

Central Update

A Quarterly Publication of
Central Mississippi Planning &
Development District

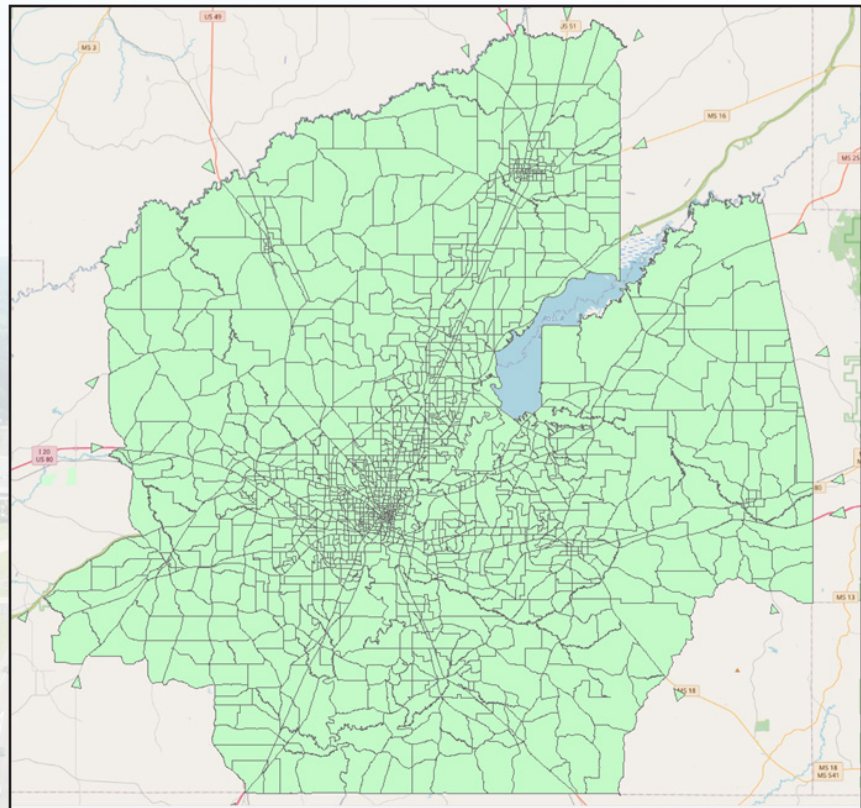
2050 Travel Demand Model

To project future conditions on the roadway system throughout the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MPO’s) planning area, CMPDD uses a computer-modeling tool known as a Travel Demand Model. The Model covers portions of Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties and is a forecasting tool used to predict changes in travel patterns and the utilization of the transportation system in response to changes in development patterns, demographics, and transportation supply. The model estimates trips by calculating the number and types of trips traveling between Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) across the transportation network. The model can be used to forecast future travel patterns and demands due to changes in:

- **The Transportation System** such as adding new roads, wider roads with added capacity, or closed roads.
- **Land Use Changes** such as added residential development, a new industrial site, etc.
- **Demographic changes** such as more or less people in a specific area.

The Travel Demand Model can test the impacts of critical “what if” questions about proposed plans and policies. Model output can provide users with a variety of information on travel behavior and travel demand for a specified future time frame, such as forecast of volumes for

(see *Travel Demand* on p.2)



Population	Hinds	Madison	Rankin
2020 Census	227,742	109,145	157,031
2022 ACS	226,541	109,257	157,185
2022 Woods & Poole	222,534	111,261	159,917
Stakeholder Input	Slow: <0.5%	Fast: 1-1.5%	Fast: 1-1.5%
Recommended 2050 Population	246,905	165,278	216,312

Employment	Hinds	Madison	Rankin
2020 Bureau of Labor Statistics	161,548	82,480	90,039
2021 REMI	163,056	83,381	92,063
2022 Woods & Poole	168,400	89,571	95,626
Stakeholder Input	Slow: <0.5%	Very Fast: 1.5-2.0%	Fast: 1-1.5%
Recommended 2050 Employment	179,224	141,990	138,018

