

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Workshop Session 3

Time of Session: 1:30-3:00PM

Session Title: Mixed Session

A. Managing Risk in a Changing Climate

Speaker: **Anna Schwab**, Center for the Study of Natural Hazards and Disasters, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B. Transportation Safety and Access: A Case Study of the St. Claude Bridge in New Orleans

Speaker: **Earthea Nance**, The University of New Orleans

Room: 257

Head Count: 17

Note Taker: Nandini Seth

Transportation safety and access: A case-study of the St. Claude Bridge in New Orleans.

Presenter: Earthea Nance¹

This project is a “practicum” (based on the community-university collaborative model) partnered with lower 9th ward community which addressed serious safety problem in the St. Claude Bridge. Connect the 9, a group of graduate students fulfilling their Practicum requirement for the Master of Urban and Regional Planning, investigated safe alternatives for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the Industrial Canal, which separated the Lower Ninth Ward from the rest of New Orleans.

As a community-university collaborative model, this project offered short-term and long-term recommendations to improve safety and accessibility at the existing bridge. Additionally to these, as a joint (researchers and community together) problem solving measure, the group also suggested some immediate actions that need to be taken regardless of whether the short-term or long-term goals are actually implemented. These actions include:

- Add Shared Lane Markers at 200-Foot Intervals
- Improve Signage
- Improve Lighting
- Additional Garbage Cans
- Improve Railings on Stairs and Walkways
- Improve Grating on Bike Lane Portion of Bridge

The short-term recommendations or retrofit alternative builds up on the immediate actions and includes a series of projects to secure an easy and safe access across the existing bridge: 1)widened walkways 2)improved visibility and 3)improved access with ADA accessible ramps. While the long-term recommendations call for a new bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists only, parallel to the existing bridge.

MURP students received significant support when they presented the study on April 24 to the New Orleans City Council Transportation Committee. Councilwoman Kristin Gisleson Palmer was particularly concerned that the city provides equitable transportation.

¹ Dr. Earthea Nance, Phd, CFM