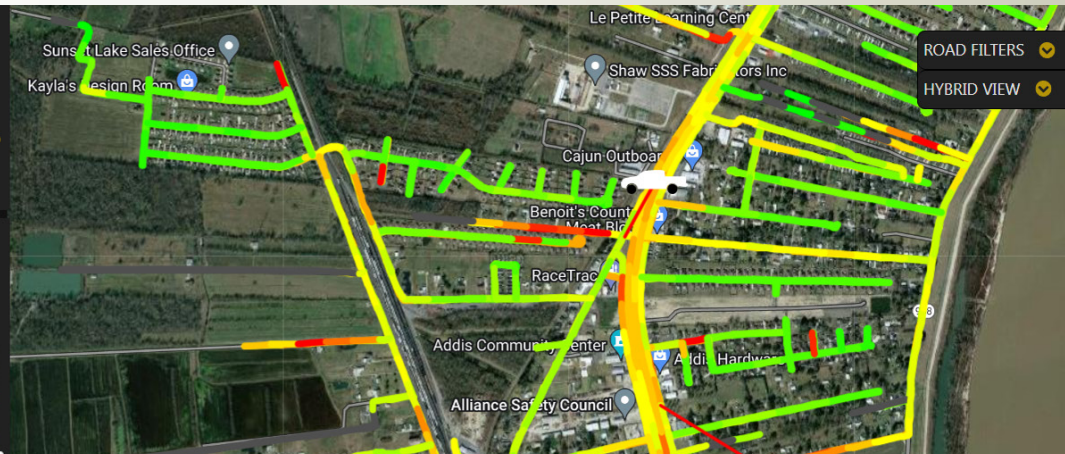
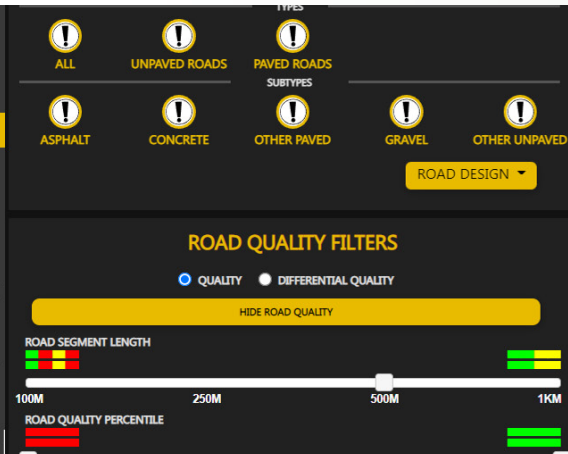




Technology Exchange

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IN THIS ISSUE

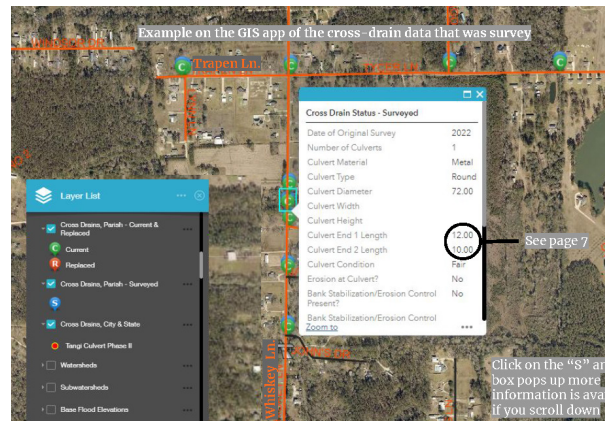
- 2 New Director
- 3 LPESA Scholarship
- 4 LPA Qualification Core Training
- 6 Disaster Preparedness
- 7 Successful Supervision Classes

Local Agency Innovations

These two innovations from the Town of Addis and Tangipahoa Parish have been officially entered into the Build a Better Mousetrap, a national recognition program led by FHWA Center for Local Aid Support (CLAS) that highlights locally relevant, innovative solutions and provides a platform to share innovations to everyday challenges that local and tribal transportation professionals encounter on local roads. Read more on <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/babm/>.

