

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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### Regional Planning Commission Geographic Areas of Responsibility



RPC often receives questions concerning our geographic area of responsibility. It's a good question with a slightly complicated answer (or answers) dependent upon which role we are serving.

First, the RPC is one of eight Planning and Development Districts in Louisiana (LAPDD). These districts were created by the state legislature in 1977 and given the responsibility for multi-jurisdictional economic and environmental planning. The RPC's LAPDD includes five parishes: Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany. In this capacity, the U.S. Department of Commerce has designated the RPC as the Economic Development District for southeast Louisiana.

The RPC also serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for four urbanized areas in southeast Louisiana. MPOs are boards

made up of elected officials, representatives from transportation agencies, and citizens. The Federal Highway Administration requires every urbanized area with more than 50,000 people to have an MPO for the purpose of coordination transportation planning and federal transportation at a regional level. An urbanized area is a populated core of over 50,000 people, and a metropolitan planning area (MPA) is the extent to which an urbanized area is expected to grow over the next 20 years. The four urbanized/metropolitan planning areas in our MPO include New Orleans, Mandeville-Covington, Slidell, and Hammond-Ponchatoula. The MPAs include all or parts of the eight RPC parishes and St. James Parish.

Finally, Metropolitan (greater than 50,000) and Micropolitan (10,000 to 50,000) Statistical Areas (MSAs). These statistical areas are defined by the census as urban cores and the surrounding communities with which that core is economically and socially integrated. RPC associated

Metropolitan Statistical Areas geographies include the New Orleans-Metairie (Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes); the Hammond MSA (Tangipahoa Parish), and the Slidell-Mandeville-Covington MSA (St. Tammany Parish). The New Orleans -Metairie-Slidell LA-MS Combined Statistical Area (CMSA) includes all RPC MSA's and adds the Bogalusa Micropolitan Statistical Area (Washington Parish) and the Picayune Mississippi Micropolitan Statistical Area (Pearl River County, Mississippi). Our region also includes Regions 7, 8, and 9 of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

For maps and more of the many geographies of the Regional Planning Commission, visit [www.norpc.org](http://www.norpc.org).

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## RPC Receives Climate and Pollution Reduction Grant



The RPC has recently received a \$1 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The CPRG program was created by the Inflation Reduction Act, and provides non-competitive planning grants to states, regions, tribes, and territories to complete climate action plans over the next four

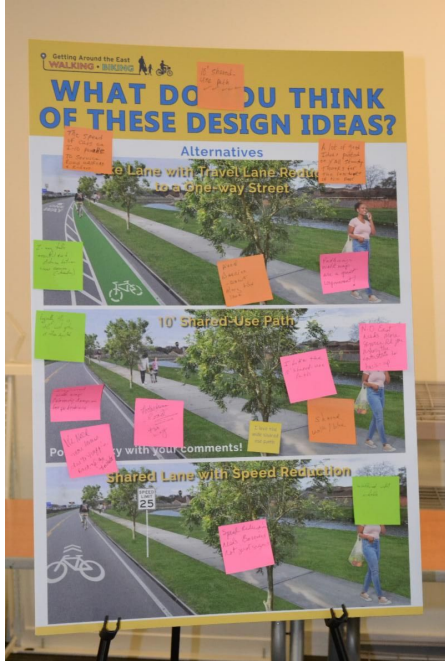
years. An additional \$4.6 in competitive grants will be available in 2024 to implement greenhouse gas reduction measures. The RPC will utilize its planning grant to conduct climate action planning across nine parishes: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa. A Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) will be completed by March, 2024 and will include a greenhouse gas inventory, list of priority emission reduction measures, and an analysis of potential benefits to low income and disadvantaged communities. In order to be eligible for the implementation grant funding potential emission reduction measures must be listed in the PCAP. By 2025, the RPC will complete a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) that will build on the PCAP and include additional emission reduction measures, community benefit analyses, and workforce planning analyses. It is hoped that the PCAP and CCAP will provide a path forward for continually reducing green house gas emissions over the long term, thereby reducing the region's vulnerability to the effects of climate change. More information about the grants can be found [here](#), and anyone interested in learning about the RPC's CPRG planning process can contact Tom Haysley at [thaysley@norpc.org](mailto:thaysley@norpc.org).

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## I-10 New Orleans East Service Roads Corridor Analysis - Complete

RPC has concluded a feasibility study of the 5.2 mile long, 2-lane north and south service roads in New Orleans East, between Dwyer Rd. and I-510, triggered by 6 pedestrian fatalities and 1 bicycle fatality since 2017 and a need to prioritize economically disadvantaged communities in support of equity and improved access. To better understand why these crashes occurred, we measured the top speed of cars between signalized intersections and collected vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian counts at multiple locations. We also reviewed the most recent planning work completed by the City, RPC, RTA, Bike Easy, and RIDE that highlighted infrastructure and policy recommendations in relation to health and safety risks for vulnerable populations and work access and livability for all roadway users.

Findings indicate vulnerable road user crashes occur on the roadway when there are inadequate off-road facilities, forcing people who walk, bike, or who use



transit or wheelchairs, to travel in the roadway. Speed data revealed that actual average speeds were 10 to 23 mph higher than posted speed of 35 mph. . While 64% of all severity pedestrian crashes did not occur at an intersection, 100% occurred in the roadway and 82% were at night. 100% of all bicycle crashes occurred at intersections. The locations with the most people walking were taken at Crowder Blvd. at the north and south I-10 Service Roads and the I-10 south side service Rd. at Bullard Avenue. This corresponds to more dense residential housing at Crowder and commercial shopping locations on Bullard.

Public outreach was broad and included multiple City departments, City Council representatives for Districts D & E, LA DOTD Traffic Engineering, Bike Easy, RIDE New Orleans, State Senators and Representatives for the area, and neighborhood representatives including East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC), New Orleans East Matters Coalition, Le Sanctuary, Inc. Because of a lack of available public right-of-way to widen

or retrofit street accommodations for a bike lane, combined with traffic speed and volume, public survey responses and discussions with the people of New Orleans East, this pointed to the viability of a 10 foot wide off-road shared-use path along the length of each service road. In addition, 3 pedestrian bridges over I-10 at Mayo Rd, Bundy Rd., and Wright Rd. were recommended to improve north-south accessibility. The total estimated cost is \$57 million dollars. The City is pursuing discretionary grants under the IIJA federal Transportation bill to potentially fund 100% of the cost. Without discretionary funding, improvements would be phased over time.



[Read Full Report](#)

## RPC Staff Member Highlight - Joan Rupp

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) welcomed Joan Rupp in June as the Intergovernmental Coordinator. Joan's has years of experience as an educator, customer service representative, and advisor making her the perfect fit for her role with RPC. In a short 4 months Joan has excelled in her role, assisting in the day-to-day operational activities for RPC, assisting staff with grants, contracts, and project administration and coordination with local and State agencies throughout the region.





Joan is known for her energetic, outgoing personality. She can multitask, is reliable, well organized, detailed, professional, and courteous. She is looking forward to working more with RPC's Clean Cities Coalition by providing assistance and targeted outreach, within the coalition's territory, to raise awareness and foster a greater understanding of alternative fuels.

Joan obtained her Bachelor's in French with a minor in Business Administration from Louisiana State University, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Centenary College in Shreveport, and certification in French Secondary Education. Joan moved to New Orleans after living in France to begin her new life as a young professional. She fell in love with the city of New Orleans and its celebration of different languages and cultures.

Joan enjoys spending her free time with her family and friends at local festivals and happy hours, talking walks up to Bayou St. John and in City Park, and cooking.

If you would like to contact Joan, please reach out at: [jrupp@norpc.org](mailto:jrupp@norpc.org)

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