



**Governor's Office of  
Homeland Security &  
Emergency Preparedness**

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**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 30, 2012

**DOTD announces priority routes for Tangipahoa Parish**

Baton Rouge, La. - The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) has developed a list of priority routes which they will strive to quickly and safely reopen in order to facilitate evacuation efforts in Tangipahoa Parish.

DOTD crews are working diligently to reopen area roadways closed during the storm. The routes that crews will be working to reopen first in Tangipahoa Parish include I-55, I-12, U.S. 51, U.S. 190 and La. 16.

DOTD urges motorists to use extra caution when traveling on roadways during hazardous weather conditions and stay off the roads whenever possible. Motorists should drive slowly and carefully, and avoid driving while distracted. Always allow for extra driving time, reduce speeds when visibility is low, and make sure there is plenty of room between vehicles. As always, DOTD reminds motorists to buckle up and refrain from drinking and driving.

DOTD is working in conjunction with law enforcement and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security to issue information to the public regarding road closures and alternate routes. Citizens can access this information on real-time traffic and road conditions by using the 511 Traveler Information System simply by dialing 511 from their telephone and saying the route or region about which they are seeking information. Out-of-state travelers can call 1-888-ROAD-511 (1-888-762-3511). Travelers can also access this information by visiting the 511 Traveler Information Web site at [www.511la.org](http://www.511la.org).

Motorists can also obtain information regarding road closures by contacting DOTD's Customer Service Center at 1-877-4LA-DOTD (1-877-452-3683). The center is typically open from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, but has extended its hours during the storm.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is committed to delivering transportation and public works systems that enhance the quality of life. In addition to more than 16,600 miles of roadway, including over 890 miles of interstate, DOTD supports the development of the state's aviation, marine and rail infrastructures. Through this work, we are able to facilitate economic development, create job opportunities, improve vital evacuation routes, and make critical freight corridors safer and more efficient.

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