



Central Update

A Quarterly Publication of Central Mississippi Planning & Development District

CMPDD Receives National Innovation Award from NADO

The District received a 2012 National Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation for its assistance in securing funding for the infrastructure needed to create the Medical Towers at Tuscan Court in Magee, Mississippi.

Medical Towers at Tuscan Court was founded on a local commitment to attract economic growth, create new jobs, and improve and expand medical services available to the citizens of Magee and surrounding areas. This new state-of-the-art medical facility is three stories of 50,000 square feet and houses a pharmacy, home health and medical supplies businesses, and a diverse group of full time medical services, some that were not previously available in the community, such as OB/GYN and Pediatrics. Access to medical specialists was expanded by providing a facility where regular scheduled appointments could be made with a professional in specialties such as general and plastic surgery, eye treatment, podiatry, cardiovascular, ear nose and throat, obstetrics, gastrointestinal, and urology. These new and expanded services allow local citizens to obtain wide range essential medical services without the need to travel to much larger medical facilities many miles away. In addition, a significant number of new full time and part-time jobs were created. This facility has brought at least 45 new full-time jobs and attracted a broader base of skilled specialized health care professionals and new medical technology to the Magee community. A group of local investors invested \$8,000,000



Mitzi Stubbs of CMPDD presents a NADO Innovation Award plaque to Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde and local officials.

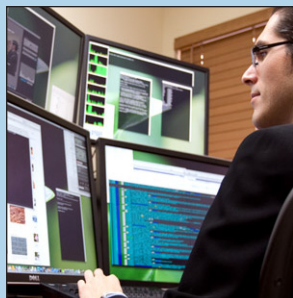
towards this project. In summary, the Medical Towers facility is making Magee a unique and desirable place to live while attracting economic development growth and creating new job opportunities.

NADO is a Washington, D.C.-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The Association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities. Award winners were showcased during NADO's 2012 Annual Training Conference, held October 13-16 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"For more than 25 years, NADO's Innovation Award has provided regional development organizations throughout the nation a unique opportunity to showcase their important work and their critical role in promoting economic development for rural and small metropolitan communities. The creativity and significant, long-term impact of regional programs and projects like the City of Magee - Medical Towers at Tuscan Court is the key to advancing the economic growth and sustainability of our nation's regions and communities," said NADO President Russell Cowley, Executive Director of the Six County Association of Governments in Richfield, UT.

For more information about the award-winning project, contact Mitzi Stubbs at 601-981-1511.

MS Careers of Tomorrow Program



The Mississippi Careers of Tomorrow Program helps employers fill critical IT and advanced manufacturing jobs while helping workers to qualify for these jobs.

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Federal MAP-21 Transportation Bill Goes Into Effect

On July 6, 2012, the new transportation bill, *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)*, was signed into law. MAP-21 went into effect on October 1, 2012 and is the first long-term highway authorization bill since the previous *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)* was enacted in 2005.

In MAP-21, metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes are continued and enhanced to incorporate performance goals, measures, and targets into the process of identifying needed transportation improvements and project selection. The previous requirements established by SAFETEA-LU for a long-range plan and a short-term transportation improvement plan (TIP) continue, with the long-range plan to incorporate performance plans for specific programs. The long-range plan must describe the performance measures and targets used in assessing system performance and progress in achieving the performance targets. The TIP must also be developed to make progress toward established performance targets and include a description of anticipated achievements.

MAP-21 continues the Surface Transportation Program (STP), providing an annual average of \$10 billion in flexible funding. Most current STP eligibilities are continued, with some additions and clarifications. Activities of some programs that are no longer separately funded are incorporated, including Transportation Enhancements, which has been replaced by the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program. TA includes the Transportation Enhancement, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Recreational Trails programs.

Prior to MAP-21, each apportioned program had its own formula for distribution, and each state's total was the sum of the amount it received for each program. MAP-21's new

approach to distribution of formula funds is now based on the amount of formula funds each State received under SAFETEA-LU. A single amount (approximately \$38 billion/year) is authorized to fund the core programs.

Once each state's total Federal-aid apportionment is calculated, amounts are set aside for Metropolitan Planning, Congestion Management, and Air Quality via a calculation based on the relative size of the state's FY 2009 apportionment of those programs. The remainder is then divided among the rest of the formula programs.

