

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS



PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Listening Sessions for Transportation Planning



The Federal Highway (FHWA) and Federal Transit (FTA) Administrations, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD) and the Regional Planning Commission, the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), will be holding two Public Listening Sessions on the Transportation Planning Process for the New Orleans Metropolitan Planning Area.

**Tuesday, September 25, 2018
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Regional Transportation
Management Center
10 Veterans Memorial Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124**

Thursday, September 27, 2018
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
St. Tammany Parish Council
Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.
Mandeville, LA 70471

The FHWA and FTA welcome the public to voice their opinions on the planning process for the area. Any written questions, comments or suggestions concerning the planning process should be directed to the office of the Regional Planning Commission, 10 Veterans Memorial Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70124, Attn: Certification Review, or E-mail: rpc@norpc.org / Fax: 504-483-8526.

Public parking is available. The buildings are wheelchair accessible with accessible restroom facilities. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, every effort will be made to accommodate requests to meet special needs. Such requests should be directed to Ms. Megan Leonard, 504-483-8525.

Upcoming Meetings

GNO Water Collaborative
Green Infrastructure
Lunch & Learn Series
Sept. 18, 2018 | 12:00 pm

New Orleans Regional
Traffic Safety Coalition
Sept. 20, 2018 | 10:30 am

[RPC Certification Review](#)
[Public Listening Sessions](#)
Sept. 25 | 6:30 pm
Southshore
Sept. 27 | 6:30 pm
Northshore

Emergency Preparedness
Partnership
Sept. 28, 2018 | 10:00 am

North Shore Regional
Traffic Safety Coalition
Oct. 4, 2018 | 10:00 am

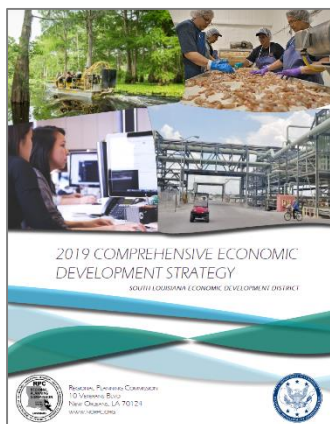
Transportation Policy
Committee & RPC Meeting
Oct. 9, 2018 | 12:30 pm

Greater New Orleans
Clean Air Coalition
Oct. 10, 2018 | 10:00 am

Clean Fuels Summit 2018
Oct. 24, 2018 | 9:00 am



2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Comment Period Now Open



The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a locally-based, regionally-driven plan for economic development. The 2019-2023 CEDS draft document is now available on the RPC website here: www.norpc.org/comprehensive_economic_development_strategy.html.

The comment period is open until 5:00 pm on Friday, **October 5, 2018**. Please send comments to RPC Economic Development Director Maggie Woodruff at mwoodruff@norpc.org / 504-483-8502.

EPA Awards RPC \$600,000 for Brownfields Assessments

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded \$600,000 in Brownfields assessment coalition grants to the RPC as part of \$54.5 million being distributed to 145 communities nationwide to assess and clean up underutilized properties while protecting public health and the environment.

“The RPC is excited to continue our partnership with EPA to redevelop Brownfields sites in the New Orleans area. Along with our partners, the Port of New Orleans and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, we look forward to focusing our efforts along the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal,” said Executive Director Jeff Roesel. “This funding will enable us to work on key sites identified by the community through the Port’s EPA-funded Brownfields Area-

Wide Planning initiative, to help convert abandoned and dilapidated properties into community assets and spur further redevelopment in communities where it is greatly needed.”

RPC will receive two assessment coalition grants. A community-wide hazardous substances grant of \$360,000 will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and prepare cleanup plans. A \$240,000 grant for petroleum will also be used for similar site assessments and cleanup plans. Both grants will also be used to support community outreach activities. For more information, please contact RPC Brownfield Redevelopment Program Manager, Rebecca Otte at rotte@norpc.org.