Tangipahoa Parish Government Utilizes Mobile Solution to Develop Drainage Inventory

The Tangipahoa Parish Government (TPG) recently had a tremendous opportunity to enhance drainage effectiveness across the parish, but they lacked the data needed to maximize this potential. In 2022, both the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) were working to model and map the parish watershed. However, TPG had no current data regarding the number, locations, sizes, and conditions of the cross-drain pipes crucial to effective drainage. In response to this challenge, the TPG staff worked overtime to develop an innovative mobile solution to close this information gap.



TPG's goal in this project was to provide USACE and LWI engineers with a comprehensive drainage layout of the parish. To accomplish this, local officials expanded the scope and function of the parish's existing web-based GIS mapping system, which was previously limited to road and bridge data. Employing the assistance of a local consultant



The LTAP and LRSP programs have recently undergone a rebranding. Visit our website and follow us on social media to stay updated with our new look!

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

continued on page 5



Louisiana LTAP welcomes new director

Louisiana LTAP proudly welcomes our new Director, Rudynah “Dynah” Entera Capone. Her predecessor, Steven Strength, retired in February after 42 years of state government service.

“I am a big believer of collaboration. It is key to successful teams and projects,” Capone exclaims.

Her 23-year professional experience encompasses both public and private sector not only in the US but also overseas. In the last 14 years, she has worked with local, state, and federal governments involved in road safety initiatives, transportation research, training, and workforce development. She is no stranger to the transportation research and training communities, as her previous role with LTAP was as the LTAP Communications and Technology Transfer Manager. Her past leadership roles include being a communications council chairman, citizen army corps commander, student government majority floor leader, media bureau chief, and intergovernmental coalition coordinator.

“I embrace the culture of collaboration and communication. Both are key to successful teams and projects.”

“It’s quite an honor to be given this new role of leading a team that provides the necessary capacity-building tools and resources to our local public agency partners. As one of the 58 LTAP centers networked through the National LTAP Association (NLTAPA), we

will continue to uphold our mission of stimulating the progressive transfer of highway technologies through training, workforce development and technical assistance to all 64 parishes and 308 municipalities,” shares Capone. She began her career with LTAP in 2014 when then-Director Dr. Marie Walsh hired her as the Local Road Safety Program Manager. She later transitioned to the role of Safety Initiatives Manager when LTRC established the Louisiana Center for Transportation Safety. In that role, she led various road safety initiatives supporting the implementation of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

In 2018, Capone was nominated and selected as one of only 20 LSU employees to participate in the prestigious LEAD LSU Leadership Program for high-performing leaders in the LSU system. From 2015 to 2018, she served as the Chairman of the SHSP’s Communications Coordinating Council, where she worked closely with public information experts from DOTD, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, and Louisiana State Police, as well as champions from the state’s regional SHSP coalitions. The council was formed to coordinate unified and consistent highway safety messaging across the state.

Prior to LTRC, she worked as a transportation planner at South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) where she served as the coalition coordinator of the Destination Zero Death’s South Central Region and organized three regional safety summits. In three years, she successfully doubled the size of the coalition while leading the implementation of road safety campaigns, projects and programs across the bayou and river parishes. Her efforts were instrumental in Louisiana’s work toward developing a framework for implementing the SHSP across other regions. The coalition earned an Excellence Award in Regional Planning from the National Association of Developmental Organizations (NADO), as well as a National Roadway Safety Award in “Program Planning,



Louisiana won a National Roadway Safety Award from FHWA and RSF in 2013. SCPDC earned it for its remarkable work in implementing the SHSP at the regional level. To accept the award, Capone traveled to Washington, D.C., with SCPDC’s CEO Kevin Belanger (rightmost) and then-commander of Louisiana State Police Troop C Captain Darrin Naquin (third from right).

Development and Evaluation” from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Roadway Safety Foundation (RSF), which was featured on the Noteworthy Practices Guide 2013.

Capone’s road safety expertise has been shared with peers across the state and nation during the NHTSA-led Lifesavers Conferences, FHWA-led Safety Peer Exchanges, DOTD-led Safety Summits, and LTRC-led Louisiana Transportation Conferences.

