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The New Orleans Regional Planning Commission is pleased to present quarterly news, events, and project updates to a region-wide audience.

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Letter from the Director



As the summer ends and fall begins, the Regional Planning Commission has accomplished several important milestones. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for FY 2023 through 2052 for all of our urbanized areas has been adopted by the Board. The draft of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for our areas have been submitted for to the Board and DOTD for review. RPC has submitted a draft of our first-ever regional freight plan to our freight roundtable stakeholders for review as a first step toward eventual adoption.

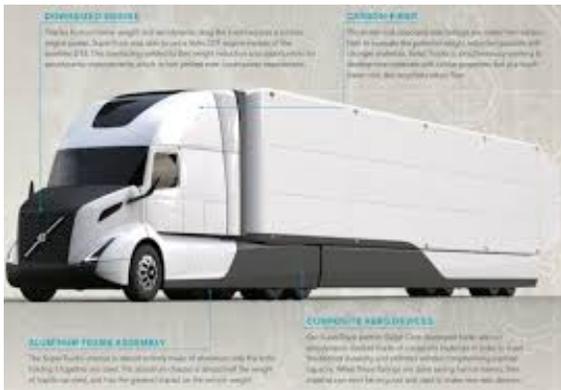
This has been accomplished by our staff that has undertaken extensive and targeted outreach to a myriad of stakeholders, local governments, non-profits, advocacy groups, economic development interests, and the public. That outreach has helped inform our understanding of the needs of both individual communities and, by identifying commonalities, plan for programmatic infrastructure investments and policies that will ultimately improve mobility while being mindful of safety, equity, resilience, and respect for the natural and built environments in the entire region.

As these policy documents become adopted, RPC staff will work toward implementation. The goal is to bring the policies promulgated in the plans to fruition as actionable projects based on data-driven analysis; the outcomes for which work to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of our region while being mindful of our responsibilities for social equity and the natural environment.

To that end, RPC continues to monitor funding and partnership opportunities for projects and programs RPC can help implement in our region. RPC staff continues to coordinate with local, state, and federal entities to review opportunities and eligibilities to receive discretionary grant funds for a number of initiatives promulgated in the IJA.

As always, we look forward to working with our Board members, in appreciation of their leadership, guidance, and service; our partner agencies at the local, state and federal levels, and the residents of our region who makes us unique in America.

2022 Regional Freight Mobility Plan

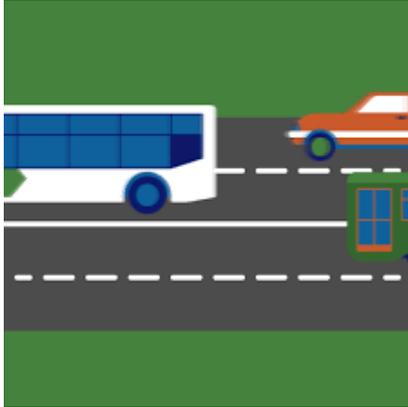


The Regional Planning Commission has created its first formal Freight Plan on behalf of 8-parish New Orleans region. This plan responds to U.S. DOT guidance found in the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill in support of highway, rail, aviation, maritime and pipeline operations and infrastructure. Federal transportation regulation does not require MPO's to create a Freight Plan but the RPC embraced the effort because the movement of freight is

such a significant sector in the regional economy due to the region's location on the lower Mississippi River. **The 2022 Regional Freight Mobility Plan** is under review now. The work is timely because the regional Freight Plan will inform the 5-year update of the State Transportation Plan, recently kicked off by LADOTD, and will become part of the RPC long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The vision of the 2022 New Orleans Regional Freight Plan is to develop an innovative, sustainable, and well-coordinated freight strategy that maintains world class operations of freight flows for all modes within our region. The document lays out objectives and strategies that detail how RPC can contribute toward overarching goals of reliability, connectivity, industry growth, safety, security, and stewardship. The document lists future freight planning work and project priorities. The plan was achieved with the insights of local freight industry experts participating in the RPC Freight Roundtable, industry interviews, and identification of industry trends, gaps and regional needs. The 2022 Regional Freight Mobility Plan was preceded by the **2020/2021 Regional Freight Profile** which reflects existing conditions by mode and commodity, key agencies that manage all aspects of freight today, and highlights RPC's role. Both documents are located at www.norpc.org/freight. *Please any send comments on the 2022 Regional Freight Mobility Plan by September 30th to Karen Parsons, Freight Coordinator and Principal Planner at kparsons@norpc.org.*

Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program Updates



On August 9, 2022 the TPC approved Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2052 (2052). The MTP is the RPC's primary planning document, and outlines the objectives, resources, fundamental planning process, and project implementation schedule for the region over the next 30 years. Developed over the past 15 months by RPC staff, MTP 2052 combines extensive stakeholder input, data analysis, and local expertise to present a comprehensive view of the region's transportation challenges and opportunities. Plans were created for each of the Metropolitan Planning Areas served by the RPC, and can be viewed on the RPC website [here](#).