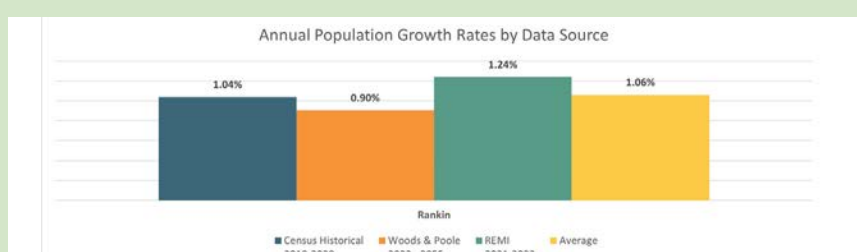
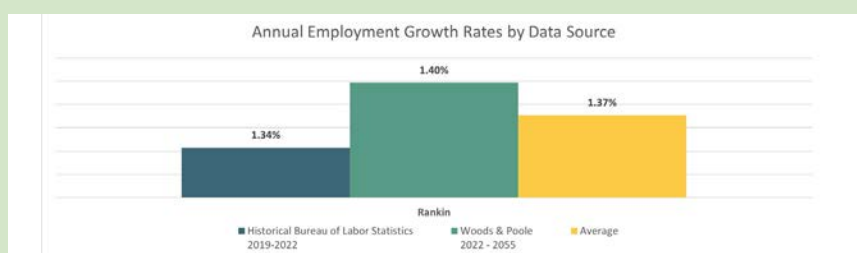
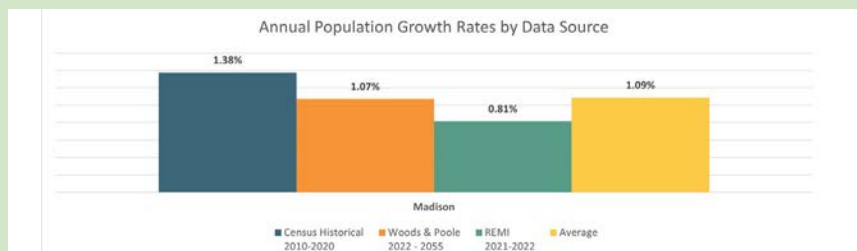
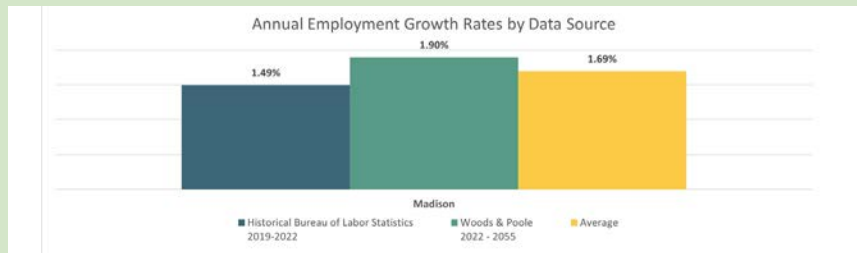
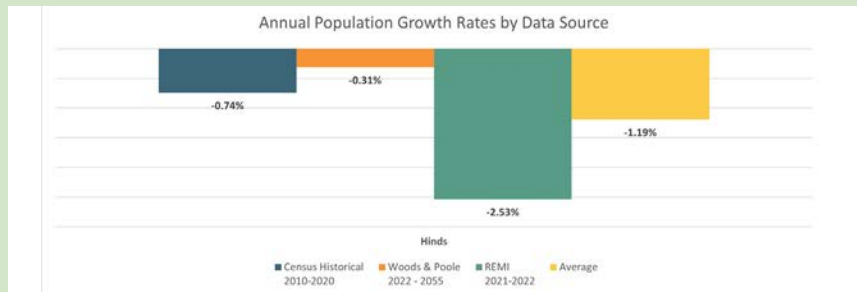
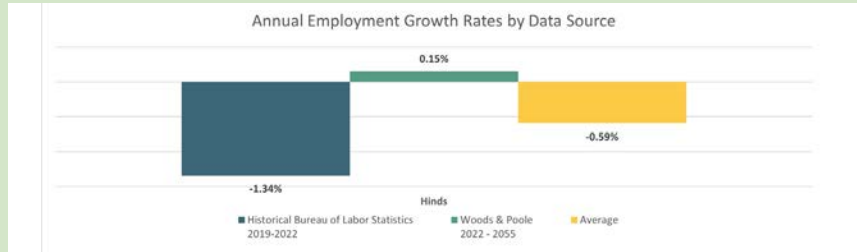
Travel Demand *(continued from p.1)*

roadways or the effects of a proposed development or zoning change on the transportation system.

CMPDD in partnership with the MS Department of Transportation and a consultant team began updating the current 2045 Travel Demand Model in 2023 to the 2050 Model. In January, control totals for projected population and employment totals for the year 2050 were finalized and CMPDD staff have been working to build-out the projected growth for each Traffic Analysis Zone to the new horizon year of 2050. Control totals for population and employment were developed analyzing a variety of data sources and included using a weighted factor to account for stakeholder feedback received through a survey CMPDD conducted.

