held on May 17, 2012. During this time the partners gave updates and began discussing plans for the upcoming Regional Safety Summit on September 27, 2012. C. Parker also stated that the division supported ADAC, Troop C, and Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office in their efforts for the Click It or Ticket mobilization by attending a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) seat check event held on June 1, 2012 at the Lafourche Parish Health Unit. Of the thirteen seats checked at this event, one was replaced. She also stated that on June 6, 2012, there was another CPS seat check at the Terrebonne Parish Health Unit, where three seats were checked and one was replaced.

R. Capone further explained the RSA efforts by stating that it is a data driven effort, in which SCPDC is currently working with the six parishes and the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) to evaluate local roads in order to address which locations need improvements in an attempt to decrease roadway crashes.

Data is analyzed, and from there the top three or four streets with the highest crash volume are identified. Once the streets are identified, a team is assembled to visit the sites. During the visit, the RSA is done by the participants giving his/her recommendations (i.e. needs signage, restriping, chevrons, etc.).

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2012-07-05 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

R. Capone also informed the committee that Raceland Elementary School was awarded a grant from Safe Routes to School in May. It is currently unknown when the project will begin.

Lastly, R. Capone encouraged everyone to attend the Regional Traffic Safety Summit, which will be an all day event taking place on September 27, 2012. She added that there will be outdoor exhibits, as well as, classroom style breakout sessions.

South Central Regional Transit Program Update
(Leo Marretta, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff)

J. Manning informed the committee that the previous transit planner resigned; therefore, L. Marretta has taken over many of those duties, so he was unable to attend the meeting today.

J. Manning stated that there is progress being made with the Regional Transit Committee. They have been meeting quarterly and are currently collaborating in order to assemble a Regional Call Center and a website for the six parishes (Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. John the Baptist, St. James, and St. Charles). The goal is to provide easy access to the individuals in search of information, such as route plans or phone numbers for the transit agencies.

South Central Regional Active Transportation Sub-Committee Update
(Joshua Manning, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff)

J. Manning explains that SCPDC has been developing a Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan. The last meeting was held on May 09, 2012, and the next scheduled meeting is on August 08, 2012. J. Manning invites anyone that is interested in participating in this effort to attend.

Agenda Item # 6
Air Quality Update (LA DEQ)

J. Manning informs the committee that SCPDC invited a representative from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to present an update; however, they were unable to attend. He then explains that representatives from DEQ did a presentation for the South Central Planning and Development Commission's board members and the Technical Advisory Committee on June 14, 2012. During those presentations, DEQ stated that currently the six parishes are in attainment, which means that those parishes are within the National Air Ambient Quality Standards. He also states that there is a monitor in Lafourche Parish that screens the air to determine if it is within the standards. At this time, the parishes are in good standing; however, the standards will become more stringent over time. Therefore, DEQ has implemented a program, The Ozone Advanced Program, to assist parishes across the state. It was said that if a parish happens to fall into the non attainment category, the Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) will look more favorably upon a parish that is participating in this program in advance.

J. Manning then states that, to his understanding, the SCPDC board voted that they would participate. He also informed the committee that the Technical Advisory Committee stated that they are interested and would recommend it to the Policy Committee, if the Policy Committee would like to participate. In regards to the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) participating in this effort, J. Manning explained that L. Marretta stated

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2012-07-05 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

that if the Policy Committee agrees, the HTMPO can send a letter of support of the three parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne.

M. Claudet stated that this initiative was discussed at the SCPDC Board meeting, in which Terrebonne agreed to participate with a commitment of \$15,000.00.

It was motioned by M. Claudet to send a letter in support of the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization parishes' efforts with regards to The Ozone Advanced Program. G. Hood seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 7

MAP-21 – New Federal Transportation Bill (Brandon Buckner, FHWA)

B. Buckner informed the committee that since 2009, the previous transportation bill SAFETEA-LU has been expired. As of June 29, 2012, the House and the Senate agreed on a transportation bill, *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century* (MAP-21). It is a two year bill which will begin October 1st of this year and extend until 2014. He then explains that the bill allocates \$120 billion dollars over a two year period. In regards to the funding for the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the MPO's will receive the same amount of funding as they have previously received. However, with regards to bike and pedestrian funding, the local entities will receive half of the money for their projects upfront with this new bill. Also, transportation enhancements will now be known as transportation alternatives. The majority of eligible projects in the past will roll over to this bill with some adjustments, such as there will be no more earmarks.

J. Manning asks B. Buckner who will be in charge of dispersing the local portion of the bike and pedestrian funding. B. Buckner states that Culture Recreation and Tourism (CRT) will disperse the money to the local agencies.

R. Capone asks if the Safe Route to School and Transportation Enhancement Program funds are going to be under the Transportation Alternatives. B. Buckner states that it will be.

B. Buckner clarifies that only the Bike/Ped programs will receive the funds upfront. He also states that, while earmarks have been eliminated, there are now discretionary programs available. He further informs the committee of the Transportation Community System Preservation and there are a range of possible 10-13 discretionary pots of money that are available.

Agenda Item # 8

Good Earth Transit Potential Route Change (Joshua Manning, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff / Wendell Voisin, Good Earth Transit Administrator)

J. Manning explains that Good Earth Transit (GET) is the public transit division of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government. GET operates five bus routes in Houma and Thibodaux. L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College has recently approached W. Voisin, the Administrator for GET, and asked if GET could possibly deviate the fixed route, so that the route could include Fletcher's new campus located on the northern portion of LA 311.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2012-07-05 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

J. Manning then states that Fletcher is an open admission, two year institute that offers technical and academic programs. The main campus is currently located on St. Charles Street in Houma; however, there are other facilities on Dickson Road, and Civic Center Boulevard. The anticipated date of completion for L.E. Fletcher's new location on Highway 311 is late July. L.E. Fletcher demographics include approximately 2,750 students, 200 faculty/staff, and it is expected that 1,600-1,700 students, faculty/staff will be using the new facility on LA 311.

J. Manning further states that L.E. Fletcher did an internal email survey to get more information in regards to how many students and/or faculty are interested in this form of transportation. 67% of the student respondents and 55% of the faculty respondents stated that they would be interested in using GET services for the 311 campus. J. Manning then presents a map with GET current route and then proposed new route.

J. Manning then states that W. Voisin informed him that the public transit division, Good Earth Transit, was developed with a mission to enhance the mobility of the residents and positively influence the development of Terrebonne Parish. J. Manning explains that W. Voisin believes that by making educational opportunities available to his citizens will have a positive influence on the developments of Terrebonne Parish and also assist with supporting the parishes' future economic growth and vitality.

J. Manning then presents a map of GET's current route and its proposed new route to connect with L.E. Fletcher campus. He also explains that the new route will add ten additional minutes to the current route. The additional cost would be 3 bus hours per week day and approximately 1.2 bus hours on weekends, providing an equal amount of service to Fletcher, as it would to the rest of the North Bayou Route. W. Voisin current cost per bus hour is \$76.37. Therefore, the cost to take this extra route would total approximately \$28,456 for the remainder of the 2012 fiscal year, ending in October. J. Manning explains that W. Voisin is not proposing to increase GET's budget for the remainder of the year; however, he will begin conducting an analysis on certain routes to deem if it would be possible to adjust those routes or reschedule the bus system. J. Manning states that this information was presented at the last Technical Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting was advertised in advance to the public; however, there were no public comments made. With that being said, the Technical Advisory Committee recommends to the Policy Committee to make the change.

It was motioned by M. Claudet to allow Good Earth Transit to change its current route to accommodate students, faculty, and all other members of the community wishing to attend/visit the new L.E. Fletcher campus. D. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 9

TIP Amendment to Adopt (Joshua Manning, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff)

J. Manning explained to the committee that W. Voisin requested that an amendment to the current, 2010 TIP be made to FFY 2011-2012 (Appendix A). This amendment deals with moving around some of Good Earth Transits money from capital to operating and requires no increase in the local match.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2012-07-05 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

It was motioned by G. Hood to make the amendment to the current TIP. D. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 10

Policy and Procedures for the Employment of Consultants (Leo Marretta / Joshua Manning, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff)

J. Manning explains that some changes to this document were requested by DOTD. The purpose of the document is to allow the MPO Policy Board and South Central Planning and Development Commission, as the MPO's staff, to select and choose outside consultants for specific planning purposes. He further states that this is not something that SCPDC envisions taking place often. However, as it stands currently, if there is something that needs to be consulted SCPDC must first go through DOTD. DOTD would then select and choose the consultant that SCPDC and the HTMPO would have to work alongside. He states that changes include the Rules of Contact along with other grammatical corrections. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by M. Claudet to table this agenda item. G. Hood seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 11

Other Business

There was no other business.

Agenda Item # 12

HTMPO Meeting Calendar

Next Policy Committee Meeting - Thursday, October 04, 2012 at 11:30 A.M.

D. Babin informed the committee that there is a meeting calendar provided in their packets.

Agenda Item # 13

Adjournment

It was motioned by G. Hood to adjourn the meeting D. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Date: April 25, 2013

Meeting Location: SCPDC's Pelican Room, Gray, LA.

In Attendance

Committee:	Danny Babin, MPO Chairman (TPCG Council Member) – Present Tommy Eschete, MPO Vice Chair (Mayor City of Thibodaux) – Proxy Luci Sposito Arlanda Williams (TPCG Council Member) – Present Brandon Buckner (FHWA, Non-Voting) - Present Charlotte Randolph (Lafourche Parish President) – Absent Dirk Guidry (TPCG Council Member) – Present Greg Hood (TPCG Council Member) – Present Marty Triche (Assumption Parish Police Jury President) – Proxy Jeff Naquin Michael Stack (LA DOTD District 02 Administrator) – Proxy Gary Gisclair Michel Claudet (Terrebonne Parish President) – Present Paul Champagne (Interim Mayor Town of Lockport) – Absent
Staff:	Kevin Belanger, SCPDC Leo Marretta, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC Joshua Manning, SCPDC Rudynah Capone, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Dawn Sholmire, LADOTD Matt Johns, LADOTD Michael Vince, DEQ Patrick Gordon, TPCG Al Levron, TPCG Doug Bourg, TPCG Tracy Wang, DOTD Emery Chauvin III, DOTD Terry Dupre, Meyer Engineer Ron Whittaker, DOTD Henry Richard, Richard Development

D. Babin called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00AM.

Invocation: J. Manning

Pledge of Allegiance: D. Guidry

Roll Call and Submittal of Proxy Letters:

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2013-01-24 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

D. Babin informed the committee that proxy letters were received for the following individuals: Gary Gisclair will serve as proxy for Michael Stack, Jeff Naquin will serve as proxy for Marty Triche, and Luci Sposito will serve as proxy for Tommy Eschete.

Agenda Item # 1

Public Hearing on Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

No public comments were made.

It was motioned by D. Guidry to close public comment G. Hood seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2

General Public Comment

There were no public comments made.

Agenda Item # 3

Approval of Minutes from January 24, 2013 meeting

It was motioned by G. Hood to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2013 meeting. J. Naquin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 4

Letting Schedules and Current LADOTD Projects Update (Gary Gisclair, LADOTD)

G. Gisclair updated the Policy Committee on the following projects:

- The Larose Bridge is 99 percent completed.
- The Prospect Bridge is 99 percent completed.
- Drainage repairs are taking place on Barrow Street. Those repairs are 80 percent completed.
- Houma Tunnel Lighting project is 99 percent completed.
- LA 1 pier removal is 90 percent completed.
- The Houma Navigational Canal Bridge rehabilitation work is 55 percent completed.
- The St. Ann Bridge is 75 percent completed.
- An overlay on LA3235, from Larose to Cutoff, is 95 percent completed.
- Overlays are 95 percent completed on eleven streets, classified as state routes, in Grand Isle.

M. Claudet informed G. Gisclair that there are failures on the asphalt along Highway 24, between Presque Bridge and Klondike. There have also been complaints regarding potholes and other issues with the previous overlay of Highway 311. G. Gisclair explained that the problem is believed to be base failures on Highway 24 and Highway 311.

M. Claudet requested that a right turn lane be placed at the intersection of Highway 182 and Highway 316 in order to accommodate the increase in traffic volume that will result from the Bayou Gardens extension.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2013-01-24 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Agenda Item # 5

Locally Funded Projects Updates (Parish/Municipal Staff and/or Consultants)

Terrebonne Parish:

M. Claudet gave locally funded project updates for Terrebonne Parish.

- The extension of Westside Boulevard from Martin Luther King Boulevard through to Equity Bridge is progressing forward.
- Terrebonne Parish is attempting to get the Cannatas Bridge from DOTD.
- There are funds in place to overlay Thompson Road.
- Hollywood Road is on schedule and should let by September of 2013.
- Terrebonne Parish will need cooperation with regards to the lighting and right turn lanes for the Bayou Gardens Extension.
- The Valhi extension is completed.
- The parish is in the process of acquiring right of ways for the Country Drive project.

M. Claudet stated that he noticed Westside Boulevard phases on the letting schedule and informed the committee that those phases have been completed with parish funds.

City of Thibodaux:

L. Sposito gave locally funded project updates for the City of Parish.

- The letting of North Canal was moved from January 2014 to June 2014.

There was no representative from the Town of Lockport or Lafourche Parish to give an update.

Agenda Item # 6

South Central Planning and Development Commission's Transportation Division Quarterly Activity Reports & Sub-Committee Reports

***South Central Regional Transportation Safety Program Update
(Rudynah Capone, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff)***

R. Capone informed the committee that the 2013 Traffic Safety Summit will take place on May 15th at Nicholls State University. She stated that the Coalition is working to purchase a DWI breath/alcohol testing unit through a DOTD safety grant in order to assist with efforts to combat alcohol related crashes. The unit will be shared by all law enforcement agencies in the Troop B and C areas. The proposal will be presented on May 29th to the Implementation Team. K. Belanger interjected that SCPDC only has commitments by the sheriff's in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes.

