



Central Update

JULY 2022

A Quarterly Publication of
Central Mississippi Planning &
Development District

CMPDD is Accepting Comments Related to the Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2023 through 2026

One of the primary planning responsibilities of Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) as the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is to prepare and maintain a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a multi-year listing of transportation projects that have received a commitment of funding from a combination of federal, state, and/or local sources within the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Area. The TIP serves as a short-term planning document that lists approximately four (4) years of federally funded or regionally significant transportation projects designed to carry out the recommendations of the region's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The projects include various capital and operating needs of the region including reconstruction, maintenance, and operation of major highways, arterials, collectors, and intersections; maintenance of the public transit services; and construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements within the Jackson Metropolitan Area.

CMPDD invites the public to review and provide comments on the Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement program. The 45-day comment period began June 16, 2022, and ends August 2, 2022. The draft document is available for review on CMPDD's website at www.cmpdd.org/public-notices/. During the review period, comments can be submitted using one of the methods listed below.

Ways to Provide Comments:

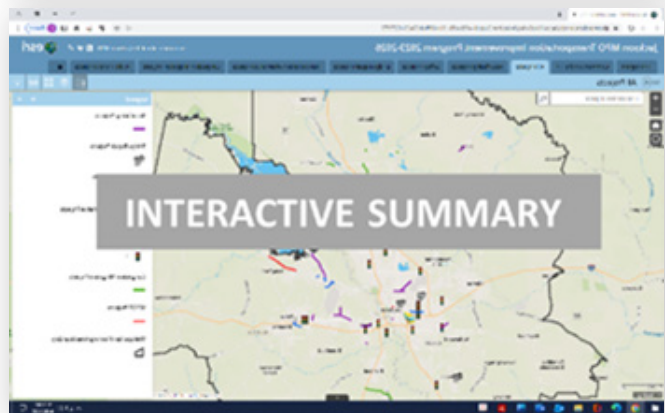
- Email MPO Staff: mpo@cmpdd.org
- Mail written comments:
Lesley Callender
CMPDD
1020 Centre Pointe Blvd.
Pearl, MS 39208
- Speak Directly with MPO Staff: 601.981.1511

For questions regarding the MPO process or for assistance locating an electronic copy of the proposed TIP please contact Lesley Callender at lcallender@cmpdd.org.



2023-2026
TIP
DRAFT June 2022

TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM
FOR THE JACKSON METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)



CMMA

The Central Mississippi Mayors Association (CMMA) recently awarded two (2) 2022 CMMA Scholarships to students within the District. Nick Thornton from Brandon High School and Allyse Hayes from Pearl High School were selected from 21 students who applied. Each applicant excelled academically and exceeded expectations with community service. Congratulations to these deserving recipients!



CMPDD Submits CDBG Public Facilities and DRA SEDAP & CIF Applications For 2022

FY 2022 has been very busy for CMPDD's Community and Economic Development staff. District staff prepared a total of 11 applications for the Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities (CDBG PF), the Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP), and Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) grant.

The CDBG PF Program provides grant funds to local units of government for a variety of public improvement projects (e.g., water or sewer facilities, storm drainage, public buildings, street reconstruction, etc.) that benefit low to moderate-income families and areas. Special priority is given to water and sanitary sewer projects that eliminate existing health and safety hazards. Over the past several months the District has been assisting local governments with the preparation of CDBG PF application. The District submitted six (6) applications to the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) for review. Listed below are the applications that were submitted:

- City of Byram: Flood and Drainage Improvements
- Madison County: Sewer Repairs
- Town of D'Lo: Elevated Water Tank Improvements
- Town of Edwards: Water and Sewer Improvements
- Town of Georgetown: Sewage Lagoon Improvements
- Town of Puckett: Wastewater Improvements

DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress,

which serves a 252 county/parish area in an eight-state region. In Mississippi, 45 counties (including all seven (7) CMPDD counties) are eligible for funding under DRA. The purpose of DRA is to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development partnerships that will have a positive impact on the region's economy. This year \$2,856,357 will be available for the State of Mississippi through their State's Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP). SEDAP is only open to public and non-profit entities in the DRA-designated counties. In addition to SEDAP, eligible applicants can also apply for Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) funding through DRA. CIF funding can be used for flood control, basic public infrastructure, and transportation infrastructure. The District submitted five (5) applications to DRA:

- City of Brandon: Water Improvements
- MS Rural Water Association: Construction of new training facility
- Piney Woods School: Infrastructure Improvements
- Town of Braxton: Water Infrastructure Improvements
- Town of Puckett: Water Line Improvements

We encourage all of those interested in future funding to contact Amy Smith to begin preparing for 2023's grant funding cycle.

