



Technology Exchange

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Participants engaged in a virtual field assessment during our Safety for Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) workshops last year that reached a total of 222 participants in 10 classes.

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LTAP: A Year in Review

From a brand refresh to new leadership, LTAP has undergone some changes this past year. Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, the center delivered a total of 64 classes—5 virtual and 59 in-person—which amounted to 12,702 contact hours, reaching approximately 2,109 participants, of which 77% were from local public agencies.

In March of 2024, four Chainsaw Safety classes were taught to a total of 419 participants. Plans are underway to teach it in four locations in December 2024.

LTAP delivered four of our Roads Scholar (RS) courses on:

- Basics of a Good Road (RS#1), 8 classes attended by 154 participants
- Drainage (RS#3), 8 classes attended by 175 participants
- Road to Better Signing (RS#9), 8 classes attended by 155 participants
- Heavy Equipment Safety and Maintenance (RS#6), 6 classes attended by 203 participants.

A Project Selection Meeting was conducted for the Local Road Safety Program (LRSP), which then endorsed the approval of seven LRSP project applications. LRSP's manager Leo Marretta engaged local stakeholders at the Rural Complete Streets Summit held in Baton Rouge and Ruston. LTAP provided technical assistance through a contract with Nick Verret to develop a pavement preservation program for the City of Central.

As the membership and outreach arm for the Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association (LPESA), LTAP organized two conferences attended by 121 participants (Fall 2023) and 111 participants (Spring 2024) from 60 agencies/organizations. LTAP also hosted four quarterly LPESA Virtual Showcases that reached a total of 79 learners via Zoom.

In September of 2023, LTAP hosted the APWA Public Works Week: Worker Safety Training attended by 70 participants. LTAP's former director, Steve Strength, taught seven Work Zone Safety with Basic Flagging mini-workshops to a total of 151 participants from local public agencies in Lake Charles, Hammond, Baton Rouge, and Gonzales.



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

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Riding Along with New Opportunities

This is my first edition of Director's Corner. May 1st came, and I embarked on this new role as LTAP Director after being with LTRC for more than 10 years. Without a doubt, my predecessors have set the bar high. LTAP is pretty solid about delivering

cost-effective, interactive, and accessible training, so we are capitalizing on that. We are continuing to leverage our resources through collaboration and partnerships. We are responding to on-demand training requests—be it work zone safety or developing a local agency pavement management program. In everything that we do, we keep local agency stakeholders in mind.

As we mark our 37th year, we look forward to new opportunities for continued success. Having undergone a brand refresh is just one example. We have a new logo for LTAP and the Local Road Safety Program (LRSP), which we administer in partnership with the DOTD Highway Safety Section. Our umbrella organization, LTRC, underwent a brand revision, so it was fitting that LTAP do the same.

We have a few personnel changes. Our former training coordinator, Haley Ortiz, was promoted to serve as our communications and technology transfer manager. We are on the hunt for a teaching associate to replace the training coordinator position. We have grown our subject matter expert pool. We now have two engineers on contract, Peter Allain and Prasanth Malisetty, to support our LRSP efforts. We also have a new instructor on contract, Michael Duplantis, to teach our work zone safety with basic flagging mini-workshops.

Just a month ago, we held our LTAP Advisory Committee Meeting. We LTAPers met virtually with our key agency partners from FHWA and DOTD as well as the leaders from our partner associations (LMA, LPESA, PJAL and APWA) and representatives from the local public works/engineering communities. We revisited our accomplishments, identified promising opportunities for growth, asked ourselves if there were any missed or untapped opportunities, and worked to identify new topics for which the locals would like LTAP to

provide training. Our renewed commitment is to have this committee meet annually to ensure that we consider the points-of-view of our customers when framing the LTAP Work Plan.

At the end of every fiscal year, we ask: What have we done to help foster a safe, sustainable and efficient local transportation system? The answer could very well vary in terms of numbers, but one thing is for sure—we do all that we do to address the four national LTAP core areas (safety, infrastructure management, workforce development and organizational excellence). In the last state fiscal year, we taught a total of 64 classes to 2,100 individuals, with 77% being representatives of local agencies. Read more about our accomplishments in “Year in Review” article on cover page.