Left to Right: Duane Wilson, Brownfields & Voluntary Remediation Program Coordinator, LDEQ; Carl Edlund, Superfund Division Director, EPA Region 6; Amelia Pellegrin, Director of Sustainable Development, Port NOLA; Rebecca Otte, RPC Brownfield Redevelopment Program Director; Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, LDEQ Secretary; and Jeff Roesel, RPC Executive Director

Harahan Film Studio Receives 2018 Star of the Southwest Award

The UNO Foundation utilized Economic Development Administration (EDA) investment for the construction of NIMS Film Center Studios in Harahan. The Center was expanded through an EDA grant to include a 5,000-square foot incubator facility where young and talented film industry entrepreneurs now work and UNO students, staff and alumni are able to take advantage of the studios' technology, industry internships, and project development opportunities. On July 25, 2018, the project was awarded with a Star of the Southwest Award at the Southwest Region Economic Development Association's (SWREDA) Conference, *Proven Strategies, New Approaches*, in Tulsa, OK. Nine projects from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas were recognized for their accomplishments, all of which were funded in part through support from the EDA Austin regional office.



Left to Right: Dennis Alvord, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs, EDA; Maggie Woodruff, Economic Development Director, RPC; Roger Benischek, Director, NIMS Film Center; and Jorge Ayala, Director, Austin Regional Office, EDA

Mississippi River Trail Groundbreaking Ceremony in St. Bernard Parish



Left to Right: Louisiana State Representative Ray Garofalo, RPC Citizen Member Susan Klees, Councilmember Howard Luna, RPC Executive Director Jeff Roesel, Former RPC Executive Director Walter Brooks, Resident Inspector Gil Carlin, RPC Principal Planner Karen Parsons and Councilmember Wanda Alcon

On June 27, 2018, St. Bernard Parish hosted at a groundbreaking ceremony for the St. Bernard Parish Phase I and II Mississippi River Trail project. The 3-mile long asphalt trail will be constructed on top of the Mississippi River levee between Valero Oil and the Violet Canal. Engineering design was accomplished by Evans-Graves Engineering. This project reflects the Parish's commitment to safe and accessible non-motorized transportation facilities. It is a major corridor of the 2017 St. Bernard Parish Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Update.

RPC Emergency Preparedness Partnership Discusses Hurricane Season 2018, Tours University Medical Center

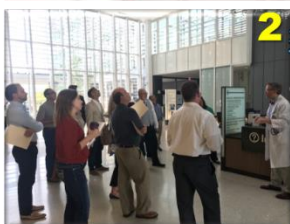
Annual Hurricane Briefing

Captain Trevor Smith, Louisiana State Police Crisis Response Commander and Frank Revitte, National Weather Service (NWS) Warning Coordination Meteorologist provided the latest on storm season and evacuation/reentry issues during the EPP's annual hurricane briefing. Louisiana has shifted from activating evacuation plans solely on the Safir-Simpson scale (wind speed/strength) to an "all hazards" approach that is based on forecasting by NWS, including wind, storm surge, and rainfall. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts for 2018 included 10 to 16 named storms, 5 to 9 hurricanes, and 1 to 4 major hurricanes.



University Medical Center (UMC) Tour

Photo 1 (below): Bridget Gardner (far right), RN, Program Coordinator, Injury Prevention Center, provides an overview of key personnel support at the Level 1 Trauma Center, while Dan Kiff (center), MN, RN, Director of Trauma Services, and Angelle Lew, RNP, look on and await questions from partners on the tour/brief; **Photo 2:** Dr. Peter DeBlieux (far right), Chief Experience Officer, explains unique medical assets of the UMC, while partners view hanging ceiling artwork that helps to tell the story. **Photo 3:** Dr. Jeffrey Carter (far left), Medical Director of the Burn Center, discusses the importance of the medical center's roles in education, conferences, and the over 300 ongoing research studies being conducted at UMC.