For FY 2013, each state receives virtually the same total apportionment as in FY 2012. In FY 2014, the total amount available for distribution will be divided proportionally among the states based on the share of apportionments each state received for FY 2012, adjusted, if necessary, to ensure that no state receives less than 95 cents of every dollar it contributed to the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund.

The Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is working with the Mississippi Department of Transportation to determine the amount of MAP-21 funding that will be made available to the Jackson MPO. The MPO has begun discussions of STP funding allocation options with its Intermodal Technical Committee and is currently developing a list of options for project selection criteria for TA funds. Once the amount of funding available to the MPO has been determined and the distribution methodology of funds and project selection criteria has been approved, an application process for those available funds, both STP and TA, will begin. All counties and municipalities within the Jackson MPO Urbanized Area Boundary are eligible to apply for these funds. Both types of funds, STP and TA, require funding recipients to provide 20% matching funds as part of the 80/20 federal share requirements.

Comprehensive Planning News

MADISON COUNTY

The Madison County Planning Commission recommended approval of proposed amendments to the county Zoning Ordinance at their Dec. 13, 2012 meeting. In accordance with a Technical Assistance contract with Madison County, the District worked with the county's Zoning Administrator to develop a large number of recommended changes. CMPDD submitted to the Planning Commission copies of the Zoning Ordinance with the changes highlighted and a four-page list of the changes. The Commission was briefed on the proposed amendments by Zoning Administrator Brad Sellers, and by CMPDD Principal Planner William Peacock. The Commission's recommended approval of the amendments will now go to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

CITY OF RAYMOND

The District is continuing to prepare an updated Comprehensive Plan for the City of Raymond. CMPDD has examined current conditions regarding existing land use, population, employment, transportation, and public facilities. Recently, the District completed a draft of the Future Land Use and Thoroughfares Plan for the city to review. Currently, recommendations for land use, public facilities, and transportation are being developed.

CITY OF VICKSBURG

CMPDD has developed a Future Land Use Map for the City of Vicksburg as part of the work in updating the city's Comprehensive Plan. Vicksburg was divided into twelve neighborhoods, with each neighborhood having its own land use plan. The Future Land Use Plan is under review by the city staff. Meanwhile, the District is continuing to develop the remainder of the plan.



Larry Smith Retires

Larry T. Smith, AICP, retired from full time work at the District in December, but he will continue to be available to CMPDD on an as needed basis for continuing education needs and planning expertise. Larry began his employment with the District in 1975 and has been instrumental in setting the CMPDD standard of excellence in both transportation and local planning. He leaves a fully trained staff with a high level of performance and ability to serve the District membership with their planning and transportation needs. Some of the District's many accomplishments made possible through Larry's efforts over the last 37 years include:

- Developed numerous transportation planning studies, including four long-range urbanized area transportation plans
- Prepared at least 30 comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and/or subdivision regulations
- Participated in the creation of several feasibility studies including: the Strategy to Develop a Biotechnology Research Park for the University of Mississippi Medical Center; the Canton Multipurpose Arena; the Economic Development Strategy for the U.S. Highway 80 Corridor in Jackson; and the Comprehensive Education Plan for the Madison County School District, which included a concept plan for development of an outlet mall and high school on 16th Section land.

Additionally, new streets have been built or are currently under construction as a direct result of conceptual plans derived from local thoroughfares plans written by Mr. Smith:

- Clinton Parkway and Hampstead Boulevard - City of Clinton
- Calhoun Station Parkway - Madison County
- Grandview and Galleria Parkways - City of Madison
- Reunion Parkway, including an I-55 interchange and connection to U.S. Hwy. 51 - City of Madison, Madison County
- Highland Colony Parkway - City of Ridgeland, Madison County

Mr. Smith also served as Chairman of the Intermodal Technical Committee, the technical advisory staff for the Jackson Metropolitan Area Transportation Planning Process. CMPDD wishes to publicly thank him for his numerous contributions toward the prosperity and economic growth of central Mississippi and his invaluable contribution towards the District's past and future success.

