

Central Update

A Quarterly Publication of
Central Mississippi Planning &
Development District

Long-Range Transportation Plan Completed

CMPDD completed work to develop the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan in late 2020. The Plan was released for public comments in September and was adopted by the Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee on November 12, 2020.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan is a long-range planning document that acts as a comprehensive blueprint to guide future transportation investments in the Jackson Urbanized region for the next 25 years. The plan identifies transportation needs, policies, strategies, and projects that aim to improve the quality of life for all residents in the region as part of CMPDD's continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning efforts. The plan was developed over two years as part of a coordinated process between the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization, local communities, various local, state, and federal agencies, and the public.

The 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan is available for review on CMPDD's website, www.cmpdd.org/long-range-transportation-plan-lrtp/. The plan is comprised of two main components the Executive Summary and seven Technical Reports. For more information about the 2045

Metropolitan Transportation Plan please contact Lesley Callender at lcallender@cmpdd.org.



Congestion – I-55 and I-20 have the worst congestion in the region.



Safety – From 2014 to 2018 there were 343 deaths and 304 severe injuries resulting from vehicular crashes in the MPO region.



Highest Truck Traffic – The highest truck volumes are on I-55, I-20, US 49, and MS 25.



Freight Truck Congestion – Freight truck congestion occurs on I-55 and I-20, largely focused at interchanges.

Shay Lipe Announces Retirement as Director of Finance



CMPDD's Director of Finance, Ms. Shay Lipe, has announced her retirement after 31½ years of service to the District. Shay began her career with CMPDD on May 1, 1989 serving as Administrative Accountant for a major portion of her career. On July 1, 2010, Shay was promoted to Director of Finance where she served as an integral part of CMPDD's management team. Under Shay's leadership as Director of Finance, the District streamlined its accounting system by embracing and adapting to new electronic technology

that increased productivity. In recent years, Shay was instrumental in implementing new web-based electronic signature software that greatly reduced circulation time and piles of paperwork. These improvements proved invaluable this year during the COVID-19 crisis when employees were working from home. We wish Shay all the best in her retirement that was effective October 31, 2020. Thank you for a job well done!!

Census 2020 Update and Redistricting

The 2020 Census is now complete and although the exact release date has not been set, we believe 2020 Census results will be available in early 2021. Once the information is released to the public, CMPDD will be able to use the data for planning, analysis, and redistricting efforts. We will also begin the process of updating the demographic profiles found on the CMPDD website for the cities and counties in our district. According to the Census, Mississippi had a household self-response rate of 60.4%. Non-response follow-up efforts by Census workers produced an additional 39.5% household responses. Mississippi's total enumerated household count was 99.9%.

To date, CMPDD has contracted with fifteen member governments to develop redistricting plans after the release of the 2020 Census. Because of the timing of the Census release and the municipal election cycle, the redistricting efforts for our cities and towns will not begin until late 2021. Development of county redistricting plans can begin immediately after the release of the new Census counts. If you have not already contacted us and would like assistance with your redistricting efforts, contact David Wade at 601.981.1511, ext. 247.

COVID Funding for Cities & Counties

CMPDD's Workforce Division continues to make funding available to cities, counties, and other public entities to provide temporary workers at no cost to the entity. Individuals can work up to 320 hours and will be paid \$10 per hour for work in public buildings and on public property. Work to be performed must be related to a need presented by the COVID-19 disaster to include disinfecting, cleaning, trash removal, temperature taking, or other duties required as they relate to COVID. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please contact the Workforce Division of CMPDD via email at wioa@cmpdd.org.

Partnership with MS State Fire Academy

CMPDD's Workforce Division staff have worked over the past months to certify a number of training courses offered to first responders by the MS State Fire Academy. Certifying the courses allows CMPDD to utilize federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to pay the cost of tuition and books for first responders attending training. Local fire departments are responsible for paying for training for first responders; however, there are never



enough training funds available to meet the level of need. Being able to utilize WIOA funding to help offset the cost of the training will greatly benefit local fire departments in the District. A community's fire rating is directly proportionate to the number of certified fire fighters the local fire department has on staff. The more certified fire fighters a department has, the lower the fire rating will be. The better the fire rating, the lower homeowners' insurance rates will be. This partnership is a winning opportunity for the District's local governments.

