

JANUARY 2023

Central Update

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Central Mississippi Planning &
Development District



Career Coaches are Deployed to Area High Schools

In partnership with five (5) school districts in the Southcentral Mississippi Works workforce area, 13 Career Coaches have been identified to serve in area high schools. The program, which was created through House Bill 1388 and funded through House Bill 1517 of the 2022 Legislative Session, aims to connect and prepare high school students with the workforce area's most in-demand careers.

“Access to one-on-one career coaching will open the eyes of high school students to high-tech, high-skill jobs available, right here, at home,” said Workforce Director, Robin Parker. “This model has had a tremendous impact in other communities throughout the state and

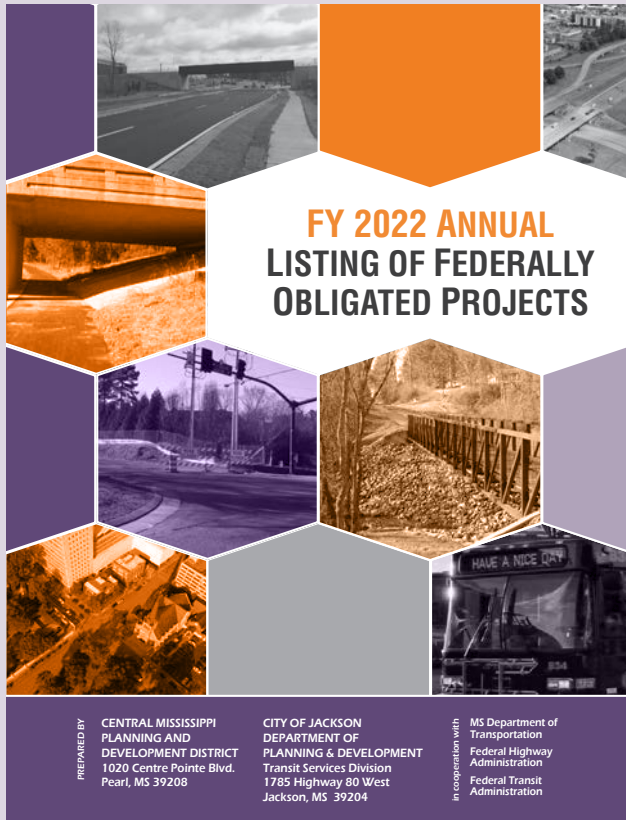
I am thrilled to see this grow in the communities we serve.”

Career Coaches will serve in the following high schools:

1. Jim Hill High School, Jackson Public School District
2. Forest Hill High School, Jackson Public School District
3. Murrah High School, Jackson Public School District
4. Madison Central High School, Madison County School District
5. Germantown High School, Madison County School District
6. Ridgeland High School, Madison County School District
7. Velma Jackson High School, Madison County School District
8. Natchez High School, Natchez-Adams School District
9. Natchez Early College High School, Natchez-Adams School District
10. Magee High School, Simpson County School District
11. Mendenhall High School, Simpson County School District
12. Vicksburg High School, Vicksburg-Warren County School District
13. Warren Central High School, Vicksburg-Warren County School District

Pending funding from the 2023 legislative session, the Career Coach program will be expanded to additional school districts and high schools.

CMPDD Releases the FY 2022 Obligated Projects Report



Also, not all obligated projects are initiated for construction or completed during the same year as obligation, and the obligated project cost listed in the report does not always equal the total project cost when a project occurs over multiple years.

In order to begin work on any phase of a transportation project that includes federal funding, the federal funds must first be obligated. This means money is set aside for a specific project (deposited in the “checking account” for the project), which can then be used to reimburse the eligible project costs.

During FY 2022, 14 projects awarded federal transportation grant funds by the Jackson MPO were obligated. This included a total of \$23.7 million in federal grant funds awarded by the MPO being approved to proceed. MPO sponsored projects obligated in FY 2022 included:

- Reunion Parkway Phase 3
- Bozeman Road Widening
- Traffic signal upgrades at Woodrow Wilson Ave and Medgar Evers Blvd
- Traffic signal upgrades at Woodrow Wilson Ave and Bailey Ave
- Multiple traffic signal upgrades along State Street in Jackson
- Woodrow Wilson Ave overlay from Mill Street to Marin Luther King Jr. Drive
- Terry Road overlay from I-20 to McDowell Road
- Terry Road Bridge Replacement
- Mill Street Bridge Replacement
- Multiple traffic signal upgrades in the City of Ridgeland
- New traffic signal installation at Highway 22 and King Ranch Road
- Meadowbrook Road overlay from I-55 to West/Northbrook Drive
- Traffic signal upgrades at Highway 80 and Eastgate Drive and Highway 80 and Municipal Drive
- New traffic signal installation at Highway 18 and Louis Wilson Drive