Creative Economy Grant Application Submitted to MDA

CMPDD assisted the Town of Flora in submission of a Creative Economy Grant application to the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). Flora is requesting funding to enhance its downtown area with signage, benches, and trash receptacles, which will allow for expansion of the "creative economy" located in the area. The Mississippi Creative Economy is the sum of all wealth generated by the state's cultural and creative enterprises, institutions, people and places. It also adds value to traditional economic sectors like manufacturing, agriculture service and tourism, while influencing where people choose to live and learn. The application requests \$3,900 in grant funds, and the Town committed to matching the grant, if awarded, with \$3,900.

The MDA grant program for expanding the state's creative economy is made available through Senate Bill 2413, passed in 1995. Funds are made available to assist communities in adding creative economy activities to their long range growth plans/strategic plans and to strengthen the local creative economy environment. For additional information, please contact **Mitzi Stubbs** or **Gray Ouzts** at **601-981-1511**.



CMPDD has submitted an application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a 3-year Partnership Planning Grant. With the planning assistance provided by the EDA, the District will maintain, update, and implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region; implement the Action Plan of CEDS; coordinate other funding sources; provide data and reports as requested by EDA; maintain a governing board which meets EDA approval; and assist local governments and non-profits in developing projects for EDA funding consideration.

District Receives Approval of CDBG Public Facilities Applications

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facilities Program provides grant funds to local units of government for a variety of public improvements projects (e.g., water or sewer facilities, storm drainage, public buildings, street reconstruction, etc) that benefit low and moderate income families and areas. Special priority is given to water and sanitary sewer projects that eliminate existing health and safety hazards.

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) recently approved seven (7) CDBG Public Facilities projects in the CMPDD area. Listed below are the projects, whose applications were prepared and submitted by CMPDD which received funding through the 2012 CDBG Public Facilities Program.

<u>Community Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>CDBG Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>
Village of Eden	Water System Improvements	\$ 296,000	N/A
Town of Edwards	Sanitary Sewer Improvements	449,969	N/A
Town of Flora	Sanitary Sewer Improvements	352,791	N/A
Madison County	Sanitary Sewer Improvements	205,990	\$200,000
City of Raymond	Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements	450,000	N/A
Town of Terry	Sanitary Sewer Improvements	600,000	600,000
Town of Wesson	Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements	240,000	N/A

CAP Loan Application Approved for Mendenhall

CMPDD recently assisted the City of Mendenhall with the submission of a Capital Improvements Program (CAP) loan application. The City of Mendenhall received approval of \$250,000 for recreation development.

The Local Government CAP was enacted by the State Legislature and is designed for making loans to counties or municipalities to finance capital improvements in Mississippi. Counties and municipalities are encouraged to use these loans in connection with state and federal programs, and the funds for loans are derived from the issuance of state bonds. Eligible projects include the following:

- Construction or repair of water and sewer facilities
- Construction or repair of drainage systems for industrial development
- Improvements in fire protection
- Construction of new buildings for economic development
- Renovation or repair of existing buildings for economic development purposes
- Purchase of buildings for economic development purposes
- Construction of any county or municipally-owned health care facilities, excluding any county health departments
- Construction, purchase, renovation or repair of any building to be utilized as an auditorium or convention center
- Construction of multipurpose facilities for tourism development
- Construction or repair of access roads for industrial development
- Construction or repair of railroad spurs for industrial development
- Construction, repair and renovation of parks, swimming pools and recreational and athletic facilities
- Remediation of brownfield agreement sites in accordance with Sections 49-35-1 through 47-35-25.

The cumulative maximum loan amount for any eligible local unit of government during a calendar year is \$1,000,000 for tax-exempt and taxable loans. The minimum loan amount allowed per project is \$30,000. The maximum CAP loan indebtedness allowed per applicant is \$2,500,000 outstanding principal balance. For more information or to apply for a CAP loan, please contact **Mitzi Stubbs** or **Gray Ouzts** at **601-981-1511**.