Data is the driving force behind the Travel Demand Model and for the last few months CMPDD has been gathering data from local jurisdictions to include in the 2050 Travel Demand Model including: Future Land Use Plans; 2022 base year population, employment, and household demographics; school locations and enrollment; and identifying unique trip generators such as large commercial, healthcare, or industry facilities.

The 2050 Model is expected to be completed by mid-June and will be a key element used during the development of the Jackson Urbanized Area 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. For more information about the Travel Demand Model or the MPO planning process please contact Lesley Callender at 601.321.2152.



City Clerks and Central MS Mayors Association

In March, both the City Clerks and the Central MS Mayors Association met at CMPDD. These groups meet quarterly to share best practices and discuss issues at the municipality level. The next City Clerk and CMMA meetings will be held during the summer.

This spring, CMMA awarded three (3) scholarships to local students who will be continuing their education in the state of Mississippi. These students have achieved academic excellence and have shown deep commitment to serving their communities. This year's

winners were Austin Hays of Puckett, Ralea Hanna of Mendenhall, and Mason Roach of Madison.



Mayor Lekentric Caston, Mayor Les Childress, Mayor Michelle Douglas, Austin Hays, Mayor Todd Booth, Misty Hanna (on behalf of Ralea Hanna), Mayor Clay Burns, Mayor Russ Espiritu, Brian Roach (on behalf of Mason Roach), and Mayor Kenneth Broome.

Strengthening Community Resilience through Hazard Mitigation Planning

The importance of Hazard Mitigation Planning cannot be overstated, particularly in regions susceptible to severe weather events like Central Mississippi. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 mandates that local jurisdictions uphold an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to maintain eligibility for crucial grant programs offered through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

As spring and early summer bring the potential for severe thunderstorms, with threats including high winds, large hail, lightning, and tornadoes, it is imperative for communities to prioritize mitigation planning. Regular review of adopted Hazard Mitigation

Plans is essential to ensure alignment with current visions and needs. This includes accounting for any changes in development or population, which can impact a community's vulnerability to specific hazards.

Predicting the exact location and severity of future disasters is challenging. Natural calamities like tornadoes and flash floods can strike unexpectedly, causing significant human and financial tolls. Mitigation Planning serves as a proactive measure, aiding communities in assessing their risks and crafting action plans to mitigate the impact of disasters when they occur.

Currently, CMPDD is actively supporting several entities, including

the City of Gluckstadt, Town of Terry, Mississippi Valley State University, Mississippi State University, and University of Mississippi Medical Center, in updating their Hazard Mitigation Plans for the next five years. CMPDD Planners stand ready to assist local governments in conducting annual reviews and enhancing their preparedness efforts.

By investing in Hazard Mitigation Planning, communities empower themselves to minimize the devastating effects of natural disasters, fostering resilience and safeguarding the well-being of residents and infrastructure. Together, let us continue to prioritize proactive measures that strengthen our collective resilience against unforeseen challenges.

Jackson MPO Adopts Updated Safety Targets

Federal legislation requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and transit service providers to work collectively to establish performance targets for multiple transportation performance measure areas as part of a performance-based transportation planning and programming approach. These areas include safety, pavement conditions, travel time reliability, freight reliability, transit assets and transit safety. A measure is a statement of what is being assessed, and a target is a quantifiable level of performance or what you hope to achieve within an identified time period.

Of these, the safety performance measure is the only measure whose targets are required to be updated annually per federal guidance. Safety performance targets are evaluated and updated annually by MPOs and State DOTs for each of five (5) federally required safety performance measure areas based on a five-year rolling average of analyzed crash data. The five (5) safety performance measure areas' targets are set for include: total fatalities, fatality rate, total serious injuries, serious injury rate, and total non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. MPO's, per federal guidance, have the option to set their own safety performance targets or support targets set by their respective state DOT. On February 14th, 2024, the Jackson MPO voted to support the updated safety targets set by the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT).

