



# CRPC NEWS

THE CAPITAL REGION'S SOURCE FOR  
TRANSPORTATION, LAND USE,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND AIR QUALITY PLANNING

Spring | Summer 2016

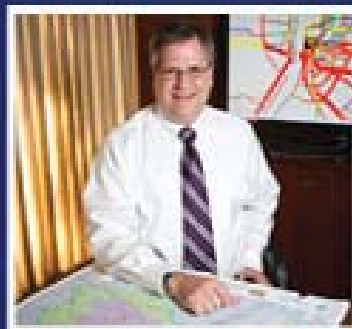
Vol. IV

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- SIDNE @ Madison Prep
- FAST Act
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CRPC's staff has  
new email  
addresses! See the  
changes on  
[crpcla.org](http://crpcla.org).

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Thanks to CMAQ funding & partnerships with the Downtown Development District & Southern University, this is a great time to take advantage of our increasingly bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. Together, we've added 142 bike racks featured on the campus & in downtown Baton Rouge.

Additionally, CRPC is continuing to analyze data trends for our long range planning update. We've added several new features on our new website, [crpcla.org](http://crpcla.org), and now you can find data products that include population & employment information as well as visuals of traffic congestion at major corridors. This along with other data analyses is the basis for our long range update.

While CRPC has several immediate projects happening, I'm confident with the FAST Act's passage, a new governor and a new LDOTD secretary, that new transportation improvement projects will be programmed, funded and built for the Capital Region in the near future.

CRPC Executive Director,  
Jamie Setze

# LONG RANGE PLAN UPDATE

## MOVE 2042: UPDATE

The Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) selected a consultant team to assist CRPC with the public outreach component of the long range planning process. CRPC staff anticipate a broad and thorough public process as the plan is updated.

"Making sure the community is aware of the importance of the regional transportation plan and ensuring that their views are communicated is of critical importance," explained Kim Marousek, CRPC Director of Planning. In addition to holding public meetings, staff will be reaching out to the elected officials and other stakeholders in the metropolitan planning organization region to gather concerns related to roadway safety, congestion and alternative transportation needs in your specific communities.

### BIKE RACKS IN BATON ROUGE

Downtown Baton Rouge and Southern University will house 142 bike racks thanks to Congestion, Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) funds as well as a 20% match provided by the applicants.

The racks will be located on the campus, near downtown street corners, sidewalks and on the Mississippi Riverfront.

JT Sukits, CRPC's Transportation Alternatives Coordinator said, "Our hope with this project is to encourage the public to use non-motorized forms of transportation. Biking or walking helps to reduce traffic congestion, improves air quality and benefits the biker's overall health."



### SIDNE AT MADISON PREP ACADEMY



To educate young drivers about the dangers of drunk driving, CRPC's Regional Safety Coordinator visited Madison Prep Academy along with Lexlee's Kids to bring the SIDNE experience to students.

SIDNE stands for Simulated Impaired Driving Experience. The go-kart with an educational twist features two modes: normal mode and impaired mode.

In normal mode, the vehicle's steering, braking and acceleration respond appropriately. In impaired mode, the vehicle reacts with delayed operations. With SIDNE, students could experienced first hand how dangerous impaired driving can be.

This is an effort targeted in the Regional Safety Plan. To read the full plan, find it featured on our website.

# FAST ACT

## FIXING AMERICA'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT

On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed into law the FAST Act, the first law enacted in over ten years to provide long-term funding certainty for surface transportation; meaning states and local government can move forward with critical transportation projects, like new highways and transit lines with the confidence that they will have a Federal partner over the long term.

Overall, the FAST Act maintains current program structures and funding shares between highways and transit. It is a down-payment for building a 21st century transportation system, increasing funding by 11 percent over the next five years. This is far short of the amount needed to reduce congestion on our roads and meet the increasing demands on our transportation systems. In comparison, the administration's proposal, the GROW AMERICA Act, increases funding by 45 percent.