MS Careers of Tomorrow Promotes IT and Advanced Manufacturing Jobs

CMPDD is actively recruiting qualified employers and workers to participate in the Mississippi Careers of Tomorrow (MCOT) program. The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, focuses on helping employers fill critical needs in the Information Technology and Advanced Manufacturing sectors, while helping workers qualify for jobs in those sectors. Employers who hire qualified workers in targeted occupations are eligible for up to \$10,000 in wage reimbursements. The MCOT program includes the following occupational areas:

Occupational Areas Included in the MCOT Program

<u>Job Titles</u>	<u>Generally Required Education</u>
Computer and Information Systems Managers	Bachelor's degree or higher, + several years of work-related experience
Engineering Managers	Bachelor's degree or higher, + several years of work-related experience
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	Often requires a Bachelor's degree or higher, although an associate degree or professional certification + several years of work-related experience may suffice
Database Administrators	Often requires a Bachelor's degree or higher, although an associate degree or professional certification + several years of work-related experience may suffice
Information Security Analysts, Web Developers	Often requires a Bachelor's degree or higher, although an associate degree and Computer Network Architects or professional certification + several years of work-related experience may suffice
Computer Systems Analysts	Preference is at least a Bachelor's degree and broad knowledge of, and experience with, a variety of computer systems and technologies. Graduate degrees are sometimes preferred for some jobs.
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	Preference is at least a Bachelor's degree and broad knowledge of, and experience with, a variety of computer systems and technologies. Graduate degrees are sometimes preferred for some jobs.
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	Preference is at least a Bachelor's degree and broad knowledge of, and experience with, a variety of computer systems and technologies. Graduate degrees are sometimes preferred for some jobs.
Computer Support Specialists	Usual requirement is a Bachelor's degree, although an associate degree may be adequate for some jobs. Strong problem-solving and communication skills.
Mechanical Engineers	Bachelor's degree in engineering.
Industrial Engineers	Bachelor's degree in engineering.
Electrical Engineers	Bachelor's degree in engineering.
Aerospace Engineers	Bachelor's degree in engineering.

Most employers, regardless of the type of service or product provided, but who utilize any of the targeted occupations, may participate in the program. Workers who have the basic required educational credentials, but who lack significant work experience in the occupation, may also qualify. The MCOT program can help employers train workers to their standards and help workers gain specific credentials required by employers.

The MCOT program is funded by employers who pay fees to utilize foreign workers in jobs difficult to fill with American workers. It is intended to help local workers develop the skills needed for these occupations. Employers or workers wanting more information on the MCOT program or to apply for participation should contact **Mr. Terry Hodges at 601-321-5443 (thodges@mdes.ms.gov)** or they can contact their local WIN Job Center.

CMDC BULLETIN

Wanda Cowart, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC), announced the approval of one (1) new loan. This loan was for **Parish Tractor Company** for \$392,000 of a \$1,120,000 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The loan proceeds will be used to purchase a successful Kubota Tractor Company in Poplarville, Mississippi. This business will create approximately four (4) new jobs and save approximately seventeen (17) existing jobs in the private sector.



CMDC funds helped Patrick Tractor Co. to create 4 jobs & save 17 jobs in Poplarville, MS.

CMDC is certified by the U. S. Small Business Administration and works in cooperation with local banks and other financial institutions in providing debt capital for small businesses. These loans allow a small business to finance land, building, and equipment with a low down payment and long term financing at competitive interest rates. Fixed rate low interest financing for small businesses saves thousands of dollars in debt service on fixed assets. Also, this type financing provides an alternative to variable rate financing on long term assets. Many economic forecasters are certain that interest rates will rise. These predictable interest rate increases will not have a negative impact on the cash flow of those businesses that have fixed rate low interest loans through the U. S. Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The maximum loan amount is 40% of the total project cost up to a maximum loan amount of \$5,000,000 depending on the type of project. The maximum amount for eligible manufacturing projects is \$5,500,000.

Ms. Cowart announced that the current interest rates on business loans under the U. S. Small Business Administration's CMDC remain very low. The interest rates are as follows:

<u>TERM (YEARS)</u>	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>
10 (December 2012)	3.52%
20 (December 2012)	4.01%

In addition, the District manages a Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program (MBELP) that is administered by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), which recognizes the District as a "Qualified Entity" to originate and service loans under the MBELP. The interest rate on loans made through this program cannot exceed two percentage points above or below the Federal Reserve discount rate, which is 0.75% at the present time. Therefore, a minority owned business can obtain a business loan at a fixed rate of **2.75% per annum** for terms up to 15 years depending on the use of the loan proceeds.