As we kick off FFY 2025 on October 1, we already have a few things in the pipeline the LRSP Implementation workshops in October; the Louisiana Safety Summit in November; and the series of chainsaw safety classes in December. Potentially, we may also have work zone safety mini-workshops and heavy equipment training in November. While we recognize that change can be nerve racking, it can also be trailblazing! LTAP is riding along with new opportunities as we respond to the changing demands of Louisiana's local workforce. We invite you all to continue embracing a culture of collaboration and innovation with us!

WE'LL BE **UPDATING** **OUR REGISTRATION** **FEE** **2025**

Dear customers,

Beginning January 1st, 2025, we are updating our registration fees to continue delivering the high-quality classes you expect. This change is essential for us to uphold the same caliber of service. Our prices will increase to \$35 for Public Agencies, and \$70 for Private Agencies. This price includes breakfast, lunch, a full day of instruction taught by an expert, PDHs, and all materials used for the class. Failure to cancel at least 72 hours prior or "no-showing" will result in a forfeit of registration fee. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.



Testimonials from our Partners



About Work Zone Safety with Basic Flagging Mini-Workshops

“On behalf of Jefferson Parish Public Works, thank you LTAP for helping us train our field workers to improve their safety and the public’s safety while making it exceptionally easy for our employees to attend.” - *Mark Drewes, Public Works Director, Jefferson Parish*



About LPESA Virtual Showcase

“From planning up until the day of the virtual showcase, you made us aware of all the coordination efforts to ensure that everything stayed on track. It truly makes a difference when working with a group of professionals that are very organized, thorough, and prompt in response.”

- *Nikki Cammon, Contech Engineered Solutions, LPESA Virtual Showcase Presenter*



About our Local Public Agency Core Qualifications Training

“I love the improvements that have been made to this class. The activities helped to reinforce the knowledge presented.” - *Anonymous*

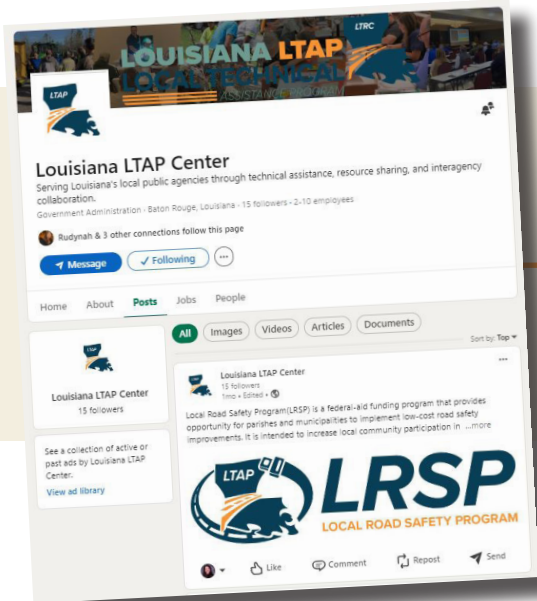
Upcoming Training

Chainsaw Safety, Precision Felling and Maintenance: This is a great introductory or refresher course for personnel and supervisors who regularly use the chainsaw, as well as novice or the occasional users.

- December 3, 2024 in Minden
- December 4, 2024 in Oberlin
- December 5, 2024 in Port Allen
- December 6, 2024 in Gretna



Click the “Training” tab on www.louisianaltap.org or email LTAP@la.gov for more information.



LTAP is now on LinkedIn!

Find “Louisiana LTAP Center” and connect with us.

Jackie Baumann, Chief Engineer, City of Gonzales



In this edition of Leadership Spotlight, LTAP gives a thumbs up to a vibrant engineering professional and a local public agency leader. She is Jackie Baumann, the Chief Engineer of the City of Gonzales for the last 13 years.

Baumann began her career designing residential and commercial sites. In her current role, she manages projects including storm water, drinking water, wastewater, natural gas, environmental, and roadway infrastructure. She serves on numerous committees representing Gonzales and works to improve environmental health, roadway safety, utilities, and economic development. She is a professional civil engineer who earned her Engineering degree from LSU. She has been happily married to her husband, Todd, for over 20 years and has an 18 year-old daughter, Emma, who is a freshman at La Tech.

What is your definition of leadership?

A leader is someone willing to work alongside peers and subordinates. A leader is eager to perform even the smallest or most insignificant task in order to help accomplish a common goal.

Can you share us some of the highlights of your experience as an engineer and how you evolved as a leader?

Throughout my career, I focused on working hard, respecting others, and helping in any way I could. Listening and learning from co-workers has helped me built connections and gained respect. As a result of my philosophies, I was slowly developing leadership skills.

