



## ROADS SCHOLAR

# Local agencies engage strongly in LTAP's Road Safety 365 class

Louisiana LTAP's latest Roads Scholar #11 class, "Road Safety 365," received positive reviews across the state. After four sessions held in Mandeville, Minden, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge, the course received an impressive average rating of 4.79 out of 5—a clear sign that the message of safer roads is resonating with local agencies.

In total, 96 participants took part in the training, with 84 representing local public agencies such as parish governments, municipalities, and public works departments. The strong turnout highlights the ongoing demand for practical, field-focused learning that helps local road crews make their communities safer.

The Road Safety Workshop, led by Instructor Nick Verret, Jr., helps local practitioners understand how everyday construction, maintenance, and design decisions can affect roadway safety. Verret's approachable teaching style and wealth of real-world experience were frequently mentioned in evaluations, with participants praising how he connected complex safety concepts to familiar, day-to-day roadwork challenges.

"Our road safety training is hitting the mark," said LTAP Director Rudynah Capone. "It's inspiring to see so much enthusiasm for hands-on learning that helps local crews work smarter and safer every day."

The training encourages participants to think differently about the roads they build, maintain, and drive on. Throughout the course, attendees explored the importance of roadway safety, separate myths from reality, and learn how to "read the road" to spot potential hazards before they become serious problems. They also discussed practical, low-cost solutions,

better signage, drainage improvements, and safer work zone setups that can make a real difference in preventing crashes.

Each session blends discussion, relatable examples, and actionable takeaways. Participants leave with tools to plan and fund safety improvements and promote a stronger safety culture within their agencies. The ultimate goal is to help each attendee identify at least one improvement they can bring back and implement in their community.

When asked about future training topics, participants were unanimous in wanting more of LTAP's hands-on, practical sessions. Traffic Control and Work Zone Safety topped the list of requests, followed closely by MUTCD and Signage Standards. Many also expressed interest in Heavy Equipment Operation and Safety, along with Pavement and Drainage Maintenance. A few participants from larger or more urbanized areas emphasized the need for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Accessibility training as well.

Participants also noted how engaging and practical the instruction was, crediting Verret for bringing safety concepts to life through examples that applied directly to their work. Many said the class helped them see safety from a new perspective and gave them practical steps they could take back to their crews.

Based on the feedback, LTAP plans to expand its lineup of Work Zone Safety, MUTCD, and equipment operation courses in the coming year. The center remains committed to providing practical, high-value training that supports local agencies in their shared goal of achieving Destination Zero Deaths on Louisiana's roads.