R. Capone stated that the Coalition is also trying to get more funding for teen driving safety via the State Farm safety grant. There is also coordination with DOT and LTAP in order to conduct a curve projects. Two hundred and fifty horizontal curve locations have been identified in the parishes of Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, and St. Charles. Each parish was sent the list in order to assist with the prioritization of each location. R. Capone informed the committee that Road Safety Assessments (RSA's) on local roadways that have been identified as high crash locations are completed for the City of Thibodaux, Lafourche Parish, St. Charles Parish, St. James Parish, and St. John the Baptist. Terrebonne and Assumption

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2013-01-24 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

parishes will be completed next. She also notified the committee that 70 child seats were inspected during the month of March. R. Capone updated the committee on LADOTD's plans to place rumble strips and signal ahead stop signs on LA 3235; the project is scheduled to be let in October 2013.

K. Belanger stated that he was informed that pedestrians are crossing the intersection of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Enterprise Drive without any safety apparatuses. He added that he recently observed a gentleman in a motorized wheelchair attempting to cross the same intersection. K. Belanger suggested that considerations should be made in the future for points of access in order for pedestrians to travel safely across Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Agenda Item # 7

Adoption of Unified Planning Work Program (Josh Manning, Staff)

D. Babin introduced the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and stated that the Technical Advisory Committee approved and recommended that the Policy Committee adopt said plan. L. Marretta added that the UPWP is the HTMPO's annual work plan.

It was motioned by G. Hood to adopt the Unified Planning Work Program, J. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 8

Adoption of Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan

L. Marretta informed the committee that this plan has been worked on since 2009. J. Manning added that during the last years, MPO staff has met with parish planning staff members, members of the community, and individuals that are passionate about bicycling in order to form the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. He explained that the plan will be a living document; therefore, changes can be made to improve the plan. J. Manning stated that the plan will also be included in the long range plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

It was motioned by J. Naquin to adopt the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, J. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 9

TIP Amendment: H.002244 Boudreaux Canal Bridge

J. Manning stated that TIP Amendment: H.002244 is for the Federal fiscal year 2015-2016. He added that it is under DOTD's request that projects be placed in our Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). He explained that TIP Amendment H.002244 will authorize construction to begin on the Boudreaux Canal Bridge.

It was motioned by D. Guidry to approve TIP Amendment h. 002244, G. Hood seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2013-01-24 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Agenda Item # 10

New Urban Boundaries and Planning Area

J. Manning stated that every ten years, when the Census is released, urban areas are designated. He presented a map which displayed the census designated urban area. He explained that to avoid confusion with the boundaries, the census designated area was smoothed to create the smoothed urbanized area for the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO). J. Manning requests that the committee approve the smoothed area for the HTMPO.

He then explained that the green portion of the map is considered the planning area. The planning area is the portion to be modeled when the HTMPO's long range transportation plan is being updated. L. Marretta added that the \$3 million dollars received by the HTMPO annually can be spent within the green planning area. J. Manning requests that the committee approve the above mentioned maps as the new smoothed urban boundary and planning area maps for the HTMPO.

It was motioned by J. Naquin to approve the new urban boundaries and planning area maps for the Houma- Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO), D. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 11

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update Process

J. Manning provided the committee members with a portion of the HTMPO's Public Participation Plan, Planned Specific Guidelines 6.0. He explained that these guidelines specify the steps that must be taken in order to update any plans for the HTMPO, including the TIP, UPWP and MTP. He stated that the last MTP update was adopted in May 2010. He informed the committee that an update must be adopted every five years; therefore, the next update must be adopted by May 2015. He explained that in past years, DOTD has hired consultants to assist with updating the MTP. J. Manning informed the committee that the 2015 update will be done in-house.

Agenda Item # 12

Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Program

M. Vince with the Louisiana Department of Environment Quality (LADEQ) presented information regarding the Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Program. He informed the committee that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made changes to the Particulate Matter standard. Therefore, the benefits of the Ozone Advance Program have been expanded in order to cover Particulate Matter. The committee was asked to approve a proposal to the EPA, requesting that the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) area be included in the Advance Program for Particulate Matter. He explained that the Advance Program allows groups to document efforts made, so that when the Ozone standard decreases, the group is able to demonstrate to the EPA that proactive steps were taken in order to reduce emissions that are being generated within the specific geographic area.

Houma Thibodaux MPO

2013-01-24 Policy Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

L. Marretta asked M. Vince to explain some of the implications associated with being in non-attainment. M. Vince responded that, with regards to Ozone, an area in non-attainment will be at risk for conducting Transportation Conformity Analysis on all transportation projects. He added that conducting this analysis will add additional burden and costs to those projects.

M. Claudet asked M. Vince is there any disadvantage associated with the HTMPO voting to participate in the Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Program. M. Vince explained that there are no disadvantages.

It was motioned by M. Claudet to approve the proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting that Houma- Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) area be included in the Advance Program for Particulate Matter, G. Hood seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 13

Other Business

There was no further business.

Agenda Item # 14

HTMPO Meeting Calendar

Next Policy Committee Meeting - Thursday, July 25, 2013 at 11:30 A.M.

Agenda Item # 15

Adjournment

It was motioned by A. Williams to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:58p.m., G. Hood seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

South Central Planning and Development Commission

Houma – Thibodaux
Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO)

South Central Planning and Development Commission Office
5058 West Main Street, Gray, LA 70359
985-851-2900

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: June 14, 2012

Meeting Location: SCPDC's Pelican Room, Gray, LA.

In Attendance

Committee:	Director of Planning and Zoning, TPCG – Patrick Gordon -- Chris Pulaski, Proxy Director of Public Works, TPCG – Greg Bush, Absent Engineering Division, TPCG – Represented by Joan Schexnayder, Absent Operations Manager, Roads and Bridges Division, TPCG – Perry Blanchard, Absent Public Transit Manager, TPCG – Wendell Voisin, Absent Public Works Director, Lafourche Parish – Represented by Terry Arabie, Present Planning Department, Lafourche Parish – Pat Matherne, Present Parish Manager/Public Works Director, Assumption Parish – Represented by Erin Watson, Absent Public Works Director, City of Thibodaux – Miguel Maggio, Absent Grants Director, City of Thibodaux – Luci Sposito, Absent Mayor, Town of Lockport – Richard Champagne, Absent Office of Planning and Programming, LA DOTD – Dan Broussard, Absent District 02 Traffic Engineer, LA DOTD – Dennis Hebert, Absent District 02 Maintenance Engineer, LA DOTD – Lyle Leblanc, Present Public Transportation Administrator, LA DOTD – Donna Lavigne, Absent Federal Highway Administration – Jamie Setze, Absent
Staff:	Joshua Manning, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Dawn Sholmire, DOTD Jay Carney, DOTD Duffy Duplantis, Jr., TPCG Jack Gardner, TPCG Tim Bergeron, LDEQ Travis Lavigne, Fletcher T.C.C Warren Gonzales, AARC Christa Duplantis, TPCG Jason Sappington, RPC

Agenda Item # 1

Roll Call and Introductions

Introductions took place at approximately 10:05AM.

Agenda Item # 2

Adoption of TAC Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2012

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2012-06-14 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

L. Leblanc motions to approve the March 8, 2012 meeting minutes, T. Arabie seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3

LA DOTD Project Update

- Just completed the overlay on LA 58 and Highway 24
- Finished the Caminada Bridge
- The final acceptance has taken place in regards to the elevated section going towards Fourchon.
- Prospect Bridge- due to issues with the top wheels of the bridge and South Central Bell relocating telephone lines, the project's completion date has been delayed. The anticipation completion date at this time is August 2012.
- Grand Caillou widening has been postponed until next year (2013).
- Large project will be letting in the next week or two, which is to "four lane" lane US 90 from the Lafourche Parish line to the old garbage dump.
- Another project will be letting in approximately one month, which is to overlay 3235 from Highway 24 up until the point where it seems as though the asphalt is oxidizing.
- The Larose Bridge is on schedule and still expected to be completed by August.
- Planning for an overlay on Highway 20, from Gibson to Bull Run Road, in approximately 6 months.
- The next phase of the ITS job has been awarded and equipment has been ordered.
- A safety project is also approaching to straighten some of the curves on St. Charles Street.

Agenda Item # 4

Other Local Project Updates

Lafourche

T. Arabie gave the project update for Lafourche Parish

- He states that Lafourche is in the process of acquiring the right of way of the road for the project on Highway 24 and Highway 1 in Larose.
- The final phase of the completion of all of the streets in Golden Meadow began yesterday.
- In regards to the Burma Bridge project, the construction of the bridge is completed. It is anticipated that the bridge will open within the next couple of weeks.

Terrebonne

C. Pulaski gave the project update for Terrebonne Parish

- Comprehensive Master Plan Update will be taken to the Planning Commission in July.

J. Manning informs the Committee that he emailed Fred Borne and Anna Hanks and requested an update on Acadia Road, Country Drive, and Hollywood Road. There were no new updates for Hollywood Road; however, the Acadia Road project, which includes a new roadway and the addition of a roundabout, is progressing as planned. A. Hanks is in the process of composing the advertisement for the scope of services for the engineering contract, which will be going out for bids. The Country Drive widening project is also progressing as planned.

Houma Thibodaux MPO
2012-06-14 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

Agenda Item # 5

Air Quality Update

T. Bergeron with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) then gives a presentation on the Ozone Advanced Program. He gives a brief overview of what ozone is and how it is formed. He also informs the individuals of the Clean Air Act and some ozone terminology. The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for 6 criteria pollutants which include the following: Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, Ozone, Particulate Matter and Sulfur Dioxide. The standards are then reviewed every five years and revised if necessary to protect health and welfare. There are two types of standards, primary and secondary. Primary standards protect public health (i.e. human health), while secondary standards protect public welfare (i.e. health of crops). He then covers designation and classification. Designation means that the monitored design value for the area does not meet the current ozone standard. Classification is dependent on the numerical design value and provides the obstacle course and time limit on attaining the standard. He then goes through each of the classifications. The classifications range from marginal (lowest state of non-attainment) to extreme (worst state of non-attainment). The local monitor to determine if the air is attainable or non-attainable is in Lafourche Parish, bordering Terrebonne Parish. T. Bergeron informed the committee that, at this time, the only area that is initially designated non-attainment is Baton Rouge.

T. Bergeron also explains that there are costs that come with being in non-attainment, such as, expensive environmental permitting process that can reduce the competitiveness of existing businesses and industries. Once in non-attainment, there is a potential risk of significant increases in economic costs (e.g. emissions controls and penalty fees) on industry if air quality does not improve sufficiently over time.

The committee was informed that the 2008 Ozone Standard was established and will go into effect on July 20, 2012. He further explains that the design value comes from the three year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentration measured at each monitor within an area. This number is then compared to the 8-hour primary ozone standard of 0.075 parts per million (ppm) to determine if it is protective of human health.

The Ozone Advance Program is then covered. He states that this program is from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where they would like to be involved with state and local governments' strides to encourage emission reduction in areas that are currently in attainment of the ozone standard, so they can help those areas continue to stay in attainment. T. Bergeron then goes over the program goals listed as follows: assisting the attainment areas take action in order to keep ozone levels below the level of the standard to ensure continued health protection, better position areas to remain in attainment, and efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone problems quickly.

He also states reasons why attainment areas should work to reduce ozone. Some reasons are to ensure continued health protection and that it is less resource intensive to implement measures early in the process. Furthermore, by being proactive, it could better position some area to stay in attainment. To be eligible for the program, the area must not be in nonattainment for either 1997 or 2008 8-hour standards at the time that they are accepted into the program. The local entity participating should also generally identify the area. DEQ will then identify the monitor(s) that reflect the area's air quality and also handle the emissions inventory report.

Houma Thibodaux MPO

2012-06-14 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

T. Bergeron then informs the committee of how to participate and what participation means for the community. To participate, the entity submits a letter of intent to EPA prior to initial designations under the 2008 ozone standard. The letter must be received by EPA before July 20, 2012 and copy Louisiana DEQ on the submittal. By participating, the entity will work to develop a “path forward” plan within a year. There is a possibility that by participating in the program, the entity could receive EPA support, preferred status for DERA grants, recognition, and/or a rallying point for public/stakeholder awareness and involvement.

Agenda Item # 6

Good Earth Transit

J. Manning informs the members of the next presentation, Good Earth Transit, and the potential route change due to L. E. Fletcher’s new campus construction on LA 311. He states that public comments will be accepted for the potential route change at the end of the presentation.

J. Manning gives a brief overview of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). MPO’s are federally mandated to plan a program where federal transportation dollars are spent on urban areas greater than 50,000 in population. The Houma-Thibodaux MPO is made up of portions of Assumption, Thibodaux, Lafourche, Lockport and Terrebonne. It is staffed by the Transportation Division of South Central Planning and Development Commission, which is one of the states eight regional planning commissions.

Good Earth Transit (GET) is the public transit division of Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government (TPCG). It provides a fixed route transit service within the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan area. Furthermore, it operates five bus routes in Houma and in Thibodaux, including the bus service between Houma and the City of Thibodaux.

J. Manning then gives some background about L.E. Fletcher Community College which was established through the Louisiana Legislature in 1948. Fletcher is an open admission, two year institute that offers technical and academic programs. The main campus is currently located on St. Charles Street in Houma; however, there are other facilities on Dickson Road, and Civic Center Boulevard. The anticipated date of completion for L.E. Fletcher’s new location on Highway 311 is late July. L.E. Fletcher demographics include approximately 2700 students, 200 faculty/staff, and it is expected that 1600-1700 students, faculty/staff will be using the new facility on LA 311.