The RPC is also in the final stages of updating the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP describes projects for which funding has been identified, and which are expected to be implemented over the next four Federal Fiscal Years (FFY 2023-20226). Draft documents were presented to the TPC on August 9, 2022, and a final version will be considered for approval at its meeting on September 13, 2022. TIPs have been created for the New Orleans and South Tangipahoa Urbanized Areas, and a combined St. Tammany Parish TIP includes both the Mandeville-Covington and Slidell Urbanized Areas. The draft documents can be viewed [here](#).



SAFETY TRAIN IS PULLING INTO THE STATION! With Xavier University!



Impaired driving is a top contributing factor in fatal and serious injury crashes within the Regional Planning Commission's eight-parish region. For the past two years, the RPC received a grant from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission to offer Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to

Treatment (SBIRT) training to counselors, academic advisors, and office of accountability staff at Southeastern Louisiana State University. The program allows those trained in SBIRT to quickly screen for substance use risk and provide brief interventions or referral to treatment based upon their assessment. Southeastern expanded the program, integrating it into various departments, to help the university reduce substance abuse and impaired driving.

Building upon this past success, the RPC received additional funds to expand the program to a university on the Southshore. On August 5th the Regional Planning

Commission conducted a SBIRT implementation training for Xavier University of Louisiana Counseling Center staff. This training at Xavier University is the first expansion of the program to a university on the Southshore. The RPC will continue to work with the university as they integrate the program into their department and offer screening to all students seen at their counseling center.

Emergency Preparedness Update



At the Aug 19 meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Partnership, Jim LeBlanc (LA Grid Coalition & InfraGuard), Tommy Waller (Center for Security Policy), and Henry Newton (National Disaster Resilience Council), cited the extreme pressure in the US (and abroad) on the Food & Agriculture, and Energy Critical Infrastructure Sectors. They noted how in the past 2 years over 100

food processing and distribution facilities have been damaged by fire, cyber, and destruction of livestock (cattle and poultry). Additionally, there has been pressure to reduce shipments of fertilizer and grain to the farming industry.

In the Energy Sector, pressure has been placed on some railroad carriers to reduce shipments of DEF (diesel exhaust fluid). Every diesel truck (commercial or private) you see driving down the road today has to have this product to drive. And concerning our Electric Infrastructure Vulnerabilities, current planning does not include any contingencies for very long term or extremely wide spread power outages. Additionally, it should be noted that currently domestic military installations receive 99 percent of their electricity from the civilian power grid. If the grid were to be taken down, military assets would be “limited” to assist in any type of disaster relief.

For information about the RPC’s Emergency Preparedness Partnership, contact Chris Laborde at 504-483-8540 or claborde@norpc.org.

Get to Know RPC Staff: Malissa Givhan

Malissa Dietsch-Givhan joined the RPC in January 2019 returning to the New Orleans area from Madison, WI. She currently serves in multiple roles including overseeing the agencies Title VI/DBE/Environmental Justice programs, coordinating public outreach, and as of recently leading as the Watershed Coordinator for the states Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

Prior to joining the RPC Malissa studied at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater where she received a Bachelor of Science in Economics



following up with a dual Masters in Urban Planning and Civil/Environmental Engineering. Upon completion she began her career as a Presidential Management Fellow interning at the Federal Transit Administrations between the Departments of Civil Rights and Planning After a brief tenure at FTA she returned to Madison, Wisconsin where she worked at the local RPC/MPO leading efforts in development of data, outreach tools, and assessment of environmental plans. It is here she fine-tuned her skills as a planner before returning home where she hopes to continue her work in ensuring equitable representation in the planning process and resiliency planning with an emphasis in addressing flooding.

Beyond the planning world Malissa enjoys traveling, gardening, cooking, horseback riding, and enjoying cultural festivities. You can catch her at local Second Lines sometimes on horse as she prepares to ride in parades Mardi Gras 2023.

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