Connect JXN Moves into the Planning Phase

The City of Jackson, One Voice Mississippi, and CMPDD have been engaging the public through an online survey and focus group meetings to uncover the public's desires and vision for the City's future. As this phase of the comprehensive planning process wraps up, the CMPDD Planners are transitioning into the planning phase of the project. Existing land use data that was collected by CMPDD's staff in 2019 has been mapped, neighborhood and study area boundaries have been

drawn, and efforts are underway to collect demographic and investment data. These elements will be combined with the public's input to establish a set of brief guiding principles, which will serve as the foundation for the land use and transportation plans.

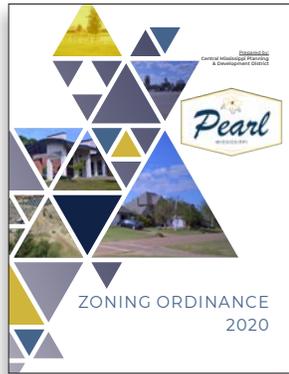
If you would like to complete the initial project survey, there is still time. Please visit ConnectJXN.com for additional information and to access the survey. The community will be



asked to participate again as draft elements of the plan are developed. Stay tuned for future updates.

City of Pearl Adopts New Zoning Ordinance

The City of Pearl recently adopted a new Zoning Ordinance developed by CMPDD. At their mid-November meeting, the Pearl Mayor and Board of Aldermen adopted the new Official Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. The new ordinance is a complete overhaul of the City's 2009 Zoning Ordinance and follows the adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan which was adopted in January 2020. The new ordinance revised the sign regulations to better conform to recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions and also includes 3-D renderings for each zoning district to better illustrate the zoning requirements.



Central Mississippi Mayors Association (CMMA) announces 2020 Scholarship Award Winner

The 2020 CMMA Scholarship winner is Mr. William Jeffrey "Jeff" Richburg. Jeff is attending The University of Mississippi with plans to graduate in May, 2023.



City Clerks Meeting

CMPDD hosted a meeting/luncheon for the City Clerks in the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District. The Clerks shared best practices with each other and discussed issues that directly affect their jobs. We are very happy to facilitate meetings such as this because increased efficiency greatly benefits our participating governments and those they represent.

CMPDD Receives MDA Site Visits for 2020 CDBG Public Facilities Applications

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facility 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-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 conducted site visits for three (3) potential CDBG Public Facilities projects in the CMPDD area. A site visit is an important step toward approval of the CDBG grant. Listed below are the proposed projects that ranked high enough to be eligible for potential funding through the CDBG Public Facilities Program.

<u>Community Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>CDBG Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>
Village of Beauregard	Unserved Sewer Extensions	\$449,939	N/A
City of Brandon	Sewer System Improvements	\$600,000	\$600,000
City of Hazlehurst	Water System Improvements	\$600,000	\$108,000

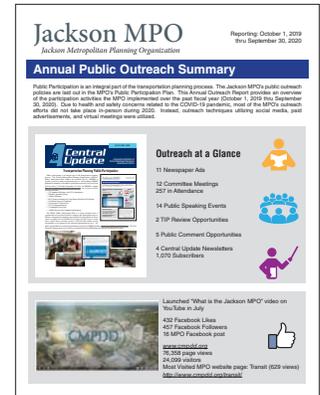
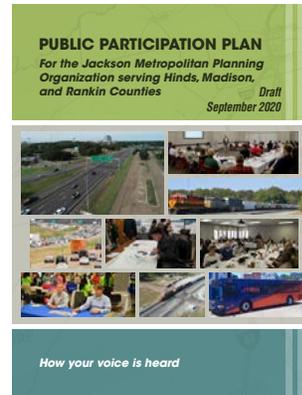
Delta Regional Authority Update

In December of 2020, CMPDD completed services for the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) that were related to data updates for their funding allocation model. Each year we gather the latest unemployment, poverty, and per capita income data and implement that information into the model. The model helps the DRA determine which counties are distressed and how much funding they are to receive based on the established formula. The model has become an essential tool for the DRA because it provides a consistent approach to funding allocation amongst the DRA counties. CMPDD has been providing this service on an annual basis for over 10 years.