J. Manning further states that L.E. Fletcher did an internal email survey to get more information in regards to how many students and/or faculty are interested in this form of transportation. Of the 134 student respondents, 67% stated that they would be interested in using GET services for the 311 campus. J. Manning then presents a map with GET current route and then proposed new route.

J. Manning then states that W. Voisin informed him that the public transit division, Good Earth Transit, was developed with a mission to enhance the mobility of the residents and positively influence the development of Terrebonne Parish. J. Manning explains that W. Voisin is in favor of this route change because of the high level of importance to provide residents with access to education facilities, such as L.E. Fletcher and Nicholls.

He then presents a map of GET current route and its proposed new route to connect with L.E. Fletcher campus. J. Manning also explains that the new route will add ten additional minutes to the current route. The additional cost would be 3 bus hours per week day and approximately 1.2 bus hours on weekends, providing an equal amount of service to Fletcher, as it would to the rest of the

Houma Thibodaux MPO

2012-06-14 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, meeting minutes, continued

North Bayou Route. W. Voisin current cost per bus hour is \$76.00. Therefore, the cost to take this extra route would total approximately \$28,456 for the remainder of the 2012 fiscal year, ending in October. J. Manning explains that W. Voisin is not proposing to increase GET's budget for the remainder of the year; however, he will begin conducting an analysis on certain routes to deem if it would be possible to adjust those routes or reschedule the bus system.

J. Manning opens the floor to any comments regarding this agenda item. T. Arabie states that he believes it is a great idea that GET is helping L.E. Fletcher students and faculty/staff find means of transportation to the location from Houma and Thibodaux. However, he would like to know if there are any options of having the route run from Highway 1 back to Highway 90 to accommodate those students and faculty/staff residing in Lafourche Parish. If so, what are the costs? J. Manning explains that this is an issue that can be further evaluated. He stated that if T. Arabie is interested in pursuing this matter, he would be glad to meet with him, along with W. Voisin and L. Marretta, to possibly find a solution.

It was motioned by T. Arabie, seconded by C. Pulaski to recommend Good Earth Transit's route change to the Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 7

TIP Amendment to Recommend to Policy Committee

J. Manning explains that GET would like to move funds from their Operating Assistance to their Capital Assistance, particularly for the fuels capital. He further states, that from his understanding, there will be no changes in the total cost allocation or local match.

It was motioned by T. Arabie, seconded by L. Leblanc to recommend the TIP Amendment to the Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 8

Update on Natural Gas mailing list

J. Manning reminds those interested in Natural Gas to subscribe to out mailing list.

Agenda Item # 9

Other Business

Agenda Item # 10

Next Meeting Date: Thursday September 13, 2012 10 AM

Agenda Item # 11

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:33AM.

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, April 30, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2009, at Sal's 90 West Seafood Restaurant, Boutte, Louisiana.

Chairman D. Hymel called the meeting to order and requested roll call. Members present or represented by proxy were S. Streams representing M. Triche, C. Randolph, M. Atzenhoffer, C. Caillouet, R. Champagne, V. J. St. Pierre, W. Bendetto, J. Boucvalt, D. Hymel, K. Brass, M. Guillot, M. Claudet, P. Gordon representing T. Cloutier, M. Marmande, Jr., and A. Badeaux. Members absent were C. James, W. Reed, R. Animashaun, J. Bouziga, B. Raymond, Sr., W. Hubbard, A. Tregre, H. Bourgeois, R. Scott, A. Williams, L. Charles, and D. Pothier. Staff members present were K. Belanger, J. Boudreaux, C. Curole, and E. Bergeron. Guests in attendance were: T. Watkins, Attorney at Law and M. Pellegrin of Bourgeois Bennett, LLC, and M. Lambert, St. Charles Parish Council.

Upon completion of roll call K. Belanger explained the change of quorum requirements. With the expansion of the Board, twelve members are now needed to be present in order to meet a quorum.

Chairman Hymel introduced the first item on the agenda for discussion; the ratification of new board members, W. Bendetto of St. Charles Parish and J. Boucvalt of St. John the Baptist Parish. K. Belanger introduced to the Board the newest members present who were ratified at the previous board meeting held in February.

Newly appointed board members are to be ratified only by the Appointment Committee which consists of the twelve highest elected officials from all parishes and municipalities of the Board of Commissioners. It was motioned by V.J. St. Pierre, seconded by C. Caillouet, to ratify W. Bendetto and J. Boucvalt to South Central Planning and Development Commission's Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

Second item on the agenda was the acceptance of minutes of February 5, 2009 meeting. It was motioned by M. Atzenhoffer, seconded by P. Gordon to approve the minutes of February 5, 2009. Motion carried.

Chairman Hymel introduced the next item on the agenda for discussion, ratification of Management Committee Minutes of April 23, 2009. It was motioned by R. Champagne, seconded by M. Atzenhoffer to ratify the minutes of April 23, 2009. Motion carried.

The fourth item for discussion was the review and approval of the Financial Statement ending March 31, 2009. K. Belanger gave an overview of the financial statements. He also briefed the members on incoming revenues. He reassured the members SCPDC was financially sound.

K. Belanger gave a brief overview of the FY09 Budget Adjustments presented. It was motioned by M. Atzenhoffer, seconded by C. Randolph to accept the FY09 Budget Adjustments. Motion carried.

C. Randolph and W. Bendetto entered meeting during the discussion of the FY09 Budget Adjustments, M. Lambert exited.

Chairman Hymel introduced M. Pellegrin of Bourgeois Bennett to the Board. She was invited to the meeting to present the FY08 Annual Audit. She explained the audit findings. The first finding was an Internal Control Issue due to an LED loan distribution that was subsequently voided. It was more of a timing issue than anything; it was nothing to fret about. The second finding was in reference to the audit report not being completed within six months of the close of the fiscal year. The tardiness of the audit report was not due to any faults of SCPDC, it was due to Hurricanes Gustave and Ike which struck the area in September. A continuance was granted, however, by state law Bourgeois Bennett is still required to report the finding even though it was not held against SCPDC. The third finding was a carry over from last year's audit. It pertains to the LED Grant and Loan Program. Due to the requirement changes within the grant program, Bourgeois Bennett anticipates this finding to clear itself up by the end of June 2009. However, she forewarned members, there may be an audit finding next year pertaining to this same issue. Ms. Pellegrin reassured the members that Bourgeois Bennett finds the Internal Control of SCPDC to be very strong.

Ms. Pellegrin gave a brief overview of the financial highlights. The largest area of growth was found in the Building Codes Department. There was an increase in the Governmental Activities due to the LED Small Business Recovery Loan and Grant Phase I Program as well. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by P. Gordon, seconded by M. Marmande to accept the FY2008 Annual Audit. Motion carried.

Chairman Hymel introduced T. Watkins to the forum. He was invited to speak to the members on the new ethics law which recently took effect. Any individual on a Board of Commissioners must file a financial disclosure form. Mr. Watkins clarified issues pertaining to the disclosure form and the penalties if not filed in a timely manner. All forms are due in to the State Ethics Board by May 15, 2009. He offered his assistance to all members, if they have any questions or concerns at a later date. Discussion ensued.

R. Champagne exited meeting at this time.

The eighth item on the agenda for discussion was the Economic Assistance Programs. Chairman Hymel introduced C. Curole to the forum. C. Curole presented a PowerPoint presentation on said programs which SCPDC administers. He gave an insightful overview of each program; Business Recovery Grant and Loan, POLR, WLF Assistance, Cooperative Research, and the newly Gustave/Ike assistance programs. Discussion ensued.

The EPA application for Regional Air Quality Assessment was the next item on the agenda for discussion. K. Belanger explained the EPA's Non-Attainment Status Standards and how LDEQ has requested a change in methodology to allow measuring air quality in each parish separately. Monitored levels in March 2009 showed Lafourche with a level of 0.077 ppm, St. John with a level of 0.078 ppm and St. Charles just in the

moderate range at 0.074ppm. Other parishes under SCPDC that meet the standard are likely to be affected as well. The EPA plans to monitor air quality at the MSA level. In line with the LDEQ initiative, SCPDC will work the parishes to develop a Regional Voluntary Ozone Action Program. This program will meet Clean Air Act Requirements. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by C. Caillouet, seconded by M. Atzenhoffer for SCPDC to apply to EDA for a grant of \$500,000 to develop an Air Quality Action Plan for the Region. Motion passed.

Under Other Business, K. Belanger gave a brief overview of Legislative action taking place and upcoming events to be held in conjunction with SCPDC. Also, he requested the Board to consider the possibility of allotting a travel per diem for Board Members.

There being no other business to discuss, it was moved by M. Guillot, seconded by K. Brass to adjourn. Motion carried.

As duly authorized officers of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, we do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the official version of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on April 30, 2009.

Dale J. Hymel, Chairman
South Central Planning & Development Commission

Mark Atzenhoffer, Secretary/Treasurer
South Central Planning & Development Commission

MINUTES

**SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Thursday, September 17, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2009, at Convent, Louisiana.

Chairman D. Hymel called the meeting to order and requested P. Gordon lead the forum in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present or represented by proxy were C. James, W. Reed, R. Animashaun, E. Fauchaux representing C. Caillouet, T. Vial representing V. J. St. Pierre, B. Boe representing W. Hubbard, A. Tregre, J. Boucvalt, D. Hymel, M. Guillot, M. Claudet, L. Charles, A. Williams, T. Cloutier, M. Marmande, Jr., and A. Badeaux. Members absent were M. Triche, C. Randolph, M. Atzenhoffer, R. Champagne, J. Bouziga, B. Raymond, Sr., W. Bendetto, W. Hubbard, K. Brass, H. Bourgeios, R. Scott, and D. Pothier. Staff members present were K. Belanger, J. Boudreaux, S. Leger, and E. Bergeron. Guests in attendance were: E. Deroche, St. James Parish EOC, Bobby Lear, Toby Sanifer, Scott Louque of St James Parish GIS office, Michael Vince, LDEQ, Dr. Balaji of NSU, C. Naquin, and Katherine Gros, Bayou Country Children's Museum and P. Gordon, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government.

Chairman Hymel introduced the guest from St. James Parish to the Board. K. Belanger introduced SCPDC employees and other guests to the Board.

Chairman Hymel informed the Board of the first item on the agenda, Acceptance of minutes from Management Committee meeting was omitted due to the cancellation of said meeting. Item two on the agenda for discussion was the acceptance of minutes of June 25, 2009 meeting. It was motioned by B. Boe, seconded by M. Guillot to approve the minutes of June 25, 2009. Motion carried.

Third item on the agenda for discussion was the approval of the un-audited financial statement ending June 30, 2009. K. Belanger gave an overview of the financial statements. It was requested for the accountant to change the order of the Budget and YTD columns on the budget worksheet. J. Boudreaux stated she would do so. It was motioned by T. Vial, seconded by B. Boe to approve the un-audited financial statement ending June 30, 2009. Motion carried.

A. Williams and L. Charles entered meeting at this time.

It was requested by Chairman Hymel to deviate to item six on the agenda, discussion of Regional GIS initiatives, due to the GIS personnel present had another meeting to attend. All agreed. Chairman Hymel introduced St. James Parish's GIS Manager, Bobby Lear. He turned the introduction over to S. Leger, who briefed the quorum on SCPDC's GIS history and how GIS is utilized by the Region's six parishes and municipalities. S. Leger introduced Dr. Balaji of NSU, who gave a brief overview of NSU's Geospatial Technology Center initiatives and roles within the Region. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Hymel introduced C. Naquin, Executive Director of the Bayou Country Children's Museum. C. Naquin gave an overview of the museum's mission and goals. The concept of the museum is to promote and preserve the Cajun culture. It is being built in Thibodaux adjacent to NSU. The museum will serve children 2-12 years of age from the surrounding eight parishes; St. Mary, Assumption, Ascension, St. James, St. John, St. Charles, Lafourche, and Terrebonne Parishes. Its galleries will consist of hands-on, interactive play exhibits. She spoke of the initiatives being taken to help raise monies for its construction. The museum hopes to break ground in 2010. C. Naquin requested for members to please spread the word, all donations will be appreciated. Discussion ensued.

M. Vince of DEQ was introduced to the forum to give an update on the Air Quality Assessment and its impact to the state of Louisiana. EPA has announced a reevaluation of the air quality standards set in March 2008. The public, industry, and air planning agencies are all impacted by the new standards. He stressed public awareness. Discussion ensued.

Item seven on the agenda for discussion was Livable Communities proposed legislation. K. Belanger briefed the Board on creating a Regional Comprehensive Plan for development of livable communities. Legislation is proposing a \$1.5 million grant for preparing a Regional Comprehensive Plan. If a region is selected they would also be awarded \$35 million for implantation projects. It was motioned by M. Claudet, seconded by M. Guillot to grant a resolution of support. Motion carried.

The eighth item on the agenda for discussion was board member pier Diems. Discussion ensued. It was motioned by B. Boe, seconded by T. Vial to provide to those South Central Planning and Development Commission Board Members and Commission Boards and their respective Committee members who are not able to be reimbursed with public funds mileage at the Federal rate for any travel related to Commission activities. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda for discussion was the resolution declaring various equipment as surplus property. It was motioned by M. Claudet, seconded by A. Badeaux to declare various equipment as surplus property and authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to appropriately dispose of said equipment. Motion carried.

Item ten on the agenda was the resolution to set the minimum acceptable bid for the sale of equipment declared as surplus. It was motioned by A. Tregre, seconded by B. Boe to set the minimum acceptable bid of \$1.00 for the sale of equipment declared as surplus. Motion carried.