In December, CMPDD released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Obligated Projects Report. The annual list of obligated projects is a requirement of federal transportation legislation. The annual report details what happened with federal transportation funding obligated for projects identified in the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MPO’s) Transportation Improvement Program during the preceding federal fiscal year, which began October 1, 2021, and ended September 30, 2022. The Federal Highway Administration defines obligation as the federal government’s legal commitment to pay or reimburse entities for the federal share of a project’s eligible costs. Thus, an obligated project is one that has been approved by the federal government for reimbursement, though not necessarily reimbursed yet.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications Open for 2023

Mississippi’s CDBG Public Facilities Program provides municipalities and counties funding for public infrastructure needs. Eligible CDBG Public Facilities projects include improvements to water, wastewater and drainage systems, and streets. District staff have already begun

working with many municipalities on their upcoming applications. If your county or municipality is interested in applying for the FY23 funding cycle, please contact Amy E. Smith at 601.981.1511.





CMMA Scholarship Applications

The Central Mississippi Mayors Association awards scholarships to high school seniors or undergraduates in college to help cover tuition, books, or housing costs. Applications are open until January 31, 2023. Students

who are in the Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren, and Yazoo Counties and are planning to attend a school within the state of Mississippi are eligible to apply. For more information visit www.cmpdd.org/cmmla/.

Pearl River Valley Water Supply District (PRVWSD) hosts Public Meeting

To further encourage public participation and gather input from the community, the PRVWSD Board of Directors and Staff along with CMPDD Planners hosted a public meeting during the development of the Master Plan. The purpose of this meeting was to present draft maps and seek to understand the needs, desires, and vision of the residential and business community within and near the PRVWSD and users of the PRVWSD facilities.

The “come and go” style meeting was held on November 10, 2022, at the Reservoir Community Center on Spillway Road in Rankin County. The meeting was attended by the residential community with great interest shown in new development and transportation improvements. The PRVWSD and CMPDD staff explained the purpose of developing a master plan and the explained the elements that would be included in the PRVWSD Master Plan. The results of the online survey were available for review by the attendees as well. All attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and submit written comments for formal documentation. The remarks received from the attendees continued to support the survey results with few exceptions.

Following the public meeting, a web-based map viewer was released on the PRVWSD website, Facebook page, and via text services. The viewer includes the proposed Land Use Plan and Transportation improvements. The public can submit questions and comments through this viewer as well.

Following this time of public comment, a draft of the Master Plan will be presented to the Board of Directors for their final consideration prior to adoption. Following adoption of the Plan, a financial analysis will be conducted.





CMMA Recognizes Mayor Berry

The Central Mississippi Mayors Association recognized Mayor John Henry Berry of D'Lo for serving as CMMA Chairperson for 2022 at their December meeting.

Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Technical Assistance

In December of 2022, CMPDD completed work required to update the DRA Allocation Model. This is an annual project that involves determining if a DRA county is distressed or not by measuring county data such as unemployment rate and per capita income against the national averages. CMPDD gathers the economic indicators for each county in the DRA territory and applies the information to the DRA funding allocation model so that it is updated for the coming year. The model is used as a guide for distributing funds to individual DRA counties based on how they rank in the analysis. The variables include poverty rate, population in poverty, unemployment rate, and personal income rates. The project for 2023 will also include looking at smaller geographies than counties to identify distressed areas.

*Make Plans to Join Us
in 2023 for the*

ANNUAL MAPDD CONFERENCE



**April 18-21, 2023
Beau Rivage
Biloxi, Mississippi**

**For More Information:
Phone 601-981-1511 or
www.mspdds.com**

CMPDD Partners in Emerging Technologies Training Center

In partnership with the workforce division at CMPDD, Hinds Community College unveiled a new workforce training center on December 7th that will take entrepreneurship and industry training in Vicksburg to a higher level with leading-edge technology, including virtual reality.

Hinds Community College's Emerging Technologies Training Center is among what will be several entities in the Mississippi Center for Innovation & Technology (MCITY) on Washington Street in Vicksburg when it is fully operational in the spring of 2023. The training center houses an Industry 4.0 lab, a Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality Lab, and a Workforce Multipurpose Lab.

Hinds Associate Vice President of Workforce, David Creel, said the focus for the Center is high-end, advanced technology training. "It was important to us that we did not duplicate what we are already doing on our Vicksburg Campus," he said. "We wanted the Center and its programs to be additional resources that would aid in the enhancement of individual skills. We also want to use this technology to introduce new career opportunities to job seekers within this community. A project like this does not happen without

many partners, and one of the essential partners in this project is CMPDD."