CMPDD Published Annual Outreach Summary and Adopts a new Public Participation Strategy

In November, the Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee adopted a new Public Participation Plan for the Jackson MPO. The Plan describes the strategies used to encourage public participation in the development of the Jackson MPO's various transportation planning documents. The Public Participation Plan outlines CMPDD's commitment to an open and transparent involvement process to ensure everyone is given ample opportunity to access, review, and comment on plans, studies, and other transportation documents as they are being developed. In December, CMPDD published a summary of the MPO's participation activities for Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020) on CMPDD's website www.cmpdd.org/public-participation-plan/. Due to health and safety concerns related to the pandemic, most of CMPDD's outreach efforts did not take place in-person during

2020. Instead, outreach techniques utilizing social media, paid advertisements, and virtual meetings were utilized.



EDA Webinar Highlights CMPDD's Partnership with Tougaloo College

In November, CMPDD's Chuck Carr and David Wade participated in a joint webinar hosted by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (The Initiative), and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). The webinar series focused on how HBCUs can effectively engage with EDA resources. The webinars presented case studies highlighting previous and current collaboration between HBCUs, EDA, and Economic Development Districts (EDDs).

CMPDD's presentation focused on the development of a Master Plan for Tougaloo College. The purpose of the Master Plan was to develop a viable long-term plan for the properties owned by Tougaloo College that are adjacent to the campus. Tougaloo College owns approximately 375 acres that were located in both Hinds and Madison County as well as the Cities of Jackson and Ridgeland. District planners worked with planners from each jurisdiction to create opportunities for quality development that will complement the campus as well as the surrounding area. The plan includes reserving land for campus expansion as well as a site-specific land use plan for various types of development along with recommended zoning designations. The District utilized its drone capabilities and 3-D modeling to develop conceptual layout of the proposed developments.

Cathy Duke Appointed to Director of Finance

CMPDD announces that Ms. Cathy Duke has been promoted to Director of Finance. Cathy joined CMPDD in February 2020 as an Administrative Accountant. Prior to joining CMPDD, Cathy began her career with Bill's Dollar Stores working in almost every area of accounting over her 20 years of employment. After leaving Bill's Dollar Stores, Cathy worked for 18 years with Saks Fifth Avenue in Jackson. They were part of McRae's, Profits, and Parisian, which was later sold to Hudson Bay Company (HBC). At HBC, Cathy became part of their management team

where she supervised an accounting staff of 70 employees.

Cathy attended Provine High School in Jackson and then graduated from Mississippi College with a Master's Degree in Accounting. She is married to Paul Allen, who recently retired from Mississippi College where he was head women's basketball coach for over 25 years, and they reside in Ridgeland. Cathy has two (2) children who live in Madison and three (3) wonderful grandchildren.



CMPDD applies for a Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant

CMPDD applied for a \$300,000 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant in 2020. For this competitive grant solicitation, EPA expects to award as many as 600 grants and expects to announce the winners in May 2021. Assessment Grants provide funding for conducting Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), asbestos inspections, and developing cleanup and reuse plans for brownfield sites. Building on CMPDD's development of the 2020 Jackson Medical Mall Foundation Master Plan <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e9be21e887694d63bc1a61e97a00305d>, the grant is initially targeted for the commercial and industrial brownfields surrounding the Jackson Medical Mall. Additional properties within the CMPDD footprint may also be eligible during this three- year grant period.

Central Mississippi Mayors Association Meeting

CMPDD hosted a meeting/luncheon for the Central Mississippi Mayors Association (CMMA). This meeting was well attended and held at the CMPDD office.