K. Belanger briefed the Board on the draft of the 2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). He requested each member read over the CEDS and to feel free in submitting comments or suggestions. At the next board meeting adoption of the 2009 CEDS will be on the agenda.

Item twelve on the agenda was the ratification of new members to the RLF LAC/LAB Boards. Charles Plaisance from Lafourche Parish and Marie Morris of Terrebonne has been nominated to the RLF LAC/LAB Boards. It was motioned by T. Vial, seconded by J. Boucvalt to ratify C. Plaisance and M. Morris to the RLF LAC/LAB. Motion carried.

K. Belanger gave a brief update on the North/South Hurricane Evacuation Route. It was delayed for further evaluation and traffic modeling purposes. Within the next two weeks a new contract will be issued to the consultant to continue the development of the EIS which will determine the corridor of that particular route.

Chairman Hymel offered each member to read at their leisure the Activity Agency Report included in the meeting packet.

Under Other Business, the next meeting date will be set for early January 2010. K. Belanger informed the Board of the Ethics Workshop SCPDC will be hosting in March 2010.

There being no other business to discuss, it was unanimously moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

As duly authorized officers of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, we do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the official version of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on September 17, 2009.

Dale Hymel, Chairman
South Central Planning & Development Commission

Mark Atzenhoffer, Secretary/Treasurer
South Central Planning & Development Commission

MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, October 14, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning and Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2010, at Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission in Raceland, Louisiana.

Chairman R. Champagne called the meeting to order and lead the forum in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present or represented by proxy were E. Watson representing M. Triche, C. Chiasson representing C. Randolph, M. Atzenhoffer, R. Champagne, V. J. St. Pierre, E. Alexander, W. Bendetto, G. Williamson, N. Robottom, J. Wagner, D. Hymel, M. Guillot, Jr., M. Claudet, L. Charles, J. Rogers, D. Pothier, P. Gordon representing A. Williams, and A. Badeaux. Members absent were C. James, W. Reed, C. Caillouet, J. Bouziga, A. Tregre, K. Brass, H. Bourgeois, R. Scott, and M. Marmande, Jr. Staff members present were K. Belanger, J. Boudreaux, L. Marretta and E. Bergeron. Guests in attendance were: C. Babin of Lafourche Parish, V. Aucoin, T. Bergeron, and Z. Yasooob of LaDEQ, A. Perry of LED, and D. Bourg.

At Chairman R. Champagne's request K. Belanger introduced the guest and SCPDC staff members present.

First item on the agenda was the acceptance of minutes of June 17, 2010 regular meeting. It was motioned by M. Guillot, seconded by M. Atzenhoffer to accept minutes of the June 17, 2010 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the acceptance of Management Committee Minutes of October 8, 2010. K. Belanger briefed the members on the minutes. It was motioned by M. Guillot, seconded by M. Atzenhoffer, to accept the Management Committee Minutes of October 8, 2010. Motion carried.

The third item on the agenda was the review and approval of the un-audited financial statement ending June 30, 2010. K. Belanger gave an overview of the un-audited financial statement. It was motioned by N. Robottom, seconded by V. J. St. Pierre. Motion carried.

Ratification of new board members was the fourth item on the agenda. It was motioned by A. Badeaux, seconded by L. Charles to ratify J. Wagner of St. John

the Baptist Parish, and J. Rogers of Terrebonne Parish to South Central Planning & Development Commission's Board of Commissioners. Motion passed.

Next item on the agenda was the acceptance of the 2010 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). K. Belanger commended J. Jones for her hard work on the CEDS. It was motioned by P. Gordon, seconded by E. Alexander to accept the 2010 CEDS. Motion passed.

It was motioned by D. Pothier, seconded by M. Atzenhoffer to declare various equipment as surplus property and authorizing the CEO to appropriately dispose of said equipment. Motion passed.

It was motioned by V. J. St. Pierre, seconded by D. Hymel to set the minimum acceptable bid of \$1 for the sale of equipment declared as surplus. Motion passed.

K. Belanger introduced V. Aucoin, Environmental Scientist Supervisor of LaDEQ to the Board. V. Aucoin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2008 Ozone NAAQS Reconsideration. She overviewed the EPA's timeline and the implementation timeline. Also, she explained nonattainment designation vs classification and classification requirements. Discussion ensued.

Announcements were next on the agenda. K. Belanger reported MyPermitNow received the 2010 IEDC Excellence in Economic Development Award. Also, he spoke on Redistricting 2011. He requested the Board's permission to file an ethics request on Redistricting, LLC who has submitted a proposal for the Terrebonne Parish Redistricting Project. This business is owned by two individuals who hold jobs in the Senate and the House of Representatives, whose responsibilities are reviewing such plans for the Senate and the House. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by E. Alexander to grant K. Belanger permission to file an ethics request on behalf of SCPDC on Redistricting, LLC, failed for lack of second.

K. Belanger briefed the Board on the upcoming Smart Growth Summit.

The next meeting date will be set for January 2011 in Terrebonne Parish.

There being no other business to discuss, it was motioned by V.J. St. Pierre, seconded by A. Badeaux to adjourn. Motion carried.

As duly authorized officers of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, we do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the official version of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on October 14, 2010

Richard Champagne, Chairman
South Central Planning & Development Commission

Mark Atzenhoffer, Secretary
South Central Planning & Development Commission

MINUTES

**SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Thursday, January 17, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning & Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at Ellendale Country Club in Houma, LA.

Vice-Chairman St. Pierre called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present or represented by proxy were: E. Watson representing M. Triche, J. Naquin, W. Reed, M. Atzhenoffer, E. Price representing T. Eschete, V. J. St. Pierre, E. Alexander, W. Bendetto, N. Robottom, R. Noel, L. Mitchell, H. Hardy, R. Mitchell representing T. Roussel, P. Gordon representing M. Claudet, A. Williams, J. Rogers, L. Charles, M. Marmande, Jr., and A. Badeaux, Jr.

Members absent were: R. Animashaun, C. Randolph, A. Archer, P. Champagne, J. Bouziga, Ken Brass, M. Guillot, Jr., T. Borne, and R. Scott. Staff members present were K. Belanger, J. Boudreaux, C. Curole, J. Jones, and E. Bergeron.

Guests in attendance were: T. Dupre of Meyer Engineers, M. Vince, and G. Cvadra of LDEQ Air Permits, B. Boe of St. Charles Parish Government, D. Bourg of Terrebonne Parish Government, D. Telford and M. Pellegrin of Bourgeois-Bennett, R. Stesney, J. Weatherspoon, and R. Matherne of Progressive Environmental Solutions.

First item on the agenda was the acceptance of minutes of October 18, 2012 regular meeting. It was motioned by W. Benedetto, seconded by A. Williams to accept minutes of the October 18, 2012 regular meeting. There being no objections motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the acceptance of Management Committee Minutes of January 11, 2013. It was motioned by A. Williams, seconded by E. Alexander to accept minutes of the Management Committee Meeting of January 11, 2013. There being no objections motion carried.

The third item on the agenda was the Election of 2013 Officers.

It was motioned by E. Alexander, seconded by A. Williams to open nominations of Chairman by nominating VJ St. Pierre as Chairman of SCPDC's Board of Commissioners. It was then motioned by A. Williams, seconded by W. Reed to close nominations. There being no objections motion carried. VJ St. Pierre was elected as Chairman for SCPDC's Board of Commissioners.

It was motioned by P. Gordon, seconded by M. Marmande, Jr. to open nominations of Vice-Chairman by nominating A. Williams as Vice-Chairman of SCPDC's Board of Commissioners. It was then motioned by W. Benedetto, seconded by E. Alexander to close nominations. There being no objections motion carried. A. Williams was elected as Vice-Chairman of SCPDC's Board of Commissioners.

It was motioned by A. Williams, seconded by P. Gordon to open nominations of Secretary by nominating E. Alexander as Secretary of SCPDC's Board of Commissioners. It was then motioned by W. Benedetto, seconded by L. Charles to close nominations. There being no objections motion carried. E. Alexander was elected as Secretary of SCPDC's Board of Commissioners.

It was motioned by A. Williams, seconded by W. Benedetto to open nominations of Treasurer by nominating A. Badeaux, Jr. as Treasurer of SCPDC's Board of Commissioners. It was then motioned by W. Benedetto, seconded by A. Williams to close nominations of Treasurer. There being no objections motion carried. A. Badeaux, Jr. was elected Treasurer of SCPDC's Board of Commissioners.

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of Financial Statement ending December 31, 2013. K. Belanger briefed the board on the Financial Statement. It was motioned by P. Gordon, seconded by E. Alexander to approve the Financial Statement ending December 31, 2013. There being no objections motion carried.

Item five on the agenda was the review and approval of the FY12 Audit. K. Belanger introduced D. Telford of Bourgeois-Bennett to the Board of Commissioners, who then briefed the Board of Commissioners on the FY12. D. Telford stated there were no significant findings. It was motioned by J. Naquin, seconded by N. Robottom to approve the FY12 Audit. There being no objections motion carried.

Discussion on Planning District #4 was the next item on the agenda. K. Belanger informed the Board of Commissioners of the issues which Planning District #4 has been facing. They have had little work and very few revenue generators. They have been meeting with SCPDC to try to gain insight to new endeavors they may seek.

The seventh item on the agenda was discussion of the Solid Waste Initiative. K. Belanger briefed the Board of Commissioners the history of the Solid Waste Initiative. He explained how difficult it has been for the parishes to solidify under the Solid Waste Authority. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by A. Williams, seconded by N. Robottom to abolish the Solid Waste Authority and for SCPDC to reimburse the parishes their SWA dues and then to request for the parishes to re-contribute the funds to the Environmental Division SCPDC is developing. There being no objections motion carried.

C. Curole presented an Update on lending portfolios and future programs. He gave an overview of all the Loan Programs which SCPDC administers.

Next on the agenda was the Advanced Ozone Program presentation. K. Belanger introduced M. Vince of the LDEQ. M. Vince gave a brief presentation on what non-

attainment means and the adverse effects the parishes may face if their parish were to fall into non-attainment. K. Belanger then gave a brief presentation on the Ozone Advance Program SCPDC is seeking to develop. He explained the purpose of the program which is to coordinate proactive efforts to reduce emissions and avoid non-attainment of the ozone and how it will develop. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by M. Marmande, Jr., seconded by E. Alexander authorizing K. Belanger to go in front of each Parish council requesting \$15,000 to commit 3 years for the development of SCPDC's Ozone Advance Program. There being no objections motioned carried.

Item eleven on the agenda was the Corporate Sponsor, Progressive Environmental Solutions. Chairman St. Pierre introduced R. Stesney to the Board of Commissioners. R. Stesney informed the Board of the services available by Progressive Environmental Solutions.

Next on the agenda was the Agency Activity Report. Everyone agreed to read it at their leisure.

Next meeting date has been set for Thursday, April 18, 2013 location in Assumption Parish yet to be determined. There being no other business to discuss, it was motioned by W. Benedetto, seconded by all to adjourn. Motion carried.

As duly authorized officers of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, we do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the official version of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on January 17, 2013.

VJ St. Pierre, Chairman
South Central Planning & Development Commission

Ellis Alexander, Secretary
South Central Planning & Development Commission

MINUTES

**SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Thursday, April 18, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning & Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at the new Assumption Parish Community Center in Napoleonville, LA.

Chairman St. Pierre called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present or represented by proxy were: M. Triche, J. Naquin, W. Reed, R. Animashaun, M. Atzenhoffer, T. Eschete, V. J. St. Pierre, E. Alexander, R. Vincent representing N. Robottom, R. Noel, L. Mitchell, H. Hardy, T. Roussel, D. Bourg representing M. Claudet, A. Williams, J. Rogers, A. Badeaux, Jr., and G. Crow. Staff members present were K. Belanger, J. Boudreaux, J. Jones, L. Marretta and E. Bergeron.

Members absent were: C. Randolph, A. Archer, P. Champagne, J. Bouziga, W. Bendetto, Ken Brass, M. Guillot, Jr., T. Borne, R. Scott, L. Charles, and M. Marmande, Jr.

Guests in attendance were: Atri Sen and Rebecca Hernandez of Dewberry, Michael Vince of LA DEQ.

First item on the agenda was the acceptance of minutes of January 17, 2013 regular meeting. It was motioned by T. Roussel seconded by M. Atzenhoffer to accept minutes of the January 17, 2013 regular meeting. There being no objections motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the acceptance of Management Committee Minutes of April 12, 2013. Due to a lack of a quorum the Management Committee was unable to hold their meeting.

A. Williams entered at this time.

The third item on the agenda was the review and approval of Financial Statement ending March 31, 2013. K. Belanger briefed the board on the Financial Statement. It was motioned by M. Atzenhoffer, seconded by E. Alexander to approve the Financial Statement ending March 31, 2013. There being no objections motion carried.

Upon the passing of agenda item three, A. Williams motioned to revisit agenda item one, seconded by E. Alexander. There being no objections motion carried. A. Williams pointed out page two was missing from the minutes. It was then motioned by A. Williams, seconded by E. Alexander to revisit the minutes of January 17, 2013 at the next regular SCPDC Board of Commissioners meeting, seconded by E. Alexander. There being no objections motion carried.

Item four on the agenda was the review and approval of FY13 Budget Adjustments. It was motioned by J. Naquin, seconded by M. Triche. There being no objections motion carried.

Next on the agenda was A PowerPoint presentation was given on the PM 2.5 Advance Program by M. Vince of LA DEQ. He briefly explained to the Commissioners what PM (Particular Matter) was and the importance for the Region to continue working proactively with one another to identify and implement programs which will result in cleaner air.