For more information about safety targets or the implementation of performance measures visit the MPO's website, www.cmpdd.org/transportation/performance-management/

SAFETY TARGETS



2020-2024 State of Mississippi Safety Targets						
Measure	Target					
Number of Fatalities	711					
Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT	1.760					
Number of Serious Injuries	2,520					
Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT	6.260					
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	247					

State and MPO Safety Performance Trends						
Fatalities	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-yr Average
Mississippi	663	642	748	772	729*	710.8*
Jackson MPO	64	73	104	77	87*	81*

Fatality Rate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-yr Average
Mississippi	1.630	1.560	1.890	1.890	1.820*	1.758*
Jackson MPO	1.196	1.338	2.028	1.479	1.706*	1.549*

Serious Injuries	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-yr Average
Mississippi	587	1,579	3,630	3,562	3,344	2,540.4
Jackson MPO	102	307	659	696	631	479

Serious Injury Rate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-yr Average
Mississippi	1.440	3.840	9.180	8.630	8.370	6.292
Jackson MPO	1.905	5.627	12.849	13.372	12.373	9.225

Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-yr Average
Mississippi	144	182	322	290	290*	245.6*
Jackson MPO	18	17	60	62	49*	41.2*

A **Measure** is a statement of what is being assessed, and a **Target** is a quantifiable level of performance or what you hope to achieve within an identified time period.



Enhancing Efficiency and Savings through GIS Technology

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology continues to revolutionize the way organizations manage and utilize spatial data. At Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD), we are dedicated to leveraging GIS to its fullest potential to streamline operations, enhance decision-making, and drive cost savings.

GIS is a powerful computer-based tool used to store, visualize, analyze, and interpret geographic data. As technology evolves, so do the expectations of the public. Modern GIS capabilities empower local leaders by offering a multitude of benefits:

GIS provides innovative approaches to operations and service level agreements. By providing quantifiable

details about infrastructure conditions, such as road conditions or the status of streetlights, GIS enables organizations to make informed maintenance decisions efficiently. Additionally, updating outdated plans allows communities to gain a better understanding of utility arrangements, leading to management efficiencies and cost savings.

By digitizing old paper plans and creating digital networks, such as the ongoing project to establish a digital water network, CMPDD ensures data is future-proofed, ultimately saving time, resources, and even lives. GIS technology enhances financial management by identifying areas where money can be saved and by facilitating effective maintenance and design solutions.

In a recent example, the public works department transitioned from outdated paper plans to digitized versions stored within the GIS system. This small step is part of a larger initiative aimed at creating a comprehensive digital water network. By embracing GIS technology, CMPDD is committed to enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and financial stewardship across various sectors.

If you are interested in discovering how GIS can benefit your organization, please reach out to Johnathan Simon at jsimon@cmpdd.org or call 769.777.7311. Our team is dedicated to providing tailored solutions to meet your specific needs and objectives.

Driving Futures: Nissan, Jackson Public Schools, & CMPDD Forge Pathways for Tomorrow's Workforce

Ten students from Jackson Public Schools are now gaining invaluable experience as interns at Nissan North America in Canton, MS, thanks to a groundbreaking partnership.

In a concerted effort to bridge the gap between education and employment, Nissan, Jackson Public School (JPS), and Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) have united to establish an impactful internship program. This collaborative endeavor aims to equip high school students with the skills and experience necessary to excel in the automotive industry while providing them with a clear pathway to a prosperous career.

Identified by JPS counselors and career coaches, seniors demonstrating a keen interest in the advanced manufacturing profession were presented with internship opportunities by Nissan, culminating in the selection of 10 students for the program.

The selected students and their parents participated in an evening onboarding session, where they completed essential paperwork and received a comprehensive overview of internship expectations from Nissan. Supported by JPS counselors and career coaches, this event facilitated parental engagement and addressed any inquiries. To accommodate the internship, student schedules were adjusted, ensuring that all high school courses were scheduled for A Days, with B Days reserved for the internship.

This partnership thrived on synergy, with each partner contributing valuable resources. Thanks to funding from Accelerate Mississippi, CMPDD covered internship wages at \$17.50 per hour and provided worker's compensation insurance for the interns. Nissan offered job site assignments, onsite supervision, work attire, and tools, while JPS organized transportation to and from the Nissan plant for the interns.



“This partnership exemplifies the commitment of our community to provide meaningful opportunities for our youth, ensuring they have the skills and resources needed to succeed in the workforce,” says Robin Parker, Workforce Director at CMPDD.

Upon completing the internship, students have a myriad of options available. They can embark on full-time employment at the Nissan plant, earning a wage of \$22.50 per hour, or pursue a scholarship opportunity for related training at Hinds or Holmes Community College. Additionally, students can opt to blend work at Nissan with ongoing college education, with Nissan offering onsite programs for employees and accommodating work schedules to facilitate concurrent college attendance.

This partnership serves as a testament to the power of collaboration between industry, education, and the workforce area. By investing in the development of the next generation of skilled workers, Nissan, JPS, and CMPDD are not only shaping the future of the advanced manufacturing industry but also empowering students to realize their full potential.