The CMMA is made up of 34 cities, towns, and villages in the District. The purpose of the CMMA quarterly meetings are to discuss current issues facing the municipalities and exchange ideas of improving each individual area.

During the October meeting, CMPDD's Director of Planning, Chuck Carr and CMPDD Planner, Patrick Besselièvre, announced that CMPDD received a 2020 CARES Act grant award. They also discussed the details of how the grant funds will be used for enhancing and/or improving the CMPDD member governments.

Also, during the meeting, CMMA elected Mayor Jake Windham as Secretary-Treasurer, Mayor Dale Berry as Chairman, and Mayor John Henry as Vice Chairman.



Hazard Mitigation

CMPDD is currently working to update Hazard Mitigation Plans for Brandon, Ridgeland, Copiah County and Rankin County. These plans will include the most recent available data related to recent disaster events, an update of critical facilities, and an update of the jurisdictions' mitigation actions. Also included, is a comprehensive risk assessment that determines the threat level of each individual hazard as it relates to the jurisdiction. These plans are required to be reviewed and updated on a five-year cycle to account for any increase in risk or notable changes to the locality. All Hazard Mitigation Plans currently being developed by CMPDD will include a section related to Public Health Emergencies, in response to

the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Each plan's mitigation strategy will now include actions that directly improve a jurisdiction's resilience in the event of a Public Health Emergency. These actions are developed in collaboration with the mitigation councils and are specifically tailored to the individual jurisdiction. The District 5 Hazard Mitigation Plan has completed the State review process and is currently under review by FEMA. For more information concerning the mitigation planning process underway or to find out how you can be involved in the process contact Gray Ouzts at 601.981.1511, ext. 249 or visit the District's mitigation website page www.cmpdd.org/mitigation-planning/

Central Mississippi Mayors Association (CMMA) announces 2021 Scholarship Application due date

CMMA awards two (2) \$1000 scholarships each year. These scholarships are available to individuals entering any Mississippi university, college, or community college in any year (freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior) as an undergraduate student. Students may utilize scholarship funds to cover tuition, books, or fees only.

Applications can be completed and submitted online at: <http://www.cmpdd.org/images/cmmla/cmmla-scholarship-guide-and-application.pdf> or by contacting Mitzi Stubbs at mstubbs@cmpdd.org.

Application deadline is 3:00 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2021 to be eligible for the fall semester of that same year. For more information contact Mitzi Stubbs, at 601.981.1511, ext. 239.

Obligated Projects Report Released



In December, CMPDD published the Jackson MPO's Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. The report is prepared at the end of each Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 – September 30) to identify which projects identified in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program were obligated in the preceding Federal Fiscal Year. The report includes all federally funded projects authorized or revised to increase or decrease obligations. The report is developed cooperatively between CMPDD, the City of Jackson Transit Services Division, and the MS Development of Transportation. The Federal Fiscal Year 2020 report is available for review on CMPDD's website, www.cmpdd.org/annual-listing-of-obligated-projects/.

During Federal Fiscal Year 2020, fourteen projects receiving \$11.8 million in federal grant funds from the Jackson MPO were obligated and given authority to advertise for construction.

MPO Sponsored Projects Authorized for Construction in 2020:

- Resurfacing Lower Spillway Road from Breakers Lane to the Old Rapids entrance
- Resurfacing State Street from Sheppard Road to Briarwood Drive
- Resurfacing Old Whitfield Road from Hwy 468 to Hwy 475
- Widening Hoy Road from US 51 to Rice Road
- Traffic Signal Upgrades Hwy 80 at Belvedere Drive and Cross Park Drive
- Traffic Signal Upgrades Hwy 18 at McDowell Road
- Traffic Signal Upgrades State Street at Silas Brown Street
- New Traffic Signals at Highland Colony Parkway at Renaissance
- Multi-Use Path Rice Road/Tisdale Road
- Multi-Use Path Arrow Drive/Cynthia Road
- Boyce Thompson Drive Bike Lanes
- Multi-Use Path Woodgate Drive to the Brandon Library
- Downtown Brandon Hwy 80 Connectivity Sidewalk Improvements
- Jackson Connectivity Sidewalk Improvements Multiple Locations

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 and Licensed Social Workers work together as a team to case manage Medicaid eligible beneficiaries.