In 2018, she developed a “Call to Action” document encouraging local officials to participate in the SHSP’s fatality-reduction efforts, with the goal of reaching Destination Zero Deaths. She also authored a technical report titled “SHSP-HSP Crosswalk: A Tabular Comparative Presentation of Louisiana’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) and Highway Safety Plan (HSP),” which LTRC published in 2019.

Capone finished Magna Cum Laude in her bachelor’s in mass communications, and she earned her master’s in public administration at LSU in 2019. She is an active member of Filipino American organizations in Louisiana, including the New Orleans Filipino American Lions Club where she engages in humanitarian efforts on the weekends. She is married to a high school educator and football coach Drew Capone, and they are parents to their 12-year-old son, Enzo.

To learn more about Capone, visit bit.ly/LTAPcapone.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

LPESA Fall 2023 College Scholarships Given to Three Students



Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association (LPESA) President Perry Holmes (left) and Region 5 Director John Tom Murray (right) present LA Tech Construction Engineering Technology student Connor Murray (center) with an LPESA Scholarship.



LPESA Vice-President and Scholarship Committee Co-Chair Alison Lognion (left) and LPESA President Perry Holmes (right) present ULM Construction Management student Khloe Beaudion (center) with an LPESA Scholarship.



LPESA Region 5 Director John Tom Murray (left) and LPESA President Perry Holmes (right) present LA Tech Construction Engineering Technology student Carl Whorton (center) with an LPESA Scholarship.



LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY TRAINING

Local Public Agency Qualification Core Training required every 5 years

In conjunction with DOTD and the Louisiana Division Office of FHWA, the Louisiana LTAP Center conducted the Local Public Agency (LPA) Training Program series at the TTEC Building in Baton Rouge this past May, with over 70 individuals in attendance.

The LPA Qualification Core Training is now required every 5 years for those serving as a “Responsible Charge” or manager of any local agency projects funded by federal and state transportation dollars.

The LPA training program’s goal is to increase the efficiency of project delivery for local transportation projects that utilize state and federal funds by helping local agency personnel understand and implement requirements that are associated with these programs. Course instructors Tanya Moore (DOTD), Mary Stringfellow (FHWA), Priscilla Hall (DOTD), and Nikita Poche (FHWA) worked diligently to update the 2-day Core Training materials to increase course effectiveness. One attendee noted, “I love the improvements that have been made to this class. The activities helped to enforce the knowledge presented.” Attendees received a comprehensive course manual that now includes QR codes to streamline access to all presented resources.



For more information

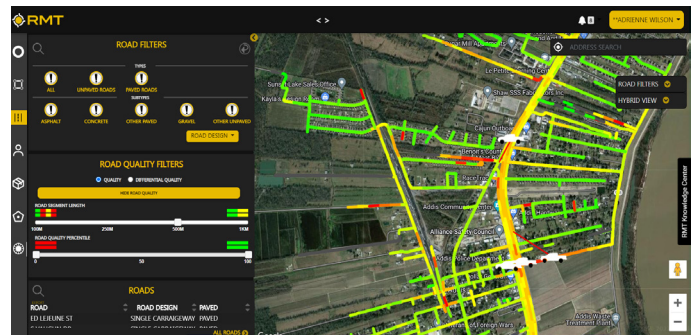
Visit louisianaltap.org/lpa-training.html.

Be on the lookout for the announcement of our upcoming Fall 2024 training dates for both the LPA Qualification Core and LPA Construction, Engineering, and Inspection courses.

firm, TPG leaders set out to determine the material (box, metal, or plastic), type (round or arch), dimensions (diameter for round, length and width for arch), and condition of every cross-drain pipe in the parish, including not only those located on parish-maintained roads but on state- and municipal-maintained roads as well. The process for collecting this data was fairly straightforward, but also quite time-consuming.

At each culvert location, an individual technician would perform an on-site evaluation, measuring its dimensions, assessing its condition, and taking several photos using a mobile phone or other handheld device. All of this information was entered directly into the TPG mobile GIS app from the field, which expedited the process of providing up-to-date data to USACE and LWI. This procedure was performed on over 7,000 cross-drain pipes across the parish (4,630 crossings on parish-maintained roads and 2,609 on state- and municipal-maintained roads), a monumental effort in a reasonably short period of time.