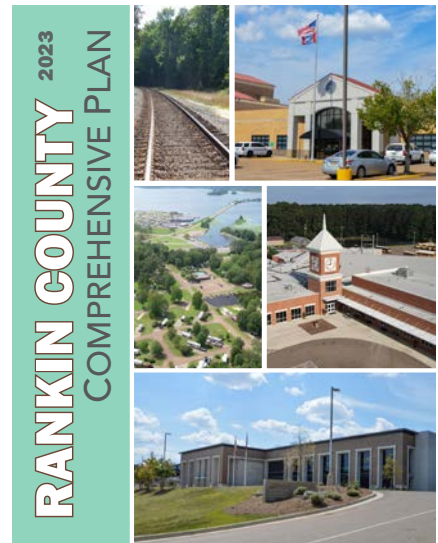


Rankin County Adopts New Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors recently adopted the county's latest Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. CMPDD planners and county staff have worked on the Comprehensive Plan and revised Zoning Ordinance over the past two years. The adoption of the Plan and Ordinance marks the twenty-year anniversary of the county's first planning efforts.

In 2002 Rankin County began the planning process by working with CMPDD to develop the county's first Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. The result was the 2004 adoption of a Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Since the adoption of the first Rankin County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance in 2004, there have been three (3) updates of the Comprehensive Plan (2010, 2017 & 2024) and several revisions to the Zoning Ordinance such as the addition of the Reservoir Community Overlay District. The Rankin County Land Use Plan and Zoning Regulations were also incorporated into the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District (PRVWSD) Master Plans developed in 2013 and 2023 to better facilitate land use planning and control on properties under both jurisdictions.



SS4A Update



Last fall, CMPDD began the development of our Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for our entire seven-county region. The Plan's goal is to identify locations of serious injury and fatal crashes, and then develop strategies to reduce them. Our staff and our consultant partners, in the visioning phase of our plan development, analyzed crash data and utilized the SS4A technical committee and public input to identify locations for further study.

This spring, CMPDD began the second phase of our plan development. In the strategies phase, our team evaluated options and developed safety strategies to address safety concerns for each identified location in our study area. This phase began with input from our SS4A technical committee in February followed by seven (7) pop-up events hosted by our outreach team held in each county. An online survey with over 200 respondents was also used to gather community

input on strategies. Meetings with local stakeholders were held in March to utilize their local knowledge and input and buy in on the Plan.

Plan development will be completed in mid-April and the draft Plan will be made available for public review in late April. The Board of Directors adoption of the Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan is scheduled for May. Adoption of the Plan will allow local jurisdictions to apply for Federal SS4A implementation grants for solutions identified in the Regional Safety Action Plan in an effort to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes across all CMPDD's seven county region.

For more information, please contact Lesley Callender at 601.321.2152 or lcallender@cmpdd.org, or visit <https://cmpdd.org/transportation/safety-action-plan-ss4a/>

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 assess the referred client, submit for approval of services to the Division of Medicaid (DOM), then manage and coordinate the approved services for all clients.

After several months of review and discussion of a newly devised slot allocation model based on basic demographics of the state of Mississippi's elderly and/or disabled population, in January 2024, the Division of Medicaid and the MAPDD Directors voted to support the new slot allocation model. This model will allow additional E & D Waiver participants to be added to the program. CMPDD has granted 160 additional slots to be filled by individuals

that have been maintained on waiting lists throughout our seven-county service area.

With the renewal of the 1915(c)Elderly & Disabled Waiver, two (2) new services were implemented in February 2024 and have become a part of all the available services under the E&D Waiver. Those new services are Medication Management and Environmental Safety Services.

- Medication Management Services are available for persons to receive consultations and follow up visits with a licensed pharmacist to maximize adherence to their therapeutic regimen. Recipients must be prescribed a daily regimen of at least five (5) prescription medications. The Medicaid enrolled pharmacy provider will be allowed one (1) initial or annual consultation, and 15 follow-up visits per Waiver year [July 1 – June 30].
- Environmental Safety Services are available for qualified individuals that includes minor home repair and maintenance, heavy household cleaning, non-routine garbage disposal, yard maintenance, or pest control services. This service is limited to \$500.00 per Waiver recipient per Waiver year [July 1 – June 30]. Services shall be provided by a licensed contractor.

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.

Caregiver Support Groups

CMPDD Area Agency on Aging hosts the Caregiver Connection and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support groups the third Monday of each month for individuals who are caregivers of elderly/disabled loved ones or grandchildren.