It was motioned by W. Reed, seconded by E. Alexander to approve SCPDC's letter of intent to join PM Advance Program. There being no objections motion carried.

The sixth item on the agenda was the resolution declaring various equipment as surplus property and authorizing the CEO to appropriately dispose of said equipment. It was motioned by M. Triche, seconded by A. Badeaux, Jr. to declare various equipment as surplus property and authorizing the CEO to appropriately dispose of said equipment. There being no objections motion carried.

A resolution setting the minimum acceptable bid for the sale of equipment declared as surplus was the seventh item on the agenda. It was motioned by A. Badeaux, Jr., seconded by E. Alexander setting the minimum acceptable bid for the sale of equipment declared as surplus. There being no objections motion carried.

Under item eight, Announcements, K. Belanger reminded the Commissioners of the DRA application process beginning. He also encouraged the Commissioners to become involved in supporting the I-49 South Coalition.

Agenda item nine, K. Belanger updated the Commissioners on the progress of SCPDC's building expansion; it should go out for public bid in July 2013.

It was then motioned by A. Williams, seconded by A. Badeaux to deviate from agenda to review agenda item twelve. There being no objections motion carried. K. Belanger briefed the Commissioners on the required Title VI Policy SCPDC needed to implement. It was motioned by R. Noel, seconded by W. Reed to accept the SCPDC Title VI Policy. There being no objections motion carried.

It was motioned by A. Badeaux, Jr., seconded by E. Alexander to return to agenda item ten. K. Belanger introduced Atri Sen of Dewberry. A. Sen introduced to the Commissioners the many areas in which Dewberry Engineers can assist the parishes with engineering projects. He briefly reviewed Dewberry's initiatives and pass projects in the Region. Discussion ensued.

Next on the agenda was the Agency Activity Report. Everyone agreed to read it at their leisure.

Next meeting date has been set for Thursday, June 20, 2013 location in Lafourche Parish yet to be determined. There being no other business to discuss, it was motioned by R. Noel, seconded by W. Reed to adjourn. Motion carried.

As duly authorized officers of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, we do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the official version of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on April 18, 2013.

VJ St. Pierre, Chairman
South Central Planning & Development Commission

Ellis Alexander, Secretary
South Central Planning & Development Commission

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMPLETION

South Central Planning and Development Commission

Notice is hereby given that South Central Planning and Development Commission has completed the 2014 Budget. A full copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the South Central Planning and Development Commission office located at 5058 W. Main Street, Houma, LA, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00a.m. and 4:30p.m.

MINUTES

**SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Thursday, June 20, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Planning & Development Commission was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at Envie Restuarant in Thibodaux, LA.

Chairman St. Pierre called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present or represented by proxy were: E. Watson representing M. Triche, J. Naquin, W. Reed, R. Animashaun, A. Chaisson representing C. Randolph, M. Atzenhoffer, E. Price representing T. Eschete, V. J. St. Pierre, E. Alexander, T. Roussel, M. Guillot, Jr., T. Borne, R. Vincent representing N. Robottom, R. Noel, L. Mitchell, H. Hardy, M. Claudet, L. Charles, A. Williams, J. Rogers, M. Marmande, Jr., A. Badeaux, Jr., and G. Crow. Staff members present were K. Belanger, J. Boudreaux, J. Jones, and E. Bergeron.

Members absent were: A. Archer, P. Champagne, J. Bouziga, W. Bendetto, Ken Brass, and R. Scott.

Guests in attendance were: C. McCain, D. Bourg, P. Gordon, of Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, P. Rome, and D. Duplantis of Duplantis Design Group, LLC.

First item on the agenda was the revisit and acceptance of minutes of January 17, 2013 regular meeting. It was motioned by T. Roussel seconded by A. Chiasson to accept minutes of the January 17, 2013 regular meeting. There being no objections motion carried.

The second item on the agenda was the acceptance of minutes of April 18, 2013 regular meeting. It was motioned by G. Crow, seconded by W. Reed to accept minutes of the April 18, 2013 regular meeting. There being no objections motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the acceptance of Management Committee Minutes of June 13, 2013. It was motioned by M. Guillot, seconded by M. Atzenhoffer. There being no objections motion carried.

The fourth item on the agenda was the review and approval of Financial Statement ending May 31, 2013. K. Belanger briefed the board on the Financial Statement. It was motioned by T. Roussel, seconded by M. Atzenhoffer to approve the Financial Statement ending May 31, 2013. There being no objections motion carried.

Item five on the agenda was the review and approval of FY13 Budget Adjustments. It was motioned by T. Roussel, seconded by M. Atzenhoffer. There being no objections motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of the FY14 Proposed Budget. It was motioned by M. Atzenhoffer, seconded by M. Marmande to approve the FY14 Proposed Budget. There being no objections motion carried.

The seventh item on the agenda was the resolution Adopting System Survey and Compliance Questionnaire. It was motioned by A. Badeaux, seconded by G. Crow to adopt the System Survey and Compliance Questionnaire. There being no objections motion carried.

Under item eight, resolution certifying that the Revolving Loan Fund Program is consistent with the current Regional adjustment strategy; is being operated in accordance with the policies and procedures contained in the plan; and that all loan portfolios meet plan standards. It was motioned by M. Marmande, Jr., seconded by M. Guillot to adopt the resolution certifying that the Revolving Loan Fund Program is consistent with the current Regional adjustment strategy; is being

operated in accordance with the policies and procedures contained in the plan; and that all loan portfolios meet plan standards. There being no objections motion carried.

Agenda item nine, resolution authorizing the CEO to enter into a contract for Metropolitan Planning for FY14 between SCPDC & the LADOTD for the Houma-Thibodaux MPO, Transit Funds. It was motioned by M. Atzenhoffer, seconded by J. Naquin to adopt the resolution authorizing the CEO to enter into a contract for Metropolitan Planning for FY14 between SCPDC & the LADOTD for the Houma-Thibodaux MPO, Transit Funds. There being no objections motion carried.

Item ten on the agenda was the resolution authorizing the CEO to enter into a contract for Metropolitan Planning for FY14 between SCPDC & the LADOTD for the Houma-Thibodaux MPO, Continuing Planning Phase. It was motioned by J. Naquin, seconded by A. Chiasson to adopt the resolution authorizing the CEO to enter into a contract for Metropolitan Planning for FY14 between SCPDC & the LADOTD for the Houma-Thibodaux MPO, Continuing Planning Phase. There being no objections motion carried.

The acceptance of the Official Journal for July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 was the eleventh item on the agenda. After reviewing bids received by the Daily Comet, Houma Courier, and the L'Observateur it was motioned by E. Alexander, seconded by A. Badeaux to accept the Daily Comet as SCPDC's Official Journal for July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. There being no objection motion carried.

Advanced Ozone Program funding formula was the next item on the agenda. K. Belanger explained to the forum the need for the funding formula change. The new formula is: (Base participation fee) + (% of total regional NOx & VOC emissions) x (\$45,000) = Total Parish Costs. Discussion ensued. It was motioned by E. Alexander, seconded by M. Claudet to approve the new Advanced Ozone Program funding formula. There being no objections motion carried.

Agenda item thirteen was proposed Personnel Policy changes to the Annual Leave and Hiring policies. K. Belanger explained the proposed changes to the forum. Discussion ensued. It was motioned by R. Noel, seconded by T. Roussel to accept the changes to SCPDC's Annual Leave and Hiring Policies. There being no objections motion carried.

SCPDC's Organizational Chart was agenda item fourteen, just for informational purposes.

Item fifteen was the resolution authorizing the Commission to purchase from a Sole Source Provider for the purchase of the CalAmp 2620. K. Belanger explained how this hardware is the only hardware compatible with SCPDC's GPS software. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by J. Naquin, seconded by M. Marmande, Jr. to adopt the resolution authorizing the Commission to purchase from a Sole Source Provider for the purchase of the CalAmp 2620. There being no objections motion carried.

Item sixteen of the agenda's addendum was the acceptance of 2013 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). After reviewing the 2013 CEDS, it was motioned by A. Williams, seconded by L. Charles to accept the 2013 CEDS. There being no objections motion carried.

K. Belanger updated the forum on SCPDC's building expansion. SCPDC is hoping to begin the bidding process in October. Building plans are close to becoming finalized.

Duplantis Design Group was the Corporate Sponsor for the meeting. D. Duplantis spoke to the forum of the services the Duplantis Design Group offers the Region.

Next on the agenda was the Agency Activity Report. Everyone agreed to read it at their leisure.

Next meeting date has been set for Thursday, October 17, 2013 location in St. Charles Parish yet to be determined. There being no other business to discuss, it was motioned by A. Williams, seconded by A. Badeaux to adjourn. Motion carried.

As duly authorized officers of South Central Planning and Development Commission, Board of Commissioners, we do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is the official version of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on June 20, 2013.

VJ St. Pierre, Chairman
South Central Planning & Development Commission

Ellis Alexander, Secretary
South Central Planning & Development Commission

Appendix C: News Articles

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20080311/HURBLOG/246510376?...>



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Update: Houma-Thibodaux could face ozone regulations

The Associated Press

Published: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 6:01 a.m.

Latest update: 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 12

Tighter anti-smog standards could add as many as 23 parishes, including Terrebonne and Lafourche, to the five now failing to meet federal pollution limits, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Wednesday.

That could not only eliminate a major argument against requiring cleaner but more expensive gasoline at stations in Baton Rouge and four neighboring parishes, but could increase the cost of living in and rebuilding areas recovering from the hurricanes of 2005.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which announced last year that it might reduce the amount of ozone permitted from 80 parts per billion to 70 or 75, was expected to announce Wednesday whether it will do so.

Many scientists and doctors say the limit would have to be stricter than that to protect the health of people with asthma and other breathing problems.

DEQ spokesman Rodney Mallett said he was told Tuesday that 75 parts per billion was more likely than 70 - and on Wednesday learned a figure as high as 79 might be possible.

East Baton Rouge and four nearby parishes - West Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension and Iberville - don't meet current standards. Fifteen other parishes have come into compliance with those standards since 1978.

A limit of 75 parts per billion would put most of them out of compliance again, adding several more for a total of 21. Ouachita and Union parishes would pass at 75 parts per billion, but not at 70, Mallett said.

Most southeast Louisiana parishes either have ozone levels at or above 75 parts per billion or would be counted as doing so because they are in a metro area where monitors show ozone levels that high, Mallett said.

That's also true in Lafourche, Terrebonne, Lafayette, St. Martin, Calcasieu, Cameron, Caddo, Bossier and DeSoto parishes, according to DEQ.

From Pointe Coupee Parish east and south, the only parishes that would pass a 75 parts per billion standard would be Washington, Tangipahoa, Assumption, St. Mary and Iberia.

Mallett said his staff was working on a list of parishes that would meet and fail a 79 parts per billion standard.

Baton Rouge area industries currently have stricter air pollution limits than those in the rest of the state. In addition, vehicle inspections include checks on emissions, increasing the cost to residents, and gas stations must take specific steps to minimize leaks from the pumps and to return gasoline vapors to a truck when the station's tanks are filled.

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20080311/HURBLOG/246510376?...>

Businesses and governments in that area sued to keep from having to switch to reformulated gas, which is generally more expensive than regular grades.

Mallett said EPA agreed in 2004 to consider whether state analysts were correct in predicting that, because the five-parish area is so small, drivers would be likely to drive to nearby parishes for less expensive gas, increasing pollution rather than reducing it.

That might change if four more Baton Rouge-area parishes, St. James Parish and metro New Orleans were added to those violating new standards.

"I'm sure that is something the EPA will look at before requiring it or letting any out of using it," Mallett said.

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Local air pollution still violates EPA standards

Staff and wire

Published: Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

BATON ROUGE — Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is being asked to rule Louisiana in compliance with older smog standards, five metro areas — including Houma-Thibodaux — don't meet the most recent, tighter ozone standard.

Locally, the pollution has been blamed on auto and boat exhaust as well as industry admissions. Authorities have also said that some of the pollution may have drifted into Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes from surrounding areas.

High levels of ozone can affect lung function and irritate the respiratory system in people who are sensitive, including children and the elderly, the state Department of Environmental Quality said. It can worsen chronic health conditions like bronchitis, emphysema and asthma.

The Baton Rouge area, which has failed to meet EPA ozone standards since the first was set in 1997, has now met that mark and one set in 2005 for three years in a row, putting the whole state in compliance, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Tuesday.

However, the 2008 data show that the Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Houma-Thibodaux, Lafayette and Shreveport areas don't meet the tighter standard set last March, said Michael Vince, administrator of DEQ's air quality assessment division.

The Lake Charles area is right at that new standard, and St. James Parish is just below it, he said.

States have until March 12 to tell the EPA which areas they expect to fail those standards in 2010, and changes between now and then could affect the list, Vince said.

In the meantime, he said, DEQ is working with governments, businesses and citizens in all of those areas to look for ways to reduce air pollution. For instance, where construction equipment is a major source of pollution, governments might ask companies to limit the time that machinery is allowed to idle — or even write such restrictions into their contracts, Vince said.

Last March, EPA reduced the amount of ozone that should be allowed in the air for it to be considered healthy from 85 parts per million (ppm) during any eight-hour period to 75 ppm, with a target date of 2010. Environmental organizations sued, saying that is too lax.

Baton Rouge got its eight-hour readings down to 83 ppm last year. But the only metro area well below 75 ppm last year was Monroe, at 66 ppm, Vince said.

He said other eight-hour readings last year were 79 ppm in the New Orleans metro area, 77 ppm in Houma-Thibodaux, 77 in the Lafayette area, 76 in the Shreveport area, 75 in the Lake Charles area and 74 in St. James Parish.