What other previous jobs or community roles did you have that shaped your leadership skills?

Working for a small city, I was forced to work in vastly different roles with very different groups of people. I could be in work boots trying to “field design” a utility repair one day and at the state capitol for a meeting the following day. Working with people of different personalities and areas of expertise taught me that I could learn something new from everyone.

If you were to pinpoint three traits that a leader should possess to be effective in leading teams, what would they be?

Above all traits, I feel respect for all others is the most important. Treating others as I want to be treated is vital, so I approach others fairly and equally. Second, establishing lines of open and constant communication must be in place. I must force myself to remember that LISTENING is as important as speaking. Lastly, organization and efficiency are mandatory when leading an organization of any size. When we are “stuck in our ways”, we become inefficient. New technologies and software applications are being developed daily; even my organization strategies and tools have changed numerous times over the years. No matter which organizational tool I have used in my career, I learned that the methods used for efficiencies continuously change.

How do your peers and colleagues view your leadership style as?

I laughed when I started to write this answer because I believe that my colleagues would have very different answers to describe my leadership style. No matter who you ask, you will hear three common themes: organized, vocal, and energetic/passionate.

In any of your past and present leadership roles, what has been the most challenging task you’ve had to overcome?

I am currently in the most challenging stage of my career as I write this answer. After 14 years of stability, my boss abruptly changed, and city leadership will undergo another major change later this year. Through the recent changes, the organizational chart has been drastically modified several times. My approach to these changes has been to continually meet with staff in all departments to provide clear communication and show

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LTAP's History-Breaking Efforts

LTAP initiated several history-breaking efforts.

In August-September of 2023, the center held the "Safety for Vulnerable Road Users" (VRU) Workshops in 10 locations. This was in partnership with the FHWA Louisiana Division Office, the DOTD Highway Safety Section, and the regional safety coalitions involved in the implementation of our state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) at the grassroots level.

In November of 2023, LTAP co-hosted two of DOTD's major safety initiatives: an in-person Pedestrian Safety Workshop and a Safe Routes to Public Places Program's Virtual Call for Projects.

In February of 2024, LTAP assisted the FHWA in hosting the Task Order Working Group (TOWG) kickoff meeting on Local and Rural Road Safety at the Regional Transportation Management Center in New Orleans. The intent was to discuss revisions to the FHWA Safety Manuals for Rural Local Road Owners on Roadway, Intersection, and Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety, as well as Speed Management practices. The group included 27 participants from FHWA, LTAP centers, counties, and tribal nations.

In Baton Rouge and Lake Charles, LTAP delivered two rounds of Local Public Agency (LPA) Qualification Core Training, reaching 77 participants, and two rounds of LPA Construction, Engineering and Inspection courses, reaching 54 participants. The LPA Training is intended to increase the efficiency of project delivery for local transportation projects funded by state and federal dollars.

LTAP staff continues to engage actively with stakeholders through professional associations and groups, including: NLTAPA, NACE, TRB, APWA, ITE, WTS, PJAL, LMA, APA, and LPESA.

From July 2023 to June 2024



What's next on our calendar?

- October 9, 2024: LPA Construction, Engineering & Inspection Course
- October 11, 2024: LPESA Virtual Showcase via Zoom
- October 15-30, 2024: Local Road Safety Plan Implementation Workshops
- October - November 2024: Roads Scholar#8A Successful Supervision Classes
- November 13-14, 2024: Presentation at Louisiana Highway Safety Summit
- December 2-6, 2024: Chainsaw Safety Classes



LTAP IN ACTION

Supervisors in Focus: Classroom Insights and Conference Connections

Municipally Connected! LTAP does more than just teach classes! When there is an opportunity to keep our local government decision-makers engaged, we are there. We had our usual LTAP Booth at the Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA) Convention this August, where we had the elected officials themselves find their town on the map and learn what LTAP has to offer—training, technical assistance, peer-to-peer connections, partnerships, and Local Road Safety Program funding information.

Aye-Aye Sir! Retired US Army Brigadier General Roger Shields taught the first four of seven class series on “Roads Scholar #8A: Successful Supervision for Local Road Supervisors” in Baton Rouge, Covington, New Orleans, and West Monroe. The remaining classes in Natchitoches, Lake Charles, and Lafayette have been postponed to October and November due to Hurricane Francine. The new dates are yet to be determined as of this writing.