CMPDD specializes in structuring loans for minority owned businesses (MBE/WBE) and businesses involved in exporting. Small business owners, bankers, commercial loan officers, real estate developers, contractors, and others interested in locking up extremely low fixed interest rates on business loans are encouraged to call **Larry Anderson** or **Dwayne Perkins** at 601-981-1625.

MSBALP Approves New Loan

Frank Street, Chairman of the District's Mississippi Small Business Assistance Loan Review Board, announced the approval of one (1) new loan. This loan was for **QUEST FITNESS, LLC for \$250,000**. It leveraged private capital of \$800,000 resulting in a \$1,050,000 total project and created two (2) new jobs. The loan proceeds were used to purchase and renovate an existing 14,292 square feet retail center in Ridgeland, Mississippi. In addition, some of the proceeds were used to purchase new equipment and provide working capital.

The Mississippi Small Business Assistance Loan Program can provide financial assistance to small businesses that foster economic development through the creation of new jobs. Loans are now available for terms up to fifteen (15) years at annual interest rates as low as 4.75%. Interested persons should contact **T. Larry Anderson** or **Dwayne Perkins** at 981-1511 for more information.

Mark Your Calendar!

2013 Annual MAPDD Conference

April 23-26, 2013
Beau Rivage
Biloxi, Mississippi

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



Census Training

In November, District staff participated in a Census Training workshop held at the University of Mississippi and hosted by the State Data Center and the Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts. Staff from the State Data Center presented information on methods to compare American Community Survey, sources of economic and health related data, and how to create custom geographies on the Census website to gather data. Also, a separate training session was held for GIS technicians to discuss using Census information in a Geographic Information System.

The Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts is preparing for the 2013 Annual MAPDD Conference, which will be held April 23-26, 2013 at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi and we hope that you will join us. Registration forms are available at www.mspdds.com.

Conference participants will stay at the Beau Rivage Resort and Convention Center. To make reservations, call 1-888-383-7037. Be sure to mention that you are with the Mississippi Planning and Development Districts Conference to receive the special group rate of \$129.00 per night. The rate is guaranteed until April 5, 2013 and requires a first night deposit.

Aging Service Providers Attend Training Workshop

To ensure efficiency carrying out the Area Aging Plan, the District conducted a mandatory training workshop in October for aging service providers throughout Central Mississippi. The providers were informed about policy and procedure changes and different contract management requirements for FY 2013 (Oct. 1, 2012 - Sept. 30, 2013).

The providers were updated on reporting, accountability, and monitoring guidelines required to ensure maximum efficiency. District staff disseminated information, including step-by-step instructions on mandatory reporting and required participant forms. District staff also answered questions regarding program eligibility, requirements, and funding availability.

For more information regarding Aging Programs, please contact **Chelsea Crittle** at 601-981-1511.



Chelsea Crittle, Director of Aging Programs for CMPDD, instructs aging service providers on changes in policy, procedure, and contract management requirements for FY 2013.

Over 800 Needy Benefit from Santas for Seniors

The District's partnership with three organizations was instrumental in the success of the 2012 Santa for Seniors Project. The **Jackson Chapter of the National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors (NAIFA)**, the **Jackson Association of Health Underwriters (JAHU)**, and **Home Instead Senior Care** provided Christmas gifts to over 800 needy seniors in CMPDD's seven county area. Robes, blankets, gowns, and toiletries were just some of the items purchased for seniors who are homebound, or at local nursing or personal care homes. Seniors were asked for their wish lists and the sponsors supplied the items. Recipients were very appreciative of the gifts and were encouraged and uplifted by the generosity extended to them.

Because of the participation of sponsors with this project, CMPDD has been able to provide many needy seniors with

Christmas cheer and joy for the past twenty-three years. The District is very grateful for the generous support and participation of our sponsors and looks forward to working with them and others in the future to ensure that central Mississippi's seniors are not forgotten at Christmas.



Shown at NAIFA's December meeting, where their gifts were presented to CMPDD to distribute: (l.-r.) President-Elect Tom Welch, Secretary-Treasurer Camille Allen-Snyder, National Committeewoman Kay Candelora, CMPDD Aging Director Chelsea Crittle, and Board Member Mark Baldwin.



Kay Candelora and NAIFA Executive Director Fonda Lundin with some of the many gifts collected for needy seniors.

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