



## EDUCATIONAL MEETING #1 – NOTES

Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 | 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Phone: (225) 614-9292 | Conference ID: 509468907  
Webinar Link: <https://lsu.webex.com/join/cmelson1>  
Room 175 | Transportation Training & Education Center  
4099 Gourrier Ave | Baton Rouge, LA 7080850

### 1. Attendance

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- 12 members attended in-person and six attended via webinar. Audience included members from the private sector, local government, state government, and academia.

### 2. Notes

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- Dr. Mensah (Stantec) initiated meeting.
- Mr. Bradley Reynolds (Kittelson & Associates, Inc.) presented an overview of the North Carolina SimCap, including its: (1) history, (2) current organization, size, and operation, (3) main activities, and (4) “lessons learned” on a variety of initiatives.
- Mr. Pong Wu (CRPC) presented a detailed case study in Mansfield, OH, which included: (1) thorough traffic analysis, modeling, and simulation, (2) crash simulation, and (3) how these analyses and graphics were used to inform decision makers.
- Mr. Christopher Melson (LSU) presented highlights of the developed SimCap Louisiana charter, specifically its: (1) main goals and objectives, (2) main activities, and (3) structure of coordinating committee.
- Mr. Melson presented key results of the supplied online survey:
  - SimCap Louisiana’s two most important objectives are to:
    - Increase *awareness* of LADOTD initiatives, national activities, and the latest SimCap tools; and
    - Provide *educational opportunities* to learn of more appropriate and efficient ways of conducting SimCap analysis.
  - The top activities to feature at the educational meetings:
    - *Training*: internal or external speakers provide training on specific SimCap tools and software;
    - *Peer experiences*: practitioners present on their experiences with a current SimCap analysis method or tool; and
    - *Federal initiatives*: external speakers present on current, SimCap-related FHWA projects, program initiatives, or guidance documents.
  - The top, specific topics to discuss at the educational meetings:
    - *SimCap studies* to evaluate mitigation/management strategies for *recurring congestion*;
    - *Guidance on the application of SimCap tools*; and
    - *SimCap studies* to investigate the impact of *emerging technology*.
  - High interest tool-specific topics to discuss at the educational meetings, with the greatest knowledge gap: (1) mesoscopic simulation, (2) macroscopic simulation, and (3) sketch-planning tools.
- An open discussion occurred with the following main points:



- Provide professional development hours (PDHs) for the educational meetings;
- Vary times of the educational meetings (not just at lunch, but also in the evenings after work);
- Prefer combination of internal and external presenters at educational meetings;
- Encourage role and involvement of university students (currently, SimCap Louisiana is solely focused on practitioners);
- Organize (recurring) roundtable discussions with leaders across the state to determine SimCap-related priorities, knowledge gaps, and hot topics;
- Potentially leverage and associate organization with ITE or GRITS (very similar group of individuals participate in ITE, GRITS, and SimCap); and
- Potentially replace (or take up as an initiative) the stagnant VISSIM Users Group.

### **3. Action Items**

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- Read draft charter and provide comments to Mr. Melson (everyone).
- Those interested in being involved in the coordinating committee, contact Dr. Mensah or Mr. Melson (everyone).
- Ratify charter and establish coordinating committee at next meeting (everyone).
- Those interested in presenting at next educational meeting, contact Dr. Mensah or Mr. Melson (everyone).
- Organize next educational meeting (Dr. Mensah and Mr. Melson).
- Investigate role and “partnership” with ITE and GRITS (Dr. Mensah and Mr. Melson).
- Continue using the LinkedIn Group as a sharing platform (everyone).
- Continue promoting and discussing SimCap Louisiana (everyone).