For additional information about the support groups, contact the Area Agency on Aging at 601.981.1516.



DRA Program Updates and CMPDD Staff Attend DRA Training

DRA's investments help improve basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, job training, workforce development and economic development planning to support further economic development in communities across Mississippi. CMPDD staff are currently working with local municipalities and organizations on their applications to be submitted for the 2024 grant cycle.

DRA is now accepting applications for the following grant programs: SEDAP, CIF and Strategic Planning.

States Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) awards are dedicated to improving public infrastructure in distressed and non-distressed communities with an emphasis on job creation. These projects can apply for a maximum of \$500,000.

Critical Infrastructure Fund (CIF) is aimed at providing public infrastructure assistance for distressed and non-distressed counties and municipalities in the DRA region. These projects can apply for a maximum \$2,000,000 grant amount.

Strategic planning grants give public entities access to strategic planning funds to address long-standing issues and develop a roadmap for economic



growth and opportunity. Applicants for this program have the autonomy to apply for a plan that fits the unique needs and challenges in their community. Eligible plans include, but are not limited to, economic development plans, utility rate studies, transportation plans, workforce development plans, and broadband deployment plans with a maximum grant award of \$150,000.

DRA recently announced an award of \$450,000, to the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi for a workforce development initiative that seeks to ensure equitable access to resources and career opportunities post-graduation by focusing on careers in culinary arts. This grant was awarded from the Delta Workforce Program, made

possible, in part, by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

CMPDD staff continue to administer previously granted projects with Piney Woods School, Town of Edwards, Town of Braxton, Town of Puckett, Warren County Port Commission, and Copiah County.

In February, three (3) CMPDD staff members attended the DRA LDD Training in Memphis. During the training Lindsay Sellers spoke on a panel regarding best practices for the LDD Pilot Program. During her discussion she spoke about how CMPDD utilizes the pilot program funding in numerous ways that allow them to effectively assist our region.

Redistricting Updates

Since the release of the 2020 Census population data in September 2021, CMPDD has been working with local jurisdictions to re-draw election districts. CMPDD has contracted with 23 jurisdictions to develop redistricting plans. These include five (5) counties, 16 municipalities and two (2) school districts. To date, 18 plans have been completed and adopted and all others are under review and consideration.

If your community needs assistance with the redrawing of election districts, contact David Wade at 601.321.2161 or dewade@cmpdd.org.

CMPDD Develops Comprehensive Plan for Simpson County

CMPDD has developed a Comprehensive Plan for Simpson County. The plan update includes revisions to all four (4) elements including the Goals and Objectives, Land Use Plan, Transportation Plan, and Public Facilities Plan. This Comprehensive Plan is a web-based plan that incorporates interactive mapping. The new Plan will be presented at a public hearing prior to adoption.



SCMW Boards Greenlight Groundbreaking Digital Delivery System for Workforce Development

The recent meeting of the South Central Mississippi Works (SCMW) Local Workforce Board and Board of Commissioners marked a significant milestone as they approved a groundbreaking One-Stop Digital Delivery System for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Services. Held on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at Southwest Mississippi Community College, the meeting signaled a bold step forward in revolutionizing workforce development across the 17-county region.

The new delivery system is built upon two core goals:

1. Enhance Access to Quality Workforce Services:

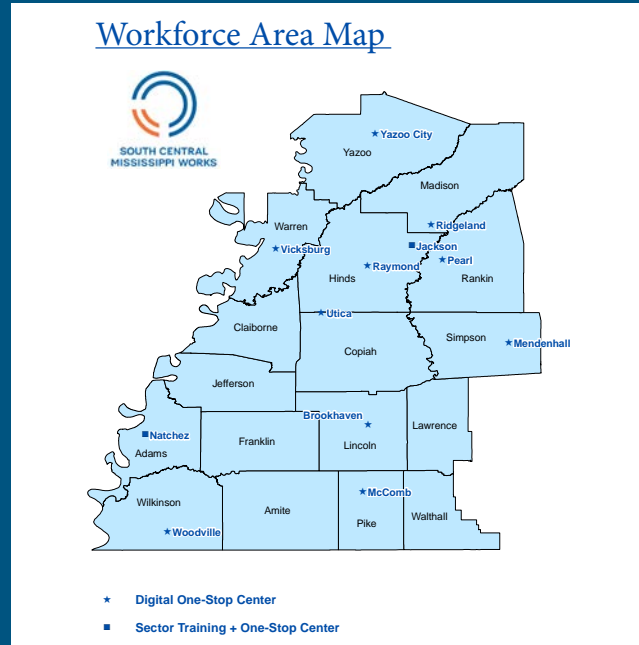
SCMW aims to ensure equitable access to high-quality workforce services for individuals across the 17-county area. This includes comprehensive career counseling, skills training, job placement assistance, and tailored support services to address the diverse needs of SCMW communities. Through expanded outreach efforts, strategic partnerships, and innovative service models, SCMW is committed to promoting inclusivity and enhancing access to workforce development initiatives.