While the USACE and LWI are utilizing this newly acquired data in their current modeling and mapping project, the benefit of TPG's work will also extend well into the future. The parish now has over twenty years of historical data on cross-drains and culverts that can be used in ongoing assessment and maintenance as the rapidly growing area's drainage needs continue to shift. Additionally, both the mobile application and data collection method developed in this process can be continually refined for the benefit of parish engineers, planners, and more. Congratulations to the Tangipahoa Parish Government for this fantastic innovation!



Addis: From Small Town to Smart City

The Town of Addis is a growing town located in West Baton Rouge Parish, along the Mississippi River. It is situated on Louisiana Highway One, just minutes from the state's Capital city of Baton Rouge. Addis is known for its small-town atmosphere while offering unique advantages of close location to metropolitan areas, major universities, business and industry.

With its population being projected to increase at an accelerated rate, the Town of Addis is working toward its transformation from a small town to a "smart city." Experts in the engineering and construction field define a smart city as one that uses information and communication technology to improve operational efficiency, share information with the public, and provide a better quality of government service and citizen welfare.

According to the Town of Addis Mayor, David Toups, they began working with Arkansas-based technology company Roadway Management Technologies to understand the town's infrastructure better. "We found that it was critical to increase our budget efficiency to prolong the life cycle of the town's infrastructure with the increase in traffic volume," says Toups.

Through this Smart City Initiative, the Town of Addis aims to scan the road network more clearly to begin preserving their roads which will in turn increase their lifespan. Utilizing RMT's technology has allowed them to execute and build their pavement preservation approach.

Candler McCollum, RMT's CEO, previously stated, "Roads can last up to 40% longer" when a strategic preservation model is being utilized. Mayor Toups is now able to utilize the results of this data collection to drive the decisions they make regarding projects in Addis' road network.

Community involvement is integral in this initiative. It was Material Resources, Inc. (MRI) that introduced Mayor Toups to RMT. Utilizing the data from RMT, MRI has been able to structure a pavement preservation plan specific to Addis' needs.

"With access to the real-time data collection provided by RMT, we have been able to evaluate an entire network and select project candidates much more efficiently than with traditional survey or inspection methods," explains MRI Vice President Ryan Casto.

Casto adds that once preservation applications have been made, they are able to remotely monitor the performance of these applications and calculate quantitative return-on-investment metrics. These metrics can then be used in predictive modeling through the RMT system to build and simulate future plans for the town of Addis' road network and infrastructure to ensure a sustainable future for the citizens of Addis.

"We're a small town, but that doesn't mean we think small. Partnering with RMT will allow us to manage and improve our local road networks as our town continues to grow."

It's Hurricane Season, Gear up LA!

Hurricane season has officially begun, and that means it's time for everyone to get prepared. Louisiana has had its share of many devastating hurricanes in the likes of Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, Laura, Delta, Ida, and many more.

Preparing for any disaster or calamity is crucial. Every staff, agency, and family must have the necessary resources and plans in place. Just like having a working smoke detector at home, preparing for the unexpected makes sense.

LTAP shares the following resources from our state partners, which are aimed at guiding agencies and helping families in their emergency preparedness efforts.

Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guides. The Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (Parish OHSEP), American Red Cross, and select United Way offices have copies of these guides and they are available for distribution. The guides were developed by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and are intended for the Greater New Orleans, Lafayette & Lake Charles citizens who will use the maps and contra-flow routes to evacuate when disasters threaten the coastal areas. It can be downloaded from getagameplan.org.



LTAP's Disaster Safety Training: A Webinar for Public Works First Responders. During COVID lockdown period, LTAP hosted this webinar in partnership with the Louisiana chapter of American Public Works Association (APWA). This training covers preparations for disasters and the roles of public works personnel in disaster operations. You can view the webinar recording on bit.ly/LTAPdisastersafety.

Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information to Get Ready. FEMA has put together a tri-fold brochure containing helpful information about getting an emergency kit, what supplies to secure, having a communication plan, and evacuation routes. Download FEMA R-3 / Catalog No. 09077-1 on ready.gov.