"It's partnerships, facilities, and ideas like this that are going to make Vicksburg stronger and make the future for residents in this area, and arguably for the entire state, much richer," Dr. Robin Parker, Workforce Director for CMPDD said. "These new, innovative approaches help Mississippians have those skills necessary to be profitable, to be healthier, to be financially independent, to have a foundation that

allows them to grow and to positively impact the people around them."

The Center will leverage its partnership with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), an internationally renowned science and technology organization, as a catalyst for economic development and engage in focused workforce development to meet the needs of the significant technology organizations of the central Mississippi and Vicksburg regions.



Above: Among those attending the Dec. 7 ribbon-cutting ceremony were, from left, Board of Trustees President Paul Breazeale; Ryan Miller, Executive Director of the Mississippi Office of Workforce Development for AccelerateMS; Dr. Robin Parker, Workforce Director for the Central Mississippi Planning & Development District; Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs; Dr. Jeff Holland, vice president of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, who was one of the organizers; Vicksburg Warren School District Superintendent Chad Shealy, a Hinds trustee; Hinds President Dr. Stephen Vacik; Kelle Barfield, president of the Warren County Board of Supervisors; Hinds Vice President Sherry Bellmon and Rep. Oscar Denton, D-Vicksburg.

Jackson MPO Approves Project Submittal Guidelines for Transportation Alternatives Funds and Issues Call for Projects

On November 9, 2022, the Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee approved Project submittal guidelines for Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding. The adopted project submittal guidelines outline the process for applying for TA funding made available through the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The project submittal guidelines include project evaluation criteria used to rank project applications, guidelines for eligibility, and general requirements for all project applications.

Following approval of the TA project submittal guidelines, the Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee issued a Call for Projects for \$3 million in TA program funds. The Call for Projects includes how to access the evaluation criteria and application for TA funds, project submission instructions, and

the deadline to submit project applications. The deadline is January 27th. Once project applications are received, MPO staff will review and grade each application based upon the TA project evaluation criteria. The MPO anticipates announcing funding awards at its regularly scheduled meeting in May.

Local jurisdictions with applications selected for funding can receive up to 80% in Federal TA funding for construction costs of a project and are required to provide at a minimum 20% in local matching funds. The MPO's last call for TA applications took place in February 2022 and resulted in four (4) projects in the metro area receiving \$1.6 million in TA funding.

For more information about the Jackson MPO please visit www.cmpdd.org.



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.

CMPDD currently employs 24 Case Management teams. In partnership with CMPDD's Workforce Investment division, a new program has been launched targeting Social Workers who have received their bachelor's degree in Social Work and are seeking to work as a Licensed Social Worker case manager. The 12-week program provides dedicated study time, information, preparation for taking the licensure exam, and observation of case management home visits. Trainees also receive the traditional benefits of insurance coverage, leave time accrual, and other employee benefits. At the end of the 12-week training period, and upon passing the licensure exam, the trainee will automatically transition to a permanent LSW Case Manager position. Beginning September 2022, we have received 29 applicants, with one (1) completion of the 12-week training period.

In collaboration with and developed by Gainwell Technologies, the Division of Medicaid has launched the new Medicaid Enterprise System Assistance (MESA) web portal. This portal replaces the Envision web portal that was previously used for provider enrollment, claims processing, and verification of Medicaid eligibility. All Medicaid enrolled providers use MESA to submit claims for payment from Conduent Services, verify a Medicaid beneficiary's eligibility, amend, or correct claims, access Remittance Advices, and submit or amend prior authorization requests and access to other relevant information.

E & D Waiver case managers continue to utilize Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) web portal to initiate, conduct, and submit comprehensive application packets

for all clients being assessed and approved for the waiver program. Other uses of LTSS include:

- Electronic submission of monthly contact visits and follow-up
- Nursing facility personnel training and use of LTSS to initiate referrals for individuals who are desiring to transition out of the nursing facility to a home or community-based setting
- All intake referrals for waiver services are generated, screened, and maintained on waiting lists in LTSS
- Assignment and un-assignment of Medikey devices
- Access to other Medicaid information and other related websites.