The Lake Charles area is "sitting on the fence. But they're within the standard right

now," Vince said.

The state also is in talks with the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, which notified both DEQ and EPA last year that it planned to sue on grounds that the agencies failed to follow a court order handed down in January 2007 by a federal appeals court in Washington, D.C.

The groups went to court after Louisiana and the EPA extended the deadline for the Baton Rouge area to meet the 1997 standard from 1999 to 2005. LEAN's suit was consolidated with one filed in Washington, where the appeals court ruled that EPA had to enforce penalties for failing to meet the standard.

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New air-quality rules could affect locals

Naomi King

Staff Writer

Published: Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 11:42 a.m.

HOUMA — New federal pollution rules could mean higher expenses for some Terrebonne and Lafourche businesses if officials don't find ways to decrease air-pollution production in their communities.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is considering making standards already changed in 2008 more strict and should announce proposed new rules by December.

The goal is to curb ozone, the primary pollutant that forms smog.

Ozone in the stratosphere, 10-30 miles above the ground, helps protect Earth's surface from the sun's strong rays.

But ground-level ozone creates smog when pollutants from vehicles, paints and solvents, unburned fuel and industrial sources bake in hot, sunny weather. High levels of ozone can be harmful to people with asthma, lung and heart diseases, as well as plants and entire ecosystems, according to the EPA.

Terrebonne Parish President Michel Claudet is trying to use the ozone standards as a way to speed federal and state grants for traffic control.

He wants help finishing a project that will synchronize traffic lights throughout Houma and into Thibodaux. Fewer cars idling at red lights means fewer smog-causing pollutants, Claudet said.

If the parishes fail to comply with the new standards, residents and businesses may have to change.

For gas station owners like Darrel Hebert, that could mean a need to upgrade pumping equipment to capture more errant fumes.

The 53-year-old already has guards around pump nozzles to prevent gasoline backslash, he said. An electricity-powered vacuum at the nozzles sucks up excess fumes.

"I hope they don't do that," Hebert said of the possibility that there will be tougher standards. "We already have too many rules and regulations."

Hebert said the cost of compliance would be shouldered by him and his customers.

"They're just going to make the price of gas go up," Hebert said.

Terrebonne and Lafourche's ozone level is around 72 parts per billion, based on 2007, 2008 and 2009 levels monitored at a station near Raceland, said state Department of Environmental Quality officials. The current standard is 75 parts per billion, so for now the parishes are in compliance.

But that could change.

Depending on where the new standard falls, local parishes' air-pollution could be

above or below, said Kevin Belanger, CEO of South Central Planning and Development Commission.

"There is a huge amount of push nationally to have that standard at 70," Belanger said. "We don't have a crystal ball, but we do know it's very difficult to get below 70."

The standard is being reviewed because an EPA scientific panel originally set the 2008 standards to be more strict. But the Bush administration loosened the limit to 75 parts per billion.

While that decision was criticized by environmental groups for not being strict enough, industry leaders were concerned that the standards would be financially difficult to meet.

To brace for possible stricter standards, Belanger is working with local parishes to form a task force that would promote behaviors and programs to reduce emissions, such as carpooling and making better use of energy at businesses and homes.

Candace Roszelle, a 48-year-old retiree and artist in Thibodaux, said her husband already carpools with at least four other men to save money on the daily commutes to Morgan City, where they work for McDermott.

"I don't have a reason to carpool, but my husband does, and he does carpool," Roszelle said.

But no one can force people to carpool, she said.

"How can you police that," she asked. "People who police themselves do that already."

Everyone in the community would be affected by stricter standards, not just one industry or group of people, said Tim Bergeron, an environmental chemical specialist.

For instance, shipyards put off nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds, which are two major ingredients in ozone creation, through paints and work involving combustion, said Leo Marretta, administrator of the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization.

But money for ozone-reducing traffic improvements is only set aside for communities already out of compliance. In Louisiana, the only area is around Baton Rouge. Other cities include Dallas, St. Louis and Los Angeles.

Officials say the new threshold could make that change, and that's why Claudet is confident that his attempts to link ozone-depletion with Houma's traffic-signal lights is a step that should be taken now.

"There's nothing that would be better than to improve traffic flows in our area so that automobiles will not be sitting at red lights," Claudet said.

Staff Writer Naomi King can be reached at 857-2209 or naomi.king@houmatoday.com. Follow her on Twitter @HoumaGov.

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Everyone would pay for new rules

Published: Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 8:06 a.m.

The local region is in compliance with the current federal rules on ozone, one of the primary causes behind smog and other environmental hazards.

But depending on future decisions by the Environmental Protection Agency, our local performance could be pushed out of compliance and create a need for aggressive remediation to lower the area's ozone output.

There are two ways to look at any new EPA regulation of ozone.

First, there is the environmental side, where we all wish the air we breathe were more pure and that there were fewer pollutants in our atmosphere.

It is impossible to imagine that side, though, without also considering the economic side to whatever the EPA decides. For instance, if we are suddenly out of compliance with federal guidelines, it could necessitate costly changes in the way many businesses and individuals operate.

It would be nice to imagine that the federal government will likewise consider both aspects to whatever action it takes. Unfortunately, there is a ham-fisted, one-size-fits-all mentality to many of the regulations the federal government pushes into law.

Before getting hysterical about what the feds might or might not do, though, we should look at where we are right now.

The current ozone level is about 72 parts per billion, according to readings at a state Department of Environmental Quality monitoring station near Raceland.

The good news is that that figure is below the current standard of 75 ppb. The bad news is that it is above the figure of 70 that some believe the EPA will put into place.

If the agency does reduce the maximum number so soon after the current guideline went into effect in 2008, people and businesses here will have to make up the difference by changing their behavior.

The biggest way to cut back on ozone is to reduce the amount of fuel we burn and the amount of other emissions we put into the atmosphere.

Terrebonne Parish President Michel Claudet is pushing traffic synchronization as a way to limit the amount of time our vehicles burn fuel while waiting for traffic lights to change to green.

Efforts such as that will be part of what we have to do to get the region back within the federal limit.

The area's many manufacturing plants could find themselves under tight, new regulations that limit the amount of pollutants they can release into the air.

At the extreme, gas stations might have to adopt costly new equipment to capture more of the fumes that currently escape into the atmosphere.

So far, though, none of these possibilities is anywhere close to becoming a reality.

Given the choice, local residents would much rather see slow, sensible changes that carry benefits beyond the strictly environmental concerns represented by the EPA.

Overall, though, the prevailing hope must be that whatever the EPA decides, it will allow an incremental approach that recognizes future goals but allows adequate time and opportunity to attain them with limited disturbance to the local people and businesses that will have to make the difference.

We know we cannot rely on the government to accomplish change in such a deliberate and accommodating way, but we can still hope for the best.

Editorials represent the opinions of the newspaper, not of any individual.

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Ozone standards could bring new regulations

By [Nikki Buskey](#)

Staff Writer

Published: Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 6:01 a.m.

HOUMA — Proposed changes to the federal environmental regulations on ground-level ozone announced Thursday could place Terrebonne and Lafourche parish out of compliance.

That means the parishes could face new restrictions on local industry, more stringent emissions permitting for businesses or regulations requiring cars to undergo emissions testing during inspection.



Abby Tabor/Staff

Smoke billows out of Raceland Sugars Inc. mill Friday afternoon.

"It will take a lot of time and resources the state and local governments don't have to make these plans to bring us into compliance," said Michael Vince, administrator for the state Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality Assessment Division.

Ground-level ozone is a product of car exhaust, industrial factories and gas vapors that can cause health and environmental problems.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality said Thursday that 28 parishes in Louisiana could find themselves outside new Environmental Protection Agency limits on lung-damaging smog.

Previously set at 95 parts per billion in 1997, the EPA suggested lowering that to 75 parts per billion in 2008. The agency announced Thursday a decision to lower that standard to somewhere between 60 and 70 parts per billion of ozone.

The monitoring station that covers both Terrebonne and Lafourche measured 72 parts per billion of ozone in September, which would put both parishes out of compliance for the new standards.

The EPA will make the new regulations final in August, and then areas that are out of compliance will have five years to come up with an action plan to get themselves in step with new regulations, Vince said.

"Today's announcement by the EPA does not mean that the air quality in Louisiana is worse than it was yesterday," said Harold Leggett, secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality. "For two consecutive years, the Baton Rouge area, which was the only area of the state in non-attainment, has met both the now revoked 1-hour as well as the more stringent 8-hour ozone standard."

Ground-level ozone is created by chemical reactions between sunshine and emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, car exhaust, gas vapors and chemical solvents. It occurs most often during hot weather with little or no wind.

Breathing ozone, a gas that is the main component of smog, can trigger a variety of respiratory health problems and worsen bronchitis, emphysema and asthma. Repeated exposure may permanently scar lung tissue, according to the EPA.

Children are at increased risk from exposure to ozone because their lungs are still developing and they are more likely to be active outdoors.

Ground-level ozone also damages the environment. In the United States alone, the EPA says, ozone is responsible for an estimated \$500 million in reduced crop production each year.

If the new regulations are approved in August, the Department of Environmental Quality will begin work on a detailed modelling process to determine why certain areas of the state are out of compliance.

That will help the state to determine what kind of regulations would best help curtail emissions in a given community.

One obstacle, Vince said, is that the EPA groups parishes into regions that are covered by a single emissions-collection point. For example, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. James, St. John, St. Charles and Assumption parishes are all judged by samples collected near Thibodaux.

"There's an inherit problem with that sometimes," Vince said. "One monitor in one rural corner of the parishes kept the entire area" in non-compliance.

Many of the parishes surrounding Terrebonne are more industrial, and are likely committing a lot more ozone to the air, said Parish President Michel Claudet.

"Our location presents problems because of the industrial corridor along the Mississippi River and all of the traffic and congestion — it affects us substantially," Claudet said. "It makes our ozone level much higher.

Baton Rouge has been struggling with EPA's repeated reductions in ozone standard levels for many years, Vince said. There, environmental-quality officials have targeted chemical and refinery facilities, lowering the ozone-causing chemicals they can release when the companies request changes in emission permits.

It also has partnered with local governments to declare "ozone action days." On those days, when high levels of ozone could develop because of weather conditions, the government asks industries to change schedules for loading volatile organic chemicals or burning materials, and asks residents to delay buying gasoline to nighttime or early morning hours, Vince said.

"There've been many times we've called for ozone-action days and those conditions didn't materialize," Vince said. "We've found that these calls for voluntary actions work."

Similar policies could be enacted in Terrebonne and Lafourche, Vince said. One of the major sources of local ozone is Port Fourchon, where a lot of industrial work takes place. The state could also look at policies that help to reduce the amount of vehicle traffic.

Other options include requiring vehicle emissions to be tested when cars are inspected, to make sure the vehicle is well maintained, Vince said. That's a current requirement for cars inspected in Baton Rouge and many other major cities .

One of the ways Terrebonne Parish has attempted to lower ozone levels in the community is by fighting for state money to implement an intelligent traffic system that would coordinate signals to eliminate idling at stop lights, Claudet said. The parish still needs \$8 million to implement that project, he said.

"We've taken many steps toward being a greener community," Claudet said.

More information about the EPA proposal, including instructions on how to

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20100109/ARTICLES/100109443?...>

comment during the 60-day public comment period, is available on the Web at <http://www.epa.gov/ozonepollution/>.

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Industry officials learn about new federal ozone standards

By [Nikki Buskey](#)

Staff Writer

Published: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 11:01 a.m.

HOUMA — Industry leaders packed Houma's Quality Inn Tuesday to learn about proposed federal ozone regulations that could be approved in August and lead to new emissions standards for local businesses.

Proposed changes to the Environmental Protection Agency regulations on lung-damaging smog would impact Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes, said Vivian Aucoin, plan development and environmental impact supervisor with the state Department of Environmental Quality.

She spoke to the South Central Industrial Association, a group representing major industrial businesses in both parishes.

"Sooner or later, we're going to have to comply with these standards, and it's better to be proactive and start lowering our levels now," said Patrick Seely, general manager of Weatherford International Oil Field Services in Houma and an SCIA board member.

Terrebonne and Lafourche's ozone level is about 72 parts per billion, based on 2007, 2008 and 2009 levels monitored at a station near Thibodaux, Aucoin said. The current standard is 75 parts per billion, so the parishes are currently in compliance. The agency announced it plans to strengthen ozone standards to somewhere between 60 and 70 parts per billion, which would require a parishwide crackdown on business and vehicle emissions.

"The Obama administration felt the standard hadn't been strengthened enough," Aucoin said.

The new regulations would categorize non-compliant communities by how severe their level of ozone is, from marginal non-compliance to extreme, Aucoin said. Those communities will be given time table to develop a plan to get ozone levels under control.

For example, well-known smog capitals like Los Angeles and Houston earn an "extreme" rating on the scale and would be given 20 years to clean up their act. Baton Rouge, where ozone action plans have been in place for a number of years, would earn the second-lowest ranking, "moderate," and would be given six years to meet the standards.

The goal of the regulations is to curb ozone, the primary pollutant that forms smog.

Ground-level ozone creates smog when pollutants from vehicles, paints and solvents, unburned fuel and industrial sources bake in hot, sunny weather. High ozone levels can be harmful to people with asthma and lung and heart diseases, as well as plants and ecosystems, according to the EPA.

"Children, elderly and those affected by lung diseases can have their health especially aggravated by ozone," Aucoin said.

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20100120/ARTICLES/100129948?...>

Overall, Aucoin said, ozone levels have been improving since the state began meeting with parish officials about the regulations in 2008.

"I don't know what you guys did, whether businesses have been modernizing equipment, but the levels have been on a downward trend," Aucoin said.