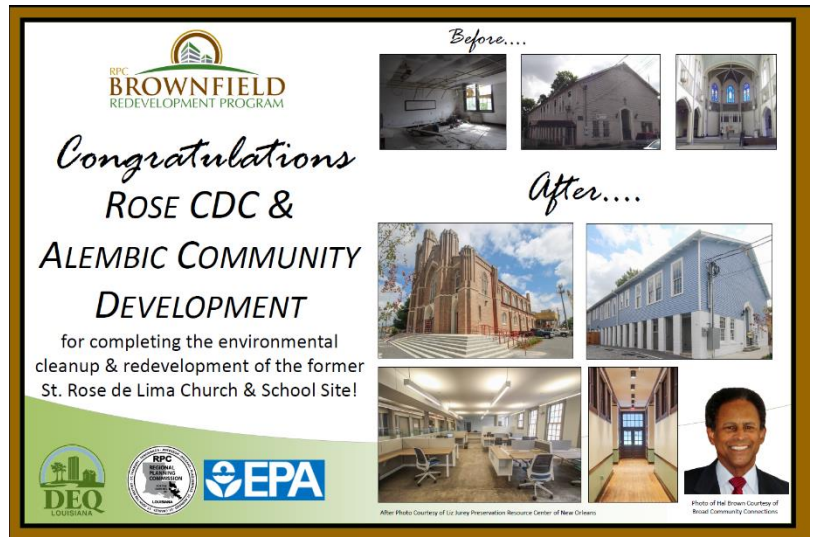
The next EPP meeting will take place on **September 28, 2018** at the RPC and feature guest speaker Michael Dunaway, PhD, Director of the National Incident Management Systems & Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT) and the Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center (LABEOC). In addition to highlighting some of the key research projects at NIMSAT, Dr. Dunaway will address the important role that the LABEOC plays during times of disaster. For more information, please contact EPP Director Chris Laborde: claborde@norpc.org.

Rose Community Development Corporation (CDC), Gulf Coast Scrap, and RPC Receive Brownfield Excellence Awards

On September 6, 2018, the Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the US Environmental Protection Agency recognized the significant achievements of Brownfield Redevelopment sites in the New Orleans region including the Rose Community Development Corporation (CDC) for redeveloping the former St. Rose de Lima Church & School site that had been vacant for over 10 years; and Gulf Coast Scrap & Salvage for redeveloping the former Haywilk Galvanizing site which was abandoned in 2004 and significantly impacted by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Rose CDC addressed lead, asbestos and avian fecal matter in the buildings as well as removed an abandoned underground storage tank at the site. The site is now the Rose Collaborative which includes the following: 1) Southern Rep Theatre; 2) School facilities for New Orleans Career Center, New Harmony High and Operation Spark through 2019; 3) Starting in Fall 2019, the Waldorf School; and 4) Shared work space for local Non Profits such as Fund 17, Kid Smart, New Orleans Arts Education Alliance, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, NewCorp Inc. and Brothers Empowered 2 Teach.

Gulf Coast Scrap & Salvage addressed zinc contamination in soil and groundwater at the Brownfield site under LDEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program, receiving a Certificate of Completion in July 2018. Sustainable components of the redevelopment include: 1) Reuse of materials in reconstructing and improving the building such as large warehouse doors, stairwells throughout site, building skin, and I-Beam and support structure for the warehouse reused from previous structure (after cleaning/straightening/ reinforcing) or repurposed from other sites; and 2) Incorporation of a bioswale and permeable parking area to reduce flooding in parking area. RPC, EPA, and LDEQ employed Brownfield resources and provided technical assistance to both projects for the environmental investigation and cleanup to facilitate the redevelopment.



A group of community leaders from the 7th Ward and Treme, led by Hal Brown (pictured bottom right), had a vision for the site as the Bayou Treme Center for Arts & Education. The redevelopment includes restoration of 3 historic buildings that were vacant and abandoned.



The Gulf Coast Scrap project created 5 jobs during the cleanup, and the site now employs 26 workers. The company also participates in a job training program with Angola Prison's Re-Entry Program to provide former inmates with training and jobs to help reduce recidivism.

Agenda Now Available for the Clean Fuels Summit 2018 at NOLA Motorsports Park

DRIVERS... Clean Your Engines!



Calling all fleet managers, mechanics, drivers, sustainability directors, and personnel! [Get your tickets](#) now for the Clean Fuels Summit Ride & Drive event on **October 24, 2018** featuring sessions from leading industry experts, catered lunch, door prizes, interactive exhibits, and alternative fuel vehicles! For more information, please contact the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership at slcfp@norpc.org.



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THE FULL
AGENDA](#)

Thank You to Our Sponsors!
**MOTORSPORTS PARK
NEW ORLEANS**



Greater New Orleans Clean Air Coalition



Save the Date!

GNO Clean Air Coalition Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Time: 10:00-11:00am

Location: Regional Planning Commission

Speaker: Brandon Iglesias: "Carbon Center: New Orleans' New Energy Nexus"

Registration: Please RSVP to cleanairneworleans@norpc.org.