Leadership spotlight (continued from page 1)

everyone that I support the great work being done. As our organization moves through a season of change, I am encouraging staff to simply continue performing job duties as we have done for many years. I recently launched an anonymous survey using a QR code, which offers the staff a way to discretely share concerns they may have. Although the survey has only been active for two weeks, I was pleasantly surprised to see the positive feedback thus far.

Who do you see as your model leader?

My role model for professional leadership is my husband, Todd. He has worked for the federal government for 28 years and manages staff across 5 states. Many of the leadership skills I have learned came from watching him navigate staff challenges and federal regulations. He leads with a fair and respectful approach, and he is extremely successful. I hope that the City of Gonzales staff enjoys working with me like Todd's staff do with him.

Louisiana highway deaths down 10.5% in 2023, new stats show

The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission has released statistics that show fewer fatalities from motor vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle crashes on Louisiana roads last year, suggesting the COVID-era spike may be over.

The crash data show 811 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2023. That represents 10.5% fewer fatalities than in 2022. The fatality rate—the number of people killed per 100 million miles traveled—dropped to 1.46 in 2023, according to statistics from the Center for Analytics and Research in Transportation Safety at LSU. That represents an 8.7% rate drop from 2022 and the lowest fatality rate since 2019.

LHSC Executive Director Lisa Freeman said she is optimistic that fatalities will decline even further, but she emphasized that the numbers are still too high. “We still see too many people driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, too many distracted drivers, too much aggressive driving, and not enough seat belt usage,” Freeman said. “Those four human behaviors are responsible for about 85% of our non-pedestrian fatalities.”

Pedestrian fatalities, which grew at an alarming rate during the pandemic, were down to 147 in 2023, a 19.7% decrease, and bicycle fatalities dropped from 44 to 35. Both pedestrian and bicycle fatalities remained higher than the five-year pre-COVID levels, possibly because more people started walking and biking during the pandemic and have continued those routines.

Motorcycle fatalities showed a year-to-year increase, from 90 to 98, the statistics show. The 2023 motorcycle fatality count also includes 3-wheeled motorcycles, auto-cycles, and motorized bicycles, or mopeds.

The latest seat belt survey shows 88.4% of Louisiana drivers and passengers are wearing seat belts. This new seat belt usage rate is the highest rate ever recorded in Louisiana and is up a significant three percentage points from last year.

“We are encouraged that the latest seat belt survey shows that Louisiana drivers and passengers are buckling up more than ever before,” Freeman said. “Using seat belts and properly installed child safety seats is the most important thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash.”

Next, the number of people killed in a crash involving a driver with a blood-alcohol level of .08 or higher dropped to 195, a 13.3% decrease from 2022 and the fewest since 2020. Freeman pointed out that law enforcement campaigns such as “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” and the strong messaging behind those campaigns made a difference in 2023.

The latest statistics can be accessed via Center for Analytics and Research in Transportation Safety at cart.slsu.edu.

LOUISIANA LTAP LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
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Driving Down Fatalities in 3 Ways With Safety Training

3 WAYS THAT LOUISIANA LTAP IS ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN (SHSP).

1 Combating Rural Roadway Departures
BALLBANKING ACTIVITY
 In 2022, LTAP taught **Combating Rural Roadway Departures Workshop** to 180 stakeholders in nine (9) locations. The workshops engaged the learners in a ballbanking activity to determine safe speed limits at horizontal curves.

2 Intersection Safety
INTERSECTION SIMULATION
 In 2018, LTAP taught **Intersection Basics: Safety, Operations and Accessibility** to 160 stakeholders in 10 locations. An **Intersection Simulation** activity using cardboards, boxes, flipcharts and balls engaged the learners.

3 Safety of Vulnerable Road Users
VIRTUAL SITE VISITS AND MAP ASSESSMENTS
 In 2023, LTAP taught **Safety of Vulnerable Road Users Workshop** to 220 stakeholders in 10 locations. We conducted **virtual site visits** navigating through maps and images to recommend proven safety countermeasures for the safety of vulnerable road users.

ON THE ROAD

NLTAPA Official Poster

Here is Louisiana LTAP’s official poster shared at the National Local and Tribal Technical Assistance Program Association (NLTAPA) Annual Conference held this July in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This poster encapsulates LTAP’s efforts to educate our local public agency stakeholders about road safety. In the last years, we have done three things that focused on: combating rural roadway departures (2022); safety of vulnerable road users (2023); and intersection safety basics (2018).



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