Hurricane Safety Checklist. Red Cross has put together a checklist on what to do, what supplies to get, and what to do after a hurricane. For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit RedCross.org.



More resources may be found on louisianaltap.org/emergency-preparedness.html.

US Army Retired Brigadier General to teach LTAP's Successful Supervision classes



Are you a new supervisor or an experienced one who has never had formal supervisory training? Have you been recently promoted to a more challenging leadership position? If you are, Louisiana LTAP encourages you to sign up for the **Roads Scholar #8A: Successful Supervision for Local Supervisors** classes which will be held from August 6 to September 12, 2024.

US Army Retired Brigadier General Roger Shields is teaching this six-PDH-course, which covers a basic introduction to supervision including roles and responsibilities, effective communication, planning and delegating, performance management, and developing a personal action plan. This course is one of the elective courses offered in Louisiana LTAP's Roads Scholar Program.

At the end of the course, participants are expected to have the necessary skills that will enable him or her to effectively function in a supervisory capacity. Several factors are involved in the supervision process: defining expectations, providing feedback, effective communication, planning, organization, and others. To register and know whether there's a class in your area, visit www.louisianaltap.org and click "Training."

LTAP Wraps Up Basics of Good Roads

Roads are the "arteries" of our society, facilitating the flow of goods, services, and people.

During LTAP's most recent series, Roads Scholar #1 Basics of a Good Road, our instructor Nicholas "Nick" Verret, Jr., P.E. traveled to eight parishes around the state to deliver this course. A total of 154 participants from 36 different local agencies attended.

The class taught that the importance of a good road cannot be overstated, and neither can it be understated. Any good road directly impacts the economic vitality and quality of life in a community. The choice of road surface materials, whether asphalt, concrete, or gravel, plays a significant role in durability and maintenance requirements. A well-designed road with appropriate materials can withstand the rigors of daily use and adverse weather, ensuring longevity and reduced repair costs. It is important for locals' entities to have this information.

In a few short hours, LTAP was able to cover the highlights of road basics. Regular maintenance is crucial for both flexible and rigid pavements. It extends the road's lifespan and prevents minor issues from escalating into major hazards. Maintenance activities include filling potholes, sealing cracks, and resurfacing worn areas. These actions preserve the road's structural integrity and provide a smooth, safe driving experience. Proper drainage systems are essential to prevent water accumulation and subsequent erosion.

Traffic volume and load also dictate the wear and tear on the road, necessitating designs that can accommodate current and future demands. Features such as shoulders, ditches, culverts, and bridges are integral to a road's functionality. They ensure proper water runoff, support the road structure, and facilitate crossings over obstacles. Maintaining safe roadsides, free from obstructions and hazards, is vital for driver visibility and emergency situations. Each of these aspects are crucial to maintaining a good road.

In summary, a good road is a testament to thoughtful design, quality materials, and diligent maintenance. It supports economic growth, connects communities, and, most importantly, keeps road users safe. As LTAP continues to deliver many important topics to local communities, the emphasis on building and preserving good roads should remain a top priority.



LOUISIANA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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www.louisianaltap.org

Rudynah "Dynah" Capone, MPA
Director

Courtney Dupre, MA
LTAP Program Manager

Leonard P. Marretta, MURP
LRSP and LPA Program Manager

Victor Lockwood
LTAP and LRSP Business Manager

Haley Ortiz
LTAP Training Program Coordinator

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LTRC Publications Staff

Emily Wolfe, Public Information Director
Jenny Gilbert, Multimedia Specialist
Chris Melton, Photographer
Todd Blount, Editor

The purpose of the Local Technical Assistance Program is to provide technical materials, information, and training to help local government agencies in Louisiana maintain and improve their roads and bridges in a cost-effective manner. To accomplish this purpose, we publish a quarterly newsletter; conduct seminars, workshops, and mini-workshops covering various aspects of road and transportation issues; provide a lending library service of audio/visual programs; provide technical assistance through phone and mail-in requests relating to transportation technology; and undertake special projects of interest to municipalities in Louisiana.