To remain in compliance with all state and federal guidelines and safety precautions during the Covid-19 pandemic, Medicaid Waiver Case Managers continue to conduct monthly case management contacts with their clients via telephone, or other virtual/video conference methods. These exceptional methods of contact are utilized under the direction of the Division of Medicaid. Case Managers also conduct face-to-face, in-home visits as necessary while utilizing all Covid-19 safety precautions. Face-to-face, in-home visits are necessary:

- If the client is unable to be contacted by telephone or virtually
- If the client is unable to communicate by telephone or virtually
- If the client has unmet needs that cannot be adequately addressed by telephone or virtually
- If the Case Manager has identified or received a report of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the client
- If the initial or transfer assessment and application packet is needed

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. Individuals who own an agency seeking to become a Medicaid Waiver service provider should contact the Division of Medicaid, Long-Term Care Bureau at 601.359.6141.

CMDC BULLETIN

Councilman De'Keither Stamps, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC), announced the approval of eight (8) new loans.

The first approval was for Remix MMA, LLC, a mixed martial arts facility and fitness center. The loan was for \$339,728 of a \$849,320 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of a commercial building in D'Iberville, MS. This business relocation will create five (5) full-time jobs.

The second approval was for Oliver's Ornamental Iron, LLC, an iron fabricator. The loan was for \$94,000 of a \$235,000 project under the United Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of a commercial building in Flora, MS. This business relocation will create two (2) full-time jobs.

The third approval was for Central MS Dance Studio, a dance studio. The loan was for \$143,500 of a \$308,375 project under the Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of a commercial building in Brandon, MS. This business relocation will create one (1) full-time and one (1) part-time job.

The fourth approval was for Global MidSouth Corporation, a Checkers and Rally's fast-food restaurant franchisee. The loan was for \$518,900 of a \$1,297,250 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of land, equipment, and the construction of a commercial building in Houston, Mississippi. This restaurant will serve as the borrowers' fourth restaurant and will create 23 part-time and 12 full-time new jobs in the private sector.

The fifth approval was for Global MidSouth Corporation, a Checkers and Rally's fast-food restaurant franchisee. The loan was for \$590,000 of a \$1,475,000 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of land, equipment, and the construction of a commercial building in Corinth, Mississippi. This will serve as the borrowers' fifth restaurant and will create 23 part-time and 12 full-time new jobs in the private sector.

The sixth approval was for Fondren Guitars, a retail music store. The loan was for \$518,900 of an \$648,625 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of a commercial building in Jackson, MS. This will create one (1) part-time and one (1) full-time job in the private sector.

The seventh approval was for Madison Oak Preschool, a childcare facility. The loan was for \$72,000 of a

\$180,000 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of a commercial building in Madison, MS. This will create six (6) part-time and five (5) full-time jobs in the private sector.

The eighth approval was for Mary Walker Marina, LLC, a wet and dry dock marina. The loan was for \$450,000 of a \$1,500,000 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase of the marina and improvements in Gautier, MS. This will create one (1) part-time and two (2) full-time 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 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 2020)	2.28%
20 (March 2020)	2.42%
25 (March 2020)	2.47%

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 2.75% 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.).

Councilman 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 Assistance."

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

District Sponsors Successful “Santa for Seniors” Holiday Project 30th Year Anniversary



Although the pandemic impacted the way we normally celebrate the holiday season, CMPDD Area on Aging staff successfully executed the 2020 Annual “Santa for Seniors Project”. The Jackson Association of Health Underwriters (JAHU) and Home Instead Senior Care provided Christmas gifts to over 165 needy seniors in our seven-county area. While navigating through these unprecedented times, Home Instead Senior Care and Amazon collaborated to ensure the annual project would take place and quickly developed a system which purchases could be made online and delivered safely to the District’s Lakeland Drive office.

Seniors were