2. Optimize Resource Allocation for Cost Effectiveness:

Streamlining infrastructure costs associated with workforce service delivery while maintaining a balanced ratio of administrative and training expenditures is essential. SCMW endeavors to achieve a sustainable funding model that reduces administrative costs while providing more resources to training job seekers, redesigning service provision strategies, and implementing cost-effective measures. This ensures efficient allocation of resources to support operational needs and provides essential training and support services to SCMW constituents, driving positive outcomes for individuals and communities.

The approved plan includes the establishment of two Sector Training Plus Comprehensive One-Stop Centers at the Jackson Campus of Hinds Community College and the Natchez Campus of Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Additionally, a groundbreaking digital delivery system featuring nine Digital Delivery Access Centers will be implemented. These centers will house WIOA Career Coaches dedicated to assisting job seekers in exploring, preparing for, and connecting with living-wage careers.

Furthermore, job seekers will have access to a user-friendly, secure website and online portal serving as a centralized resource for workforce services and training within the SCMW workforce area. This platform will offer comprehensive information on available programs, career pathways, and support services, along with an online



scheduling feature for real-time interactions with Digital Career Coaches and Sector Strategy Career Coaches, enhancing accessibility and responsiveness for customers.

Robin Parker, Director of SCMW, highlighted, “Currently, our WIN Job Centers operate within traditional work hours, which may not accommodate individuals working hourly wage jobs seeking to improve their employment prospects. A digital system, with extended service hours, represents a paradigm shift. This innovative model brings a ‘telehealth’ approach to workforce development and training, recognizing the changing landscape of our lives in the post-pandemic era.”

Benny Hubbard, Chair of the Local Area Workforce Board, highlighted the business perspective, stating, “Reducing infrastructure costs while expanding our reach to every county in our workforce area allows us to cultivate a well-trained and well-suited workforce.”

Daryl McMillan, Chair of the Board of Commissioners, highlighted the transformative impact of the new system on community members’ quality of life, stating, “The Board of Commissioners had the courage to think forward for our communities, recognizing the profound potential of this initiative. It truly marks a pivotal moment, promising to enhance opportunities and elevate the well-being of our residents.”

The rollout of the new system will commence in the coming months and is expected to be fully operational by 2026, marking a significant leap forward in enhancing workforce development and accessibility across the region.

Daryl McMillian Assumes Chairmanship of South Central Mississippi Works

Daryl McMillian, Supervisor of District 1 in Copiah County, has stepped into the critical role of Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for South Central Mississippi Works (SCMW) as of December 2023.

Having served as a longstanding member of the Central Mississippi Planning and Development (CMPDD) Board, McMillian expressed his gratitude for the opportunity, stating, “It is an honor to lead the Board of Commissioners, and I eagerly anticipate achieving greater success in our mission to empower individuals and strengthen our local economy.”

In collaboration with the Southwest MS Planning and Development District, CMPDD fulfills a crucial function as the administrative hub and fiscal steward for SCMW. Covering a vast 17-county service area, SCMW serves as the cornerstone of our local workforce, spearheading the allocation and management of federal workforce funds.

The Board of Commissioners, comprising one (1) county supervisor from each of the 17 counties within the workforce area, is charged with the task of overseeing and administering federally funded workforce services and activities. Their efforts are in alignment with the directives outlined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014.



Benny Hubbard, Chair of the SCMW Local Area Workforce Board, Robin Parker, Director of SCMW, and Daryl McMillian, Chair of the SCMW Board of Commissioners

SCMW operates with a clear mission to bridge the gap between individuals seeking employment opportunities and employers in need of skilled personnel. By facilitating these connections, SCMW not only fosters economic growth but also empowers individuals to secure meaningful employment.

Daryl McMillian brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his new role as Chairman. Prior to his leadership with SCMW, McMillian served as an alderman for the city of Hazlehurst, demonstrating his commitment to community service and development.

His subsequent role as Supervisor for District 1 in Copiah County further underscores his deep-rooted dedication to advancing the interests of our region.