The law also makes changes and reforms many Federal transportation programs, including streamlining the approval processes for new transportation projects, providing new safety tools, and establishing new programs to advance critical freight programs.

## CALL FOR CMAQ PROJECTS

The Capital Region is designated as non-attainment by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard for ground level ozone. CMAQ funding is available for transportation projects or programs that will contribute to attainment or maintenance of the NAAQS for ozone.

The funds are aimed at improving air quality and relieving traffic congestion in East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension and Livingston Parishes. LDOTD is calling for CMAQ projects for 2020-2024. Project applications are due by Monday, May 2, 2016.

CRPC can assist you by providing an air quality analysis to support your project proposal. For more information or assistance on CMAQ projects, contact Ravi Ponnappureddy at [rponnapureddy@crpcla.org](mailto:rponnapureddy@crpcla.org) or by phone at (225) 383-5203 by mid-April.

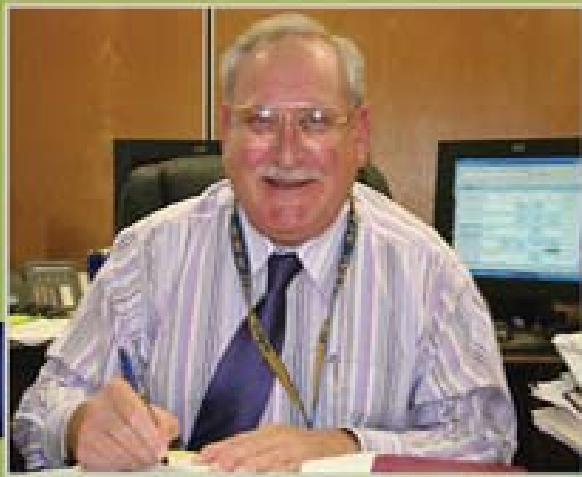
## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Louisiana Economic Development is now accepting nominations for the 2016 Lantern Awards. The awards are presented annually to outstanding manufacturers from each of Louisiana's eight regional planning and development districts. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, April 22. Nomination packets may be obtained at the Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts website, [www.lapdd.org](http://www.lapdd.org). Packets nominating a manufacturer should be returned to the corresponding planning district office.

Awards will be presented June 7 at a reception held at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion.

The Delta Regional Authority will soon announce funding to help Delta communities create jobs and improve infrastructure through the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP). SEDAP may be used to fund projects for public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure and business development. Projects must be located in the 252 counties and parishes served by the DRA. For more information, contact Courtney Maciasz at [cmaciasz@crpcla.org](mailto:cmaciasz@crpcla.org).

# MEET THE NEW TECHNIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



THE TAC'S PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE BATON ROUGE AREA.

Harold "Skip" Paul, P.E.

**How is your past professional experience applicable to the efforts of the Technical Advisory Committee?**

For the past 39 years, I have held positions at LDOTD in both the research section and since 1986, the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC). At the LTRC, I served as director since March of 2006. I conducted asphalt research for the first 18 years of my career, and I've been involved in research program administration for the last 21 years.

My experience administering the program at LTRC provides a link to funding mechanisms and services that can provide direct impact to CRPC. For instance, LTRC has an ITS lab which is connected to the state's traffic management centers.

This affords cooperative opportunities to manage and plan for future congestion and incident management projects. With the cooperation of CRPC authorities, we can link traffic management systems to improve traffic flow and safety improvement projects at railroad crossings throughout the area.

We have also created a Safety Center at LTRC which fuses various interests who have safety funding that can impact the Louisiana Safety Plan.

**What do you hope to accomplish as TAC Chairman?**

I would hope to accomplish CRPC's strategic plan and help resolve transportation problems in our area of interest.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April	May	June
19-21	3	10
LTAP Workshop	TAC Meeting	Commission Meeting
LPA Qualification	10	14
Program	TPC Meeting	TAC Meeting
		21
		TPC Meeting