Light refreshments will be provided.

North Shore Safety Highlight: "Survive the Drive"



Students participate in a DWI mock trial with the Louisiana State Police and 21st JDC District Attorney's Office

In order for the State of Louisiana to reach its goal of zero fatalities on our roadways, dedicated highway safety outreach and education must take place at the state, regional, and local levels. Tangipahoa, with its prevention program Tangipahoa Reshaping Attitudes for Community Change (TRACC) has taken a leading role in our region in young driver (15-24 year olds) grassroots outreach and education. TRACC and Southeastern Louisiana University's Student Organization (SOAR) recently hosted their second annual Survive the Drive event. The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission funded program is a high impact young driver safety event which walks young drivers through how destructive decisions made behind the wheel (impaired driving, lack of seatbelt use, distracted driving) can have life altering consequences. Partnering organizations included Southeastern Police Department, Louisiana State Police, Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Department, 21st District JDC District Attorney's Office, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Thompson Funeral Home, Southeastern University Student Conduct, University Counselling Center, Operation Lifesaver, and RPC's North Shore Regional Safety Coalition. The New Orleans Regional Planning Commission would like to recognize, and thank Tangipahoa Parish and TRACC for their unwavering support of Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and their commitment to helping our region reach Destination Zero Deaths.

Free Bicycle Helmets and Light Kits Distributed via RPC's Safe Streets For Everyone Campaign

Throughout the summer the RPC has been distributing safety equipment and information as part of its Safe Streets for Everyone campaign. This project is intended to improve safety for all road users in the New Orleans CBD, French Quarter, and surrounding neighborhoods. A media campaign with the message, "You're Not Alone on the Road: Create Safe Streets for Everyone," recently concluded, and RPC staff are currently evaluating the reach and success of those messages. Safety equipment has been distributed at several recent events, including Jazz in the Park, the Crescent City Farmers Market, and RTA's Elk Place Health Spot. The RPC is also partnering with the New Orleans Health Department, Bike Easy, and Blue Bikes to distribute additional equipment. In total the RPC and its partners will distribute nearly 200 bike helmets and light kits free of charge, as well as classroom posters, safety guides, coloring books, and other informational materials. To learn more, please visit: www.norpc.org/safe_streets.html.



Project Partners:



The Louisiana Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) delivered their new “Intersection Basics: Safety, Operations, and Accessibility” workshop on August 31, 2018 to help local planners and engineers better identify utilities and safety countermeasures on the local road network. For more information on upcoming events or training resources, please contact RPC Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Manager, Dan Jatres at djatres@norpc.org.



Congratulations to Walter R. Brooks for His 42 Years of Service with the RPC!

On August 14, 2018, the Regional Planning Commission recognized Mr. Brooks for his outstanding leadership over 42 years at RPC which has been integral to the investment of Federal transportation funds across the metropolitan region. Mr. Brooks engaged in projects and programs that simultaneously improved the region's economic and environmental health. Through tremendous creativity and dedication, Mr. Brooks was highly effective in identifying, prioritizing, and moving projects through to construction. He has expertly navigated a multitude of challenges entailed in regional planning.



RPC Board of Directors, staff, and family celebrated Walter Brooks' retirement at the August 14th Commission Meeting.



LaDOTD District Engineer Administrator Chris Morvant and Deputy Secretary Dr. Eric Kalivoda presented Walter an honorary plaque at the August Commission Meeting; RPC Conference Room 203 is now dedicated to Mr. Brooks.



**Executive Director
Jeffrey Roesel**

**Regional Planning Commission
10 Veterans Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124
504-483-8500
www.norpc.org**

The RPC is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa parishes. The [Board of Directors](#) is supported by a professional staff with broad experience in urban and regional planning, community development, economics, engineering, geography, and sustainable development among other disciplines. It is the job of RPC to develop a regional transportation vision, direct planning, allocate funds, and engage the public and other stakeholders in the transportation planning process.

This newsletter was prepared under State Project No. H.972275.1 (RPC Task D-1.19; FY-19 Unified Planning Work Program) and is available on the RPC website's Public Involvement page. To request hard copies or to be added to our distribution list, please contact Courtney Young at cyoung@norpc.org.