But that doesn't mean ozone regulations won't affect local businesses in a big way. Depending on whether the EPA chooses to make the standard 70 parts per billion or 60 parts per billion, new restrictions could be significant, and it's important that business owners educate themselves on how they're contributing ozone and what they can do to control their emissions, Aucoin said.

"Small businesses that might never have even known what the Clean Air Act was about will probably find themselves affected," Aucoin said.

That means businesses should start educating themselves now about what's contributing to the local ozone problem and how they can cut back emissions, Seely said, whether that means keeping your fleet of company vehicles in tune or updating equipment.

"Everyone needs do to their part in dealing with these issues and making sure we have healthier air," Seely said.

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Ongoing air testing along Gulf Coast is a first

Naomi King

Staff Writer

Published: Sunday, July 25, 2010 at 6:01 a.m.

HOUMA — For three months, chemicals from the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico have been released into the air and carried on winds to shore.

Federal air-monitoring officials say they see no signs of long-term health effects.

But activists say there's not enough data to know the risks for Gulf Coast residents. For instance, no stationary air-monitoring equipment is in Terrebonne Parish, though its neighbors to the east have three sets of devices — one at Fourchon and two on Grand Isle.



Matt Stamey/Staff

EPA workers (from left) Jeremy Wood and Dain Chernick record data from an air-monitoring station Thursday near Fourchon Beach. Information from the station is checked and recorded daily to help determine whether any health concerns exist.

Some in the public-health field say many of the questions about potential illnesses in coastal communities can't be answered because no one has thoroughly documented an event like this. And toxicologists who have studied oil-tanker spills say lessons can be gleaned from those previous disasters.

Since the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded 40 miles offshore April 20, killing 11 workers, between 94 million and 184 million gallons of oil have leaked into the Gulf.

No long-term studies of people living inshore of a spill have been done to show what exposure levels of certain chemicals could trigger chronic health risks, said Dr. Jimmy Guidry, state health officer and medical director for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

The standard measurements used to determine long-term risk are based on studies of workers who have spent decades around chemicals as part of their jobs, he said.

No long-term, comprehensive studies were performed during and after the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska, Guidry said.

"It was a missed opportunity," he said. "We're hoping the researchers and funding come down and answer the questions that weren't answered during Exxon Valdez."

But Riki Ott, a marine biologist and commercial fisher from Cordova, Alaska, has reported chronic health problems that appeared in an estimated 3,000 cleanup workers years after the Exxon Valdez oil-tanker spill — conditions ranging from flu-like symptoms to kidney and neurological damage.

Investigations of oil tankers' spills, like the Tasman Spirit offshore of Karachi, Pakistan, found an increased occurrence of upper-respiratory problems, vertigo, headache and back and leg pain among cleanup workers and people living in exposed areas.

But can those spills, which were closer to shore, compare to the Deepwater Horizon disaster?

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20100725/FEATURES12/10072953...>

One Florida toxicologist, hired by law firms representing the United Commercial Fishermen's Association and a Louisiana environmental coalition, says they can.

For the most part, oil has drifted onto Louisiana's shores in bands, resulting in short periods of exposure, said William Sawyer, who has worked across the country in universities, labs and public health departments. But, he said, millions of gallons of oil remain in the Gulf. If severe weather, such as tropical storms, were to push a large concentration of oil to shore, the health risks would be similar to those resulting immediately after previous tanker spills.

"When crude oil comes ashore, residents living in that immediate impact area have had health problems," Sawyer said.

Though the oil has been weathered by waves and traveling through the Gulf, the crude still contains volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, such as benzene, a known cancer-causing chemical.

Hydrocarbons released from the oil as it disperses into the air will likely increase smog and ozone levels, especially in urban areas or communities downwind, depending on wind patterns, said Philip Hopke, a professor and director of Clarkson University's Center for Air Resources Engineering and Science in New York.

The black smoke coming from oil being burned offshore contains carbons that absorb other harmful chemicals and can carry them onshore, he said.

"That's why we've put traps on diesel trucks so they don't put out the black smoke they used to," Hopke said. "The burning this time is well offshore, so how it will affect the general population is unclear to me."

Even so, the potential air problems for the general population are small compared to the oil's affect on water quality, Hopke added.

HEALTH COMPLAINTS

As of last week, the state had received 290 reports of illnesses and conditions from people who believed their ailments were related to the oil spill. Of those, 216 were workers involved with the cleanup, and 74 were from the general population.

Terrebonne recorded 24 reports, Lafourche 34. A breakdown of numbers for workers and residents by parish was not available. But overall, 67 reports of exposure to odors and fumes were made across the state by residents, and 60 were from oil-spill workers.

Most health complaints have come from workers with acute exposure, meaning short-term headaches, nose and throat irritation, difficulty breathing and nausea. Luckily, Guidry said, many spill responders have worked intermittently because of rain, flooding or heat that shut down operations.

State health officials have encouraged people who may be sensitive to odors, such as those with pre-existing conditions like asthma, to take precautions by staying indoors. Anyone with respiratory problems should contact a doctor.

MONITORING AIR QUALITY

Every morning and throughout the day, A.J. Veith of Weston Solutions and his crew check air-monitoring stations at Fourchon and Grand Isle. The equipment needs constant attention because some parts are sensitive to humidity and dust, said Veith, whose company was contracted by the EPA. The federal agency has nine air-monitoring and sampling spots in Louisiana, along with one each in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Locations are selected based on a variety of factors, said Randy Schademann, EPA's on-scene coordinator for Grand Isle and Fourchon. The land should have adequate electrical hookups and security. It should be isolated from car and boat exhaust fumes that can create spikes in readings while also located close to the shore and populated areas.

"I feel good about it," Schademann said of the monitoring setups across the coast. "We've got a pretty wide net cast."

Though more monitoring stations and types of equipment would be desirable, it's not logistically or financially possible now, he said.

Asked to assess the data that's been collected, Schademann said, "We haven't seen anything indicative of a long-term health-care problem."

BUCKETS OF HOPE

But the EPA's data don't give much comfort to some community groups and toxicologists. More monitors should be placed across the coast, and communities should be trained and hired to collect air samples for the EPA, said Anne Rolfes, founding director of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade. Rolfes's statewide nonprofit is focused on equipping residents with air-sampling buckets so they can keep tabs on their communities' air quality.

The Chauvin-based nonprofit Bayou Grace is working with the Bucket Brigade to do just that because members said they've heard stories of people with exposure-related symptoms.

"They do feel mostly upper-respiratory effects, and they notice those effects will go away when they remain indoors or go out of the area," said Rebecca Templeton, environmental director for Bayou Grace. "That in itself raises concerns with the air quality in our community, especially with oil out in the lower part of the parish. And we know that there's no air monitoring in Terrebonne."

The Bucket Brigade says not enough monitoring was done beforehand, so there's little base information to compare with the air-quality test results from the spill.

"There's not a robust history of air monitoring to begin with," Rolfes said. "We don't have the background numbers to compare to know if it's coming from the oil spill or the background, already there."

For instance, the EPA's mobile laboratory bus, TAGA, takes air samples while traveling through coastal areas, Rolfes said. It found high readings of benzene along La. 1 in Lafourche and Grand Isle in June.

But because the bus traveled along highway, the high benzene readings could be the result of gasoline combustion from car and truck engines, Rolfes said, adding that her group has asked the EPA to do more sampling on side streets.

Rolfes said it's just not clear whether the oil spill poses real air-quality health risks to local residents. People should rely on their noses to detect potential health hazards and stay indoors if they have existing respiratory problems.

"It's not satisfactory to us that we can't tell from the data," Rolfes said. "People are stuck sitting there while scientists try to figure out if they're safe. ... We're in a laboratory now."

Gavin Biebuyck, an air-quality expert with Liberty Environmental in Pennsylvania, said he also noticed high benzene reading for June 24 in Lafourche after looking over EPA's data. But, he said, he did not see any readings that exceed EPA guidelines for long-term exposure.

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20100725/FEATURES12/10072953...>

Toward the beginning of the spill, Veronica Trahan, 58, said she and nearby family smelled odors three days in Chauvin.

"It was like a diesel smell. To me, it was like walking into an automotive place a long time ago," Trahan said.

She said she's tried to looking at the EPA's online information but doesn't know what the readings mean in relation to her health.

"I'm still concerned about the reporting of the air quality," Trahan said. "I'm concerned with what has no smell."

To report odors, call the EPA response hotline 1-866-448-5816. To report an oil-related illness, call the state Health Department hotline established for the oil spill at 1-888-293-7020.

If you detect spill-related odors, you can also report it on the Bucket Brigade's website, which is tracking fumes and health reports alongside air-quality data, at www.oilspill.labucketbrigade.org.

Staff Writer Naomi King can be reached at 857-2209 or naomi.king@houmatoday.com.

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You're invited to help clear the air

By [Nate Monroe](#)

Staff Writer

Published: Friday, October 22, 2010 at 6:01 a.m.

THIBODAUX — In anticipation of tougher federal ozone regulations, Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes are asking residents to help improve the region's air quality.

Proposed changes to the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations on lung-damaging smog would impact Lafourche and Terrebonne, which remain within current standards but would need improvement under forthcoming changes.

Ground-level ozone is created by chemical reactions between sunshine and emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, car exhaust, gas vapors and chemical solvents. It occurs most often during hot weather with little or no wind.

The current federal standard is 75 parts per billion. Lafourche and Terrebonne measure about 71 parts per billion, based on 2008, 2009 and 2010 levels measured by the state Department of Environmental Quality's air monitor in Thibodaux. Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. James, St. John, St. Charles and Assumption parishes are all judged by samples collected at the Thibodaux air monitor.

The federal agency announced plans to strengthen ozone standards to somewhere between 60 and 70 parts per billion, though the change won't be announced until the end of the month or the beginning of November, said Vivian Aucoin, plan development and environmental impact supervisor with the state Department of Environmental Quality.

If the region does not comply with the new standards, the state will be given time to develop a plan that will help get communities within the acceptable ozone levels.

In response to the expected tougher standards, Lafourche Parish is holding Air Awareness days Oct. 22 and Oct. 29, asking residents to follow tips that will help improve air quality.

The parish suggests residents put off yard work that requires a gas-powered mower, cut back on air conditioning, limit burning yard waste and trash and consider driving less.

The parish recommends residents use these tips every day but try and use as many as possible on the two Air Awareness days.

"We anticipate having similar events," said Terrebonne Parish President Michel Claudet. "I applaud (Lafourche). They are starting to make citizens aware."

Residents can view the full list of tips on Lafourche's website, www.lafourchegov.org.

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Houma-Thibodaux area ranks high for healthy air

By [Nikki Buskey](#)

Staff Writer

Published: Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 6:09 p.m.

The Houma-Thibodaux area has some of the cleanest air in the nation, according to a new report by the American Lung Association.

The 2012 State of the Air report, released last week, showed that several cities in Louisiana ranked cleanest in the nation for particle pollution. This form of air pollution is made up of tiny particles such as dust, organic chemicals and metals that can irritate the respiratory system.



Abby Tabor/Staff

Phebe Pitre and her children Olivia, 8, and Ethan, 12, enjoy fresh air Thursday at the reservoir in Thibodaux.

In the Houma-Thibodaux area, for example, burning sugar-cane fields can cause particle pollution. People with heart or lung problems are especially vulnerable.

"If you look at the amount of industry we have in south Louisiana, and to know that we are still attaining every air-quality standard (until the Baton Rouge area was declared out of compliance this week), is amazing," said Tim Bergeron, an Environmental Chemical Specialist with the state Department of Environmental Quality. "We work really hard on air quality."

Monroe-Bastrop was listed as the seventh-cleanest city in the nation for particle pollution. Others that ranked high include Alexandria, Baton Rouge-Pierre Part, Lafayette-Acadiana, Lake Charles-Jennings, and Shreveport-Bossier City-Minden.

No Louisiana parishes ranked worst in the nation for particle pollution. But the Baton Rouge area was targeted for its ozone pollution, ranking 24th for high ozone levels.

Ozone is created by chemical reactions among nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and sunlight. Emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, car exhaust, gasoline vapors and chemical solvents are some of the major sources.

The Baton Rouge area is the only place in Louisiana not in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's new lower standards for ozone. Bergeron said that the state is determining the largest sources of ozone to lower the levels.

"State of the Air shows that we're making real and steady progress in cutting dangerous pollution from the air we breathe," said Charles Connor, American Lung Association president and CEO. "We owe this to the ongoing protection of the Clean Air Act. But despite these improvements, America's air-quality standards are woefully outdated and unhealthy levels of air pollution still exist across the nation, putting the health of millions of Americans at stake."

More than 40 percent of people in the United States still live in areas where air pollution threatens their health, according to American Lung Association officials.

That means more than 127 million people are living in counties with dangerous levels of ozone or particle pollution that can cause wheezing and coughing, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death. Those at greatest risk from air pollution include babies, children, older adults, anyone with lung diseases like asthma, people with heart disease or diabetes and anyone who works or exercises outdoors.

There are two air-quality monitors set up in the Houma-Thibodaux area, Bergeron said. One in Lafourche Parish monitors ozone levels, and one in Terrebonne measures particle pollution.

Terrebonne received an "A" grade when it came to particle pollution.

Lafourche Parish received a grade of "B" when it came to the level of ozone in the air.

The American Lung Association graded parishes based on the number of days the ozone level was flagged as being unhealthy for residents. Lafourche Parish had two days that qualified as "orange days" under Environmental Protection Agency standards, meaning the air was unhealthy for sensitive populations.