Medicaid providers continue to operate under a federally approved Public Health Emergency (PHE) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the PHE, Case Management flexibilities remain in effect. This includes monthly CM contact visits conducted via telephone or video conference. However, initial recertification, transfer, or readmit assessments must also be conducted face-to-face. Face-to-face visits must be conducted if the beneficiary is unable to communicate by telephone, if the beneficiary has unmet needs that cannot be resolved by telephone, if risks or reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation are identified, or if the beneficiary or representative cannot be reached by telephone. With proper documentation, "Verbal Consent" may be documented in lieu of the beneficiary's or representative's original signature. E & D Waiver's personal care attendant, in-home respite, adult day care, and home-delivered meal providers continue to provide services as required.

*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.

CMDC BULLETIN

Representative De'Keither Stamps, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC), announces CMDC is currently underwriting a loan for a KIA automobile dealership.

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 (December 2022)	5.33%
20 (December 2022)	6.03%
25 (December 2022)	6.11%



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 4.50% 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 601.981.1625, or visit our website at cmpdd.org. See the tab labeled "Small Business Loans."

Traffic Count Data Collection Complete for 2022

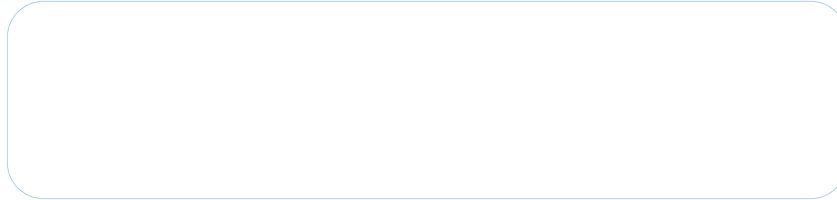
The Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) works cooperatively with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to collect traffic count data for all state and non-state-maintained roadways that are part of the functional class system in the Jackson Urbanized Area (JUA). The collected traffic count data is used by the MPO in the development of a number of transportation planning activities including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Congestion Management Process (CMP), and Pavement Management System.

The District follows an annual schedule for collecting traffic count data in each of the three (3) counties that comprise the MPO Planning area, which include portions of Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties. Each year District staff collects traffic count

data in one of the counties and repeats the process annually on a three-year cyclical basis until the data collection process has been completed for each county. Due to each county being counted every third-year, estimates are developed for the interim years in which traffic count data is not collected for the other counties. Based on the rotating annual schedule, traffic count data was collected in 2022 for Madison County and will be collected for Hinds County in 2022. In addition to the regularly scheduled traffic count data that was collected, District staff received multiple special request counts during 2022 from local jurisdictions in the MPO Planning area.

At the end of each calendar year all traffic count data collected by the District is forwarded to the MDOT for analysis. The data is processed, and

traffic adjustment factors are applied to the raw data to develop Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) counts. The traffic adjustment factors used to develop AADT counts takes into consideration high and low seasonal and daily traffic patterns to arrive at a more representative "annual" traffic count for each roadway segment. Once the data is processed the MDOT sends the updated AADT data to the MPO and the information is made publicly available through the MPO's traffic count viewer on the District's website. For additional information concerning traffic count data or to make a request for a traffic count study to be conducted please contact Scott Burge at 601.321.2150 or by email at sburge@cmpdd.org.



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



Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment

Are you currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan? Do you need to review or make changes to your coverage? If you responded yes to either of these questions, then now is the time to make those changes regarding your healthcare coverage. Between January 1 and March 31, Medicare Advantage recipients can make a solitary change to their current coverage. Enrollees of a Medicare Advantage Plan can drop their existing Advantage Plan and shift to another Medicare Advantage Plan with or without drug coverage or revert to Original Medicare. If a beneficiary swaps to Original Medicare, they too will have the choice to incorporate Part D (Medicare Drug Coverage). If a beneficiary does modify their Medicare Advantage Plan, then coverage will begin the first day of the month after the plan gets the beneficiary enrolled.

Before opting to revise coverages, you should ask yourself if the healthcare

providers/doctors are in the plan's network, if the costs are affordable for premiums, co-pays, coinsurance, and deductibles, and if the plan offers quality coverage for extra benefits such as dental and hearing. You should make sure you are satisfied with the plan in its entirety, and that it caters to your individualized health care needs. Once a beneficiary has considered questions such as these, they can proceed with the decision-making process.

Furthermore, beneficiaries can be eligible for a Special Enrollment period if certain criteria are met. These special occurrences include moving, losing current healthcare coverage, being recently released from prison, moving back to the United States after living abroad, or your plan being non-Medicare approved. The time can vary anywhere between 30-60 days to confirm your plan. Medicare Advantage recipients can take this opportunity to change or to continue

with current coverage in the allocated time span. If further information or assistance is needed, please contact your local State Health Insurance Assistance Program at 1.844.822.4622 where a SHIP counselor can provide you with informed and unbiased counseling in person or via telephone.

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