Robin Parker, Director of SCMW, affirmed, “With McMillian at the helm, the Board of Commissioners remains steadfast in its commitment to creating innovative pathways to higher wages, enhanced skills, and in-demand job opportunities. His leadership will undoubtedly steer SCMW towards even greater success in fulfilling its mission to empower individuals and bolster our local economy.”

CDBG Grant Updates

In the spring of 2024, three (3) municipalities and counties were awarded 2023 CDBG grants to assist with improving public infrastructure. Mississippi’s CDBG Public Facilities Program provides municipalities and counties funding for public infrastructure needs. Eligible CDBG Public Facilities and Economic Development projects include improvements to water, wastewater and drainage systems, and streets.

The Town of Flora was awarded \$599,925 for improvements to their sewage system. This funding will lay new sewer lines that will go directly to the lagoon. This will relieve pressure that is currently causing problems in the system and add capacity to their growing community.

The City of Raymond was awarded \$237,017 for drainage improvements. This funding will change the path of an established water line for the area surrounding Underhill Street to be cleaned and maintained. These improvements will stop consistent flooding to these homes.

Madison County was awarded \$618,750 for sewage improvements to the Kearney Park community. This funding will repair many extremely damaged lines as well as improve conditions for homeowners on the system.

CMPDD staff continue to administer previously awarded projects with the Town of D’Lo and Warren County as well as working with more municipalities on their new 2024 applications.

CMD C BULLETIN

Mr. De'Keither Stamps, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMD C), announced the approval of two new loans.

The first approval was for T & LT Tamales, LLC, a food manufacturer and retailer. The loan was for \$250,000 of a \$903,010 project under the Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of equipment for its new food processing facility in Flora, MS. This project will create 10 new jobs in Madison County.

The second approval was for Hobb's Automotive, Inc., a new and used car dealership. The loan was for \$5,000,000 of a \$17,000,000 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of land, furniture and fixtures and the construction of a new Toyota dealership in Laurel, Mississippi. This project will create 20 new jobs in Jones County.

CMD C 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. CMD C 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:

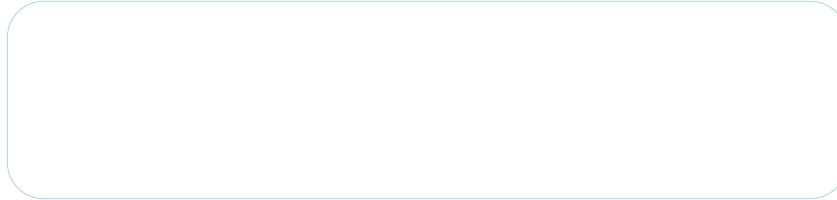
SBA 504 Loan Program Interest Rates

<u>TERM (YEARS)</u>	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>
10 (March 2024)	6.60%
20 (March 2024)	6.36%
25 (March 2024)	6.28%

Also, CMD C 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 6.50% 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.)

Mr. 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 www.cmpdd.org. See the tab labeled "Small Business Loans."





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

Navigating Medicare Made Easier: The SHIP Kiosk at The Jackson Medical Mall

“Unlocking the Mystery of Medicare” remains a top priority for the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), offering personalized counseling services, information, and support to individuals aged 65 and older or those under 65 with disabilities. CMPDD’s commitment to community outreach and education about Medicare has led to an impactful partnership with the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation (JMMF), providing a centralized hub for beneficiaries to access needed resources.

In February 2023, CMPDD initiated this partnership, recognizing the importance of offering Medicare beneficiaries a convenient location to obtain information and consult with counselors, especially during open enrollment periods. The launch of Kiosk 8 on August 11, 2023, presented a golden opportunity for CMPDD to showcase the SHIP Program’s services and establish a consistent presence within the Jackson Medical Mall.

After collaborating closely with the JMMF marketing team, CMPDD unveiled a fully wrapped SHIP kiosk, prominently featuring the program’s logo and contact details. This addition not only serves as an effective marketing tool but also enhances accessibility to SHIP services, providing beneficiaries with a convenient avenue to seek assistance and gather valuable Medicare-related information.



The SHIP kiosk, now a fixture in the Jackson Medical Mall, offers individuals the opportunity to meet with counselors weekly or simply pick up informative materials on Medicare. This initiative represents a significant step forward in empowering beneficiaries and their families to make informed healthcare decisions.

As part of our ongoing commitment to community welfare, CMPDD encourages individuals seeking guidance on Medicare to contact a SHIP Counselor at 601.981.1516. Together, let’s navigate the complexities of Medicare with confidence and clarity.

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