"It's important to point out that every other day was healthy," Bergeron said. "But on the American Lung Association's scale, two days out of 1,090 days got you a 'B.' "

Locals interested in air quality can sign up for the Department of Environmental Quality's EnviroFlash. Residents can receive notifications of air-quality forecasts, and warnings when events such as marsh fires are compromising the air we breathe.

You can also read more about the American Lung Association's Report at www.stateoftheair.org.

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We can all breathe a little easier

Published: Monday, May 7, 2012 at 10:34 a.m.

The news last week that this region's air is among the cleanest in the nation is welcome indeed.

The American Lung Association has put out a report called the 2012 State of the Air that ranks the air around the U.S., and Houma-Thibodaux is near the top for particle pollution.

Not all of the state was so fortunate.

Baton Rouge, for example, was near the bottom because of its ozone levels.

"If you look at the amount of industry we have in south Louisiana, and to know that we are still attaining every air-quality standard (until the Baton Rouge area was declared out of compliance this week), is amazing," said Chip Bergeron with the state Department of Health and Hospitals. "We work really hard on air quality."

The news is good on at least two levels.

First, it is a national ranking in a health-related subject that finds us near the top rather than the bottom. We know we have so many good qualities, but national lists sometimes focus on our challenges. This is a great change.

Second and more importantly, though, we and our children and grandchildren can reap the benefits of breathing healthier, cleaner air.

Take a deep breath. It's good for you.

Cleanest city

We all know we live in one of the state's great places. But it never hurts to hear someone else recognize us for our natural and man-maintained beauty.

That is what the Cleanest City Contest is all about.

Houma was recently named the winner of the district-level distinction, meaning that our city will go up against others around the state for the Louisiana honor.

The judges will come to Houma on Saturday to have a look around and see for themselves how clean our city is. Let's do our best to wow them and earn the state title.

The judges will travel from the Terrebonne Waterlife Museum at 7910 Park Ave. to La. 311 and St. Charles Avenue.

Along the way, they will take note of landscaping, public upkeep and neatness.

If you live or work in Houma, take a few minutes this week to spruce up your surroundings to make the best possible impression on the judges. A little civic pride can make itself evident to people having a look around.

In return, a nice recognition such as the Cleanest City title can feed that civic pride.

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Parishes battle ozone pollution

By [Nikki Buskey](#)

Staff Writer

Published: Friday, May 3, 2013 at 9:12 p.m.

Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes are joining in a region-wide effort to attempt to curb ozone pollution as the federal government is poised to enact stricter air-quality standards that could put parishes out of compliance.

The Houma-Thibodaux region is one of several in the state that have joined the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's Ozone Advance Program, a plan to put measures in place to prevent the area from entering nonattainment, the federal term for not meeting standards for ozone and particulate matter pollution. Terrebonne and Lafourche will join with Assumption, St. James, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes on that effort.

Joining the Ozone Advance Program is important because it could help prevent local parishes from facing immediate restrictions when new ozone standards are enacted.

"Basically the EPA has said that if you guys as a region come together and do some things proactively to reduce your ozone levels, and you do go into nonattainment, we're not going to lower the boom on you," said Kevin Belanger, CEO of the South Central Planning and Development Commission, the organization spearheading the regional effort. "We know this is coming, so we want to come together to approach this."

Michael Vince, environmental scientist senior with the state Department of Environmental Quality, said federal environmental officials regularly reexamine and lower the acceptable standard of ozone pollution. The latest move is of particular concern because many parts of the state are in compliance but borderline.

Terrebonne and Lafourche's ozone level is about 74-75 parts per billion, based on levels monitored at locations throughout the region. The current standard is 75 parts per billion, so the parishes are in compliance. The agency plans to strengthen ozone standards to somewhere between 60 and 70 parts per billion, which would put the area out of compliance.

Previously set at 95 parts per billion in 1997, the EPA suggested lowering that to 75 parts per billion in 2008.

Ground-level ozone is created by chemical reactions between sunshine and emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, car exhaust, gas vapors and chemical solvents. It occurs most often during hot weather with little or no wind.

Breathing ozone can trigger a variety of respiratory health problems and worsen bronchitis, emphysema and asthma. It also causes environmental problems.

Nitrous oxide and volatile organic compounds are the pollution emissions that create ozone.



Chris Heller/Staff

Heavy traffic passes Friday on Martin Luther King Boulevard in Houma.

In Terrebonne and Lafourche, Vince said, about 26 percent of nitrous oxide air pollution comes from non-road, gasoline-powered engines such as boats, lawn mowers or trains. Thirty-seven percent comes from measured sources such as power plants, and 22 percent comes from cars and trucks. Of the volatile organic compounds, 26 percent comes from non-road engines, 7 percent comes from vehicles and 11 percent comes from measured sources.

Belanger said the Ozone Advance Program partnership is in its early stages. The plan is to request \$15,000 from each participating parish to help subsidize the program. That will give South Central Planning \$90,000 to begin the process of hiring an expert to work with regional communities and businesses and develop a local program that will address some of the specific issues causing excess ozone. There are also plans to involve local businesses who have a stake in this issue, Belanger said. If the region is found to be noncompliant with future air standards, restrictions could harm businesses. And once an area is declared to be in nonattainment, it can take years to get out.

The state Department of Environmental Quality will provide data and resources to help the region determine its biggest sources of emissions, Vince said.

May is Air Quality Awareness month. The Department of Environmental Quality is encouraging residents to become familiar with the Air Quality Index, to understand what causes ozone formation and take voluntary steps to help prevent it, further improve air quality, and meet or continue to meet the national air quality standards.

Ozone formation is most prevalent between May 1 and Sept. 30, but it can occur at other times.

If new regulations are required, they won't just affect businesses directly, but also the community, Vince said. Requirements could include regulations such as emissions tests when people get their cars inspected. Cars that don't meet emissions standards would have to undergo repairs.

Locals have more control than they may think over ozone emissions, pollution experts say. Equipment with a two-cylinder engine such as a leaf blower, weed eater or a chain saw emit a tremendous amount of air pollution. Running a lawn mower for an hour causes the same amount of pollution as 40 cars on the road.

Some steps that can be taken to cut down on emissions include walking, biking, carpooling, using mass transit and ride sharing. Use gasoline-powered engines after 6 p.m. and fuel your car when it's cool. When running errands, plan and combine them for less driving. Conserve energy in your home and buy energy-efficient appliances.

Information on air quality can be obtained automatically, by email or text, by subscribing to EnviroFlash. This free system is provided by the Department of Environmental Quality in conjunction with the EPA. To subscribe, visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash.

Current air quality information is available on the DEQ Web site at www.deq.louisiana.gov/aqinfo.

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Terrebonne leading the way on regional coalition to combat ozone

By [Chance Ryan](#)

Staff Writer

Published: Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 8:11 p.m.

On Monday, the Terrebonne Parish Council is expected to approve a measure aimed at forming a region-wide coalition to curb ozone pollution to meet imminent federal government air-quality standards.

The ordinance would set aside \$15,000 from the parish's general fund to potentially join a coalition with five other parishes to put measures in place to prevent the area from entering non-attainment, a federal term for not meeting standards for ozone and particulate matter pollution.

The coalition would contribute money as part of a larger effort called the Ozone Advance Program to prevent local parishes from facing immediate restrictions when new ozone standards are enacted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The other parishes are Lafourche, Assumption, St. James, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist. So far, Terrebonne is the first parish that is taking steps to set aside money for the coalition.

If the other five parishes don't put up the money, Terrebonne's share won't be spent, said Parish President Michel Claudet.

"We aren't going to join a coalition on our own," Claudet said. "And we aren't sending the money anywhere until we are sure that the plan is correct. All we're doing is setting the money aside because we think it's important to be ahead of the curve."

If the coalition is formed, the Parish Council must still ratify the measure at a public hearing.

The money will allow the South Central Planning and Development Commission to begin the process of hiring experts to develop a local plan that will address some of the specific issues causing excess ozone pollution.

Kevin Belanger, CEO of South Central Planning, said he hopes other parishes will follow Terrebonne so the \$90,000 goal for the project can be reached.

Belanger said the other parishes are aware of the effects of non-attainment, but the coalition cannot be formed unless each individual parish pays its fair share. The amount each parish will end up contributing depends on data provided by the state Department of Environmental Quality that determines its biggest sources of emissions.

Some parishes are still waiting on those cost estimates before agreeing to the commitment, Belanger said.

Belanger said Terrebonne's final cost will likely end up being less than \$15,000, and the parish will be prorated for the difference.

If the region is found to be noncompliant with future air standards, restrictions

could harm businesses. And once an area is declared to be in non-attainment, it can take years to be classified as meeting pollution standards.

Terrebonne and Lafourche's ozone level is about 74-75 parts per billion, based on levels monitored at different locations. The current standard is 75 parts per billion, so the parishes are in compliance. The EPA plans to strengthen ozone standards to somewhere between 60 and 70 parts per billion, which would put the area out of compliance.

Previously set at 95 parts per billion in 1997, the EPA suggested lowering that to 75 parts per billion in 2008.

Ground-level ozone is created by chemical reactions between sunshine and emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, car exhaust, gas vapors and chemical solvents. It occurs most often during hot weather with little or no wind.

Breathing ozone can trigger a variety of respiratory health problems and worsen bronchitis, emphysema and asthma. It also causes environmental problems.

Nitrous oxide and volatile organic compounds are the pollution emissions that create ozone.

Council Chairwoman Beryl Amedee said the council will approve the measure, but it frustrates her that local government has little say in the matter.

"It's one more example of the federal government requiring things," she said. "We do care about the environment, but we should be allowed to address it ourselves."

By approving the measure, it may look like the parish has a choice, Amedee said. "But it feels like we're being held hostage by the federal government. They are basically saying, 'do this or else we'll penalize you.'"

Current air quality information is available on the DEQ website at www.deq.louisiana.gov/aqinfo.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. Individuals can comment on any agenda item. The council's full agenda can be found online by visiting tpcg.org. Meetings are held on the second floor of the Government Tower, 8026 Main St., Houma.

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Terrebonne agrees to join ozone coalition

By [Chance Ryan](#)

Staff Writer

Published: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 10:55 a.m.

The Parish Council approved a measure allowing Terrebonne to join forces with surrounding parishes to curb ozone pollution and meet imminent federal government air quality regulations.

The measure enables the parish to set aside \$15,000 from its general fund to potentially join forces with five nearby parishes to put anti-pollution measures in place.

The coalition would contribute money as part of a larger effort called the Ozone Advance Program. The aim is to avoid immediate restrictions when new ozone standards are enacted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The other parishes are Lafourche, Assumption, St. James, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist.

As of Monday, Terrebonne was the first to put money down to support the coalition's goal of raising \$90,000.

That money will allow the South Central Planning and Development Commission to begin hiring experts who will develop a plan addressing specific pollution issues.

Coalition membership won't be finalized until after a public hearing and another favorable council vote.

If the other five parishes don't put up the money, Terrebonne's share won't be spent, Parish President Michel Claudet said.

"This amendment will allow us to participate, if in fact South Central comes back with an acceptable form of an agreement," Claudet said.

Council member Christa Duplantis-Prather said this is a "step we really need to take."

Councilman Danny Babin said it's also important that other parishes join and pay their share.

"There are other parishes that are involved in this that may have to pay more," he said. "But if everybody will pay their appropriate share for their amount of pollution that they put out, then we can reach the goal of \$90,000."

Council member Arlanda Williams said and Claudet met with other parish leaders agreed to pay \$15,000, but South Central Planning officials say the final bill will likely be less.

"We all thought that was fair to make sure we are in compliance and don't have to end up paying fees that may extend well over this \$15,000," Williams said. "So I am glad this council is going to move forward with this."

If the region doesn't meet future air standards, the resulting restrictions could harm businesses, officials said. Once a region is deemed in violation, it can take years to

get off that list.

Terrebonne and Lafourche's ozone level is about 75 parts per billion, based on levels monitored at different sites. The current standard is 75 parts per billion, so the parishes are in compliance.

But the EPA plans to strengthen ozone standards to 60-70 parts per billion.

Ground-level ozone comes from chemical reactions between sunshine and emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, car exhaust, gas vapors and chemical solvents. It occurs most often during hot weather with little or no wind.

Breathing ozone can trigger a variety of respiratory problems and worsen bronchitis, emphysema and asthma. It also causes environmental problems.

Current air quality information is available on the DEQ website at www.deq.louisiana.gov/aqinfo.

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DEQ urges steps to reduce ozone air pollution

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — With the weather warming and the formation of ozone air pollution more likely, the state Department of Environmental Quality is asking people to take steps to help reduce it.

Ozone forms when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds combine in the air during hot and sunny days. When there is little wind to disperse the formed ozone, the pollution can accumulate and cause health problems, especially for sensitive populations like children.

DEQ says ozone typically occurs most often between now and Sept. 30.

Michael Vince, a DEQ senior environmental scientist, told The Advocate there are a lot of private actions being taken that can impact ozone reduction. For example, he said, areas that are putting in compressed natural gas fueling stations would likely see reductions in emissions from vehicles that can add to the ozone-forming mix.

"Those things go to reduce emissions," he said.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency also started a program called "Ozone Advance" last year as more stringent standards were being put in place. The pro-

gram's objective is to reduce the amount of material in the air that can lead to ozone.

The voluntary program provides support for communities seeking to reduce ozone-causing pollution and helps them in collecting information about their efforts, Vince said at a news conference to announce May as Air Quality Awareness Month.

The Ozone Advance pro-

gram helps bring together private and public actions so communities, and the EPA, can have a more complete picture of what is being done to reduce ozone-causing emissions.

"It takes time for things we do today to affect the monitors," Vince said referring to the air monitors that measure for ozone pollution around the state.



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