The Planning Corner Update

District planners began the existing land use survey for Simpson County as the first step in an update to their Comprehensive Plan. Work has continue to progress on the City of Brandon's Comprehensive Plan as planners met with department heads, reviewed existing land use data, defined a study area, and began conversations with the Mayor and Board of Alderman on necessary revisions.



District planners are working with Rankin County on an update to their Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance as well. The existing land use survey was completed and is being analyzed. An online survey has been released to residents as a method of public engagement.

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District (PRVWSD) is also working with District planners to update their Master Plan which was last updated in 2013. Over 1,000 responses have been collected through the online survey since it was released in late June. Campground visitors are also being surveyed. This public input will be compiled and presented to the PRVWSD Board for consideration in the Plan update.

The District planners have fielded numerous questions and provided guidance on zoning amendments because of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act becoming law during this quarter. CMPDD planners have continued to study the Act, participated in webinars, and sought guidance on the regulatory authority, including zoning, provided to local governments through the Act. Our planners remain available to member governments as local decisions are considered.

Mary Powers Retires as Director of Workforce

After 18 years of service to the District, Ms. Mary Powers retired as Workforce Director on June 30, 2022. Mary began her career with CMPDD as a Workforce Coordinator following her retirement from the Mississippi Employment Security Commission. In 2017, Mary was promoted to Workforce Director and served as an integral part of CMPDD's management team. Under Mary's leadership, the District enhanced services by streamlining training and assistance for job seekers through training providers and building genuine relationships with industry throughout the Southcentral

Mississippi Works Workforce Area. We wish Mary all the best in her retirement.



Walk with Ease

6-Week Walking Program

This program helps to:

- Reduce the pain and discomfort of arthritis
- Increase balance, strength and walking pace
- Build confidence in your ability to be physically active
- Improve overall health

Open to:

- Families
- Churches
- Community Organizations
- Volunteer groups
- Business leaders

Walk With Ease program can teach you how to safely make physical activity part of your everyday life.

For more information, contact Sharon Dallis, Nutrition Activity Coordinator or Chelsea Crittle, PhD, at 601-981-1516.

Robin Parker Appointed to Director of Workforce

CMPDD announces that Dr. Robin Parker has been promoted to Workforce Director effective July 1, 2022. Robin has been with CMPDD since January 2021 and served as Workforce Coordinator. Prior to joining CMPDD, Robin served as the Dean of Community and Economic Development at Hinds Community College. Robin was instrumental in working with a team to recruit Continental Tire to the metro area and continues to work with the company to meet hiring and retention goals. In this role, she led workforce and economic development projects for

the College district. Prior leadership experience also includes serving as the Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction at the Mississippi Community College Board and Manager of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment at the Research and Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University.

Robin has a Doctorate Degree in Leadership, a Master of Science in Technology Education, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, all from Mississippi State University. She resides in Brandon, MS with her husband and two (2) daughters.

An advertisement for the Alzheimer's and Dementia Program. The background features a large, soft-focus image of a baby's face. In the foreground, there are two dolls: a Black girl doll on the left wearing a pink winter hat and a white and pink winter coat, and a white boy doll on the right wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and a black baseball cap. A circular graphic in the center contains the text: "Therapy dolls help to ease anxiety among individuals with Dementia." The CMPDD logo is in the top right corner, with the text "PROMOTING REGIONAL EXCELLENCE SINCE 1968" around it. The main title "Cuddle and Comfort with Central" is written in a large, cursive font. Below the title is the text "Alzheimer's and Dementia Program". At the bottom, it says: "For more information, contact Sharon Dallis, Nutrition Activity Coordinator or Chelsea Crittle, PhD, Aging Director at 601-981-1516."/>

PROMOTING REGIONAL EXCELLENCE SINCE 1968
CMPDD

Cuddle and Comfort with Central

Alzheimer's and Dementia Program

Therapy dolls help to ease anxiety among individuals with Dementia.

For more information, contact Sharon Dallis, Nutrition Activity Coordinator or Chelsea Crittle, PhD, Aging Director at 601-981-1516.

Redistricting Update

The District received the 2020 Census population data in September 2021 and began an analysis to determine which jurisdictions are in need of redistricting. The process involves utilizing the District's GIS system to overlay current municipal ward lines and county supervisor and justice court districts over the new 2020 Census population data to determine where changes are needed.

The District has contracted with 20 jurisdictions to develop redistricting plans. These include six (6) counties, 13 municipalities and one (1) school district. During this past quarter the following plans were adopted: Copiah County, Warren County, City of Flowood, and the Rankin County School District. To date, a total of nine plans have been adopted.

The next phase of this project will involve meeting with election officials to redraw voting precincts based on the changes to election districts.

MAPDD Annual Conference

The Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts (MAPDD) held its annual conference in Biloxi, MS at the Beau Rivage April 19-22. It was attended by over 700 individuals from across the state. Speakers included Mississippi's Favorite Reporter, Walt Grayson; NADO Executive Director, Joe McKinney; as well as Mississippi Secretary of State, Michael Watson. Concurrent sessions offered during the conference included sessions on Medicaid Waiver, Workforce, Aging, and Planning. Plans are already underway for next year's conference. Mark your calendars for April 18-23, 2023.



CMPDD Announces Funding for 4 Metro-Area Transportation Alternative Projects

In May, CMPDD announced that the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved over \$1.6 million in funding for metro-area Transportation Alternatives (TA) projects. The TA program is a federal-aid transportation program that provides funding through the MPO, as part of the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Transportation Bill, to local municipalities and counties for transportation alternative improvements in the urbanized area. Transportation alternatives funding is made available for projects which promote accessibility and mobility for non-drivers through the development of on and off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities and infrastructure projects which provide additional modal options for accessing schools and public transportation.

In total, the CMPDD received 14 applications requesting \$6.7 million in TA funding. Due to the limited amount of funding available, the MPO was only able to fully fund the four (4) highest rated projects. Combined, jurisdictions receiving the \$1.6 million in transportation funding have committed to provide over \$1.2 million in local matching funds.

The deadline for local jurisdictions to submit project applications to CMPDD was March 31st. Once received, the applications were graded and evaluated based on multiple scoring criteria approved by the MPO's Planning Policy Committee including:

- Does the project provide more than the minimum required local matching funds?
- What percentage of the total funds available did the project request? Projects requesting the least amount of Federal funding received priority.
- Is the project ready to go to construction? Projects ready to proceed to construction were given priority over projects that may still have design work and/or utility and right-of-way factors to address.
- Does the project improve connectivity to schools, transit stop locations, or other bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities?

For more information regarding the MPO transportation planning process or Transportation Alternatives program visit the MPO website at www.cmpdd.org.

Entity	Project	Federal TA Funding	Local Matching Funds
Brandon	Marquette Rd. Multi-Use Path Between Amphitheater Trails and Quarry Park Trails	\$670,425	\$287,325
Flowood	Old Fannin Rd. & Flowood Dr. Multi-Use Path Between Kroger Entrance and Flowood Dr.	\$236,193	\$236,193
Flowood	Luckney Rd. Multi-Use Path Between Hartfield Academy and Flowood Dr./Wirtz Rd.	\$168,935	\$168,935
Flowood	E. Metro Pkwy. to Liberty Rd. Multi-Use Path Between E. Metro Pkwy. and Liberty Rd.	\$559,556	\$559,556

Hazard Mitigation Planning Continues

CMPDD has a long history of assisting member governments, universities, and the MEMA District 5 Region with Hazard Mitigation planning and is currently assisting numerous governments with updates to their Hazard Mitigation Plans. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local jurisdictions to maintain an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to maintain grant eligibility for certain pre- and post- disaster grant programs available through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition, Plans are required to be reviewed and updated every five (5) years to account for any changes that might have occurred that could increase or decrease a community's risk to a particular hazard.

Predicting where the next disaster will occur, and how severe its impact will be on a community is difficult. Given the right conditions natural disasters, such as tornadoes and flash floods, can occur at anytime and anyplace. Their human and financial consequences can be significant. Mitigation Planning is intended to assist communities in determining their risks to natural disasters and developing an action plan to address the known risks by lessening the impact of natural disasters when they do take place.

The following jurisdictions have received final approval from MEMA and FEMA on their 2021-2026 or 2022-2027 Hazard Mitigation Plans:

- City of Brandon
- City of Clinton
- City of Flora
- City of Florence
- City of Flowood
- City of Richland
- City of Ridgeland
- City of Vicksburg
- Rankin County
- Warren County
- MEMA District 5 Region including Claiborne County and Port Gibson; Hinds County, Bolton, Edwards, Raymond, and Utica; Issaquena County and Mayersville; Sharkey County, Anguilla, Cary, and Rolling Fork; Simpson County, Braxton, D'Lo, Magee, and Mendenhall; and the Cities of Canton, Crystal Springs, Madison, and Puckett.
- Copiah County Multi-Jurisdictional Plan including Copiah County, Towns of Georgetown, and Wesson.
- Yazoo County Multi-Jurisdiction Plan including Yazoo County, Bentonia, Eden, Satartia, and Yazoo City.

The following jurisdictions have received FEMA approval for their 2022-2027 Hazard Mitigation Plan pending local adoption:

- City of Hazlehurst
- Town of Pelahatchie

The following jurisdictions have submitted their 2022-2027 Hazard Mitigation Plan for FEMA for approval:

- Madison County

The following jurisdiction are currently working with CMPDD to complete updates to the Hazard Mitigation Plans:

- City of Byram
- City of Jackson
- City of Pearl
- Jackson State University



Employers and Job Seekers Connect

The Workforce Division at CMPDD partnered with the Governor's Job Fair Network to host career fairs throughout the district. These job fairs were free to all job seekers who were looking for entry-level positions or seeking growth opportunities. By partnering with the Governor's Job Fair Network, CMPDD was able to ease the burden of job seekers having to travel long distances to seek employment and assist businesses that are desperately seeking qualified individuals to work.

On April 13, 2022, the Central MS Employment Expo was held at the Mississippi Trade Mart in Jackson, MS. The expo gave 270 job seekers an opportunity to connect with 91 employers who participated in the event. Over 350 interviews were given during the expo and 133 jobs were offered to individuals on-site.

A second job fair was held in Yazoo County on May 10, 2022. There were 35 employers who met 110 job seekers and offered on-site interviews to 75 people in attendance. A total 58 people were hired because of this event.

Finally, on June 22, 2022, the Mississippi Re-entry Job Fair was held at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. This experience was specifically held to connect formerly incarcerated individuals to employment opportunities. Over 470 job seekers attended the event, 80 on-site interviews were conducted, and 42 job seekers were offered employment.

Follow-up surveys with employers and job seekers show that the events were overwhelmingly successful. Additional career fairs will be offered throughout the district over the next year.

CMDC BULLETIN

Representative De'Keither Stamps, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC), announced the approval of a new loan.

The approval was for Grant's Kitchen Biloxi, LLC, a restaurant. The loan was for \$556,800 of a \$1,392,000 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of land and the construction of the restaurant in Biloxi, MS. In addition, the proceeds will finance the purchase of the furniture, fixtures, and equipment associated with the project. This will create 21 new jobs in the private sector.

CMDC is a commercial lender certified by the U. S. Small Business Administration and works with local banks and other financial institutions in providing debt capital for small businesses. CMDC provides fixed rate low interest long term financing for small businesses and saves thousands of dollars in debt service on fixed assets. This type of financing removes the problem of variable rate financing on long term assets. Many economic forecasters are certain that interest rates will rise. These predictable interest rate increases will not negatively impact the cash flow of those small businesses that have fixed rate low interest loans through the U. S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504 Loan Program. The most recent fixed interest rates under this loan program were:

SBA 504 Loan Program Interest Rates

<u>TERM (YEARS)</u>	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>
10 (June 2022)	4.93%
20 (June 2022)	5.13%
25 (June 2022)	5.19%

Also, CMDC serves as the Loan Review Board for the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District's (CMPDD's) Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program (MBELP). The MBELP receives its funding from the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). The interest rate on loans made through this program to a minority owned business is currently 2.25% per annum. The term of a loan can be up to 15 years depending on the use of the loan proceeds (commercial buildings, equipment, inventory, working capital, etc.)

Representative De'Keither Stamps invites bankers, commercial loan officers, business owners, real estate developers, and general contractors, to contact Dwayne Perkins at 981-1625, or visit our website at www.cmpdd.org. See the tab labeled "Small Business Loans."



District Staff Completes Safety Analysis Report

District staff recently completed development of the 2016-2020 Safety Analysis Report for the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) planning area. The crash data analyzed by District staff in the development of the report was obtained from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and from data provided to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS). The intent of the report is to provide a snapshot of the crash trends affecting users of the transportation system in the Jackson MPO's planning area covering a five-year planning period. The report not only looks at crash trends for the planning area as a whole, but also includes a breakdown of the crash trends impacting each of the three counties included in the planning area.

Crash statistics contained in the report include total amount of crashes, total fatalities resulting from automobile crashes, total serious injuries resulting from a crash, and also the total amount of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries resulting from a crash. Additionally, the report includes a breakdown of various behavior related crash information, most common crash types and the time of day with the highest percentage of crash occurrences.

The 2016-2020 Safety Analysis Report can be found on the District's website at <https://bit.ly/3Pjdm88> or www.cmpdd.org/safety-performance-management/.

If the name and address of the recipient needs to be updated, please contact our office at 601-981-1511.

CMPDD's Medicaid Waiver Program Update

The Elderly & Disabled Medicaid Waiver (E&D Waiver) is a statewide program designed to provide in-home assistance to qualified Medicaid beneficiaries. Beneficiaries must be 21 years of age or older. They must qualify by either SSI Medicaid or 300% of SSI Medicaid. They must require assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) such as bathing, dressing, eating, ambulation and/or transferring or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) such as laundry, light housekeeping, errands, and/or assistance on community outings. Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Social Workers (LSW) work together as a team to case manage Medicaid eligible beneficiaries. During this quarter, two (2) new Case Managers were welcomed: Michael Howard, LSW, started on May 2, 2022, and Terrianna Nelson, LSW, started on May 16, 2022.

During the 2022 annual MAPDD Conference held in April, Case Managers attended educational and informational sessions presented by various speakers representing the Division of Medicaid, University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University, Belhaven University, Blue Wolf Coaching & Wellness, the Mississippi Office of the Attorney General's Vulnerable Adult and Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and many other invited agencies.



On June 30, 2022, notification was received from the Division of Medicaid that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMMS) approved the five-year renewal plan for the Elderly & Disabled Medicaid Waiver program with an effective date of July 1, 2022. Along with four (4) other long-term care waiver programs, the E & D Waiver is initiated and operated at the state level by Mississippi's Division of Medicaid. The E & D Waiver is administered by the statewide network system of Planning & Development Districts as a provider of Case Management and Home Delivered Meal services to qualified elderly and/or disabled Medicaid beneficiaries. The Assisted Living (AL) Waiver is administered by the Division of Medicaid. The Traumatic Brain Injury or Spinal Cord Injury (TBI/SCI) and the Independent Living (IL) Waivers are administered by the MS Department of Rehabilitation Services. The Intellectual Disability/Developmentally Delayed (ID/DD) Waiver is administered by the MS Department of Mental Health Services.

The Division of Medicaid allowed Case Management flexibilities (due to COVID) to remain in effect.

*Individuals who own an agency and are seeking to become a Medicaid Waiver service provider should contact the Division of Medicaid, Long-Term Care Bureau at 601-359-6141.

For more information on Elderly & Disabled Waiver services, please contact CMPDD's Mississippi Access to Care (MAC) Center at 1-844-822-4622. Or contact Teresa Burrell-Shoto, RN, Case Management Director at 601-855-5914 or tburrell@cmpdd.org.

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