



HOUMA-THIBODAUX METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION/SOUTH CENTRAL  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
**PATH FORWARD 2018 UPDATE**

South Central Planning and  
Development Commission  
P. O. Box 1870  
Gray, LA. 70359  
Telephone 985-851-2900  
Facsimile 985-851-4472  
Website: [www.scpdc.org](http://www.scpdc.org)



## **Addendum: Update to HTMPO/SCPDC Path Forward- August 2018**

The initial Path Forward Plan for the HTMPO/SCPDC was submitted to EPA in August 2013 and updated in March 2015.

### **Public Outreach and Education:**

The majority of the activity since the last HTMPO/SCPDC Path Forward Plan Update has been in the development of a site on the South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) website and the announcements of information and meetings regarding Clean Air initiatives in Louisiana at the MPO Policy and Technical Advisory Board meetings.

### **South Central Planning Website:**

SCPDC Staff has developed the following site for the Environmental Air Quality Coalition.

<http://www.scpdc.org/departments/planning/environmental-air-quality-coalition/>

This site has also been placed on the SCPDC Facebook Page with other social media sites.

Meetings and information have been posted on both sites and will continue to be updated as additional information and meetings come forward.

### **UPWP Initiatives:**

The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization prepared and approved a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for 2016-17 FY, 2017-18 FY and a 2018-19 FY. Included in the work document regarding Air Quality activities were:

- The SCPDC Region is currently meeting ozone attainment readings.
- Ozone attainment will continue to be monitored.
- In April of 2013 the HTMPO was granted admittance to the EPA Ozone Advance Program.
- Path Forward document was submitted to EPA in August 2013 and updates have been submitted periodically.
- The MPO will participate in any regional air quality coalition or similar types of Environmental Organizations focused on improving the region's air quality.

### **MTMPO Meetings:**

- **10/27/16**-MPO Policy Committee meeting staff announced the creation of the Regional Air Quality Coalition and requested volunteers. They indicated that quarterly meetings would be held to develop specific, measurable, assignable, realistic and timely (SMART) goals to improve air quality in the SCPDC Region.
- **11/10/16**-The first SCPDC Regional Air Quality meeting was held and participation was low. Due to our region being in attainment it's difficult to find interested elected officials and staff.
- **1/26/17**-Staff announced at the MPO Policy committee that they had attended the Louisiana Clean Fuel meeting and shared information with the Regional Air Quality Coalition. Staff also provided informational handouts to the committee from the Solar Industry Trade Association.
- **4/27/17**-Staff reported to the MPO Policy committee that EPA had slowed its efforts with Air Quality and Water Quality due to the new Federal Administration and a change in direction.
- **10/26/18**-At the MPO Policy committee meeting staff announced they had attended an Alternate Fuel Corridor meeting in Baton Rouge, LA, and that DEQ was looking for stakeholders.
- **1/25/18**-Staff indicated they had attended the State Clean Air Stakeholders meeting in Baton Rouge, LA, to the MPO Policy Committee and answered any questions from the committee.
- **4/26/18**-At the MPO Policy Committee meeting staff announced that it was Air Quality Awareness Week and also handed out local and state events for air quality initiatives.

### **Traction Stagnant:**

Unfortunately South Central Planning and the Houma-Thibodaux MPO have found it difficult to gain traction on the ozone issues. Much of this is reflective of the region's ability to stay within compliance without taking additional action and the level of compliance by the Federal Government remaining as is. Other areas have been gaining traction such as our new locations within the region for CNG and LNG fueling stations and our Ridesharing/Carpooling efforts.

### **CNG/LNG Fueling Stations:**

- **Houma, La-**New CNG station constructed in 2016 on Howard Ave
- **Port Fourchon, LA-**New LNG facility constructed at the Port in lower Lafourche Parish.

### **Ridesharing/Carpooling Gaining Traction:**

- **4/9/18-** Presentation on ridesharing/carpooling to Nicholls State University Student Government Association.
- **1/29/18-5/17/18-7/12/18-** Meetings with Nicholls administration to design and implement information that will be distributed to students and faculty on how to set up a carpool. The project involves development of information for the Nicholls and SCPDC websites including carpool safety tips and guides and links to regional transportation services. Project development is ongoing. (Information Attached)
- **8/17/18-** Made available Good Earth/City of Thibodaux public transit schedules to residential students on Move-In Day, August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **8/17/18-** Presentation to Regional Businesses Services Team regarding ridesharing and commuter tax incentive programs. Prepared a one-page flyer that will be distributed to other business and industry associations on the Commuter Tax Incentive program.

In addition to the Nicholls and commuter tax incentive program promotions, staff plan to work with the area technical and community colleges to promote ride sharing, investigate bicycle-sharing programs and develop a how-to guide for creation of vanpools.

## Attachment 1



South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) is the designated U. S. Department of Transportation Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Houma-Thibodaux urban area. SCPDC is involved in efforts to improve transportation throughout the region it serves. SCPDC is partnering with Nicholls State University and Good Earth Transit to spread the word about sustainable transportation that can help save students money and get you where you need to go!

Find tips on setting up your own carpool at the Colonel Carpool link.



Did you know Good Earth and Thibodaux Transit provide service in the City of Thibodaux and Terrebonne Parish? Both the Nicholls Thibodaux campus and the Houma Allied Health Building are on Good Earth routes. Good Earth also serves the Fletcher Community and Technical College Schriever and Thibodaux campuses.

Thibodaux Transit serves Nicholls and Fletcher's Thibodaux Facility. Need routes and schedules? Check out Good Earth and Thibodaux Transit websites.



Greyhound has returned service to Thibodaux and Houma. Routes and schedules are found online at Greyhound. Service is offered between Thibodaux, the New Orleans Louis Armstrong International Airport in Kenner and other destinations.



Amtrak's Sunset Limited line stops in Schriever. Amtrak passengers can travel Eastbound to New Orleans and Westbound to Houston and beyond. The depot is located at 145 Burlington Court, in Schriever. For more information check out the Sunset Limited schedules and routes.





Members of a carpool use private vehicles to share rides to and from common destinations like Nicholls State University. The carpool members get together and decide on ground rules for sharing rides including who will drive, sharing of costs, meeting points, and other details. If you are interested in participating in a carpool, connect with other interested Nicholls students through SGA social media sites to find interested students from your home community.



Carpooling is a great way to save money. Use the [Commuter Cost Calculator](#) to find out your savings!



The American Automobile Association (AAA) calculates the composite average cost per mile for all vehicle types and publishes the data on its website each year. Use the [AAA calculator](#) to learn your estimated Annual Cost Per Mile.



Carpooling helps reduce carbon emissions!  
You can calculate your carbon footprint with U. S. EPA's [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#).



Carpooling reduces traffic on our roads and the need for parking spaces.



Carpooling cuts down on stress when riders take turn driving!

Ridesharing Tips  
[Rideshare Checklist](#)  
Rideshare Safety Suggestions

**Need a Back-up Plan? Check out [Good Earth and Thibodaux Transit!](#)**



## Ridesharing Tips

- ✓ Decide if you are going to drive alternate days, drive every day, or ride every day.
- ✓ If it is not a shared driving arrangement, agree on a payment schedule.
- ✓ Set up a line of communication. If someone cannot make it on a given day, let the driver know in advance (if possible the day before). Don't forget to give notice of days you won't be sharing the ride due to personal schedules and plans.
- ✓ Establish time schedules and pick-up points. Be prompt.
- ✓ Establish a rule for latecomers. Decide how long the carpool will wait for a passenger (usually no more than 5 minutes).
- ✓ Avoid side trips on the way home.
- ✓ Keep the car clean, well maintained, and filled with enough gas for each trip.
- ✓ Decide on radio use, smoking policies, and other similar concerns before you start carpooling. For example, will snacks and/or beverages be allowed?
- ✓ Have a back-up plan for emergency situations. For example, if your carpool driver must leave early for due to illness, a family emergency or unexpectedly has to stay late, what is the carpooling plan? What are your other transportation options?
- ✓ Develop an environment that encourages open discussion of carpool-related conflicts or problems.
- ✓ Establish a communication plan so adjustments can be made with minimum inconvenience.
- ✓ An agreement to a carpool is not a binding contract. If you find carpooling is not for you, give your group sufficient notice so they can make alternate arrangements or find a replacement.

Here is a [Rideshare Checklist](#) you can use to help set up your own carpool.



## Rideshare Safety Suggestions

- ✓ When you meet new people or share transportation, always use common sense, and always protect your personal safety. You alone are responsible for your safety.
- ✓ Before agreeing to travel together, arrange to meet your prospective rideshare partner in person in a well-lighted, populated, public place to discuss schedules, driving safety, insurance coverage, and other items on the carpool discussion checklist. Feel free to bring a friend for support. If you are uncomfortable for any reason, then simply decline the offer to rideshare. Always tell at least one other person about your plans and where and when you're meeting your potential travel mate.
- ✓ Confirm your prospective partner's phone number by calling it. Check the phone number in the phone book or online. Record your travel partner's driver's license or other photo ID information when you first meet them; ask for three personal references, and call them.
- ✓ Follow your instincts: if you do not feel safe with the person, do not travel with him or her. Trust your initial feelings and do not travel with someone you do not trust.
- ✓ Establish a chain of communication and a backup carpool plan. Exchange emergency contact numbers before traveling, and exchange any important medical information. Ensure everyone has a copy of home, work or cell phone numbers and agree in advance what will happen in the event of illness or mechanical problems – it is best to expect the unexpected.
- ✓ If you are the passenger, record the make/model of the car you will ride in, the driver's license information and the license plate number. If you are a driver record the passenger's personal information. Take a few pictures of your carpool partners and their cars. Give these details to a family member or friend and let them know when you will be carpooling.
- ✓ Keep a charged cell phone with you at all times.
- ✓ Drive safely. Speeding, taking chances or just plain negligence should never be tolerated.
- ✓ Do not ride with alcohol, drugs, firearms or any other items that may cause you harm or violate the law. Do not drive a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or ride with someone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- ✓ Do not carry or expose large amounts of cash.
- ✓ Buckle up.
- ✓ A poorly maintained car can consume more fuel than one that is properly maintained. A well maintained vehicle will ensure a safe, reliable, comfortable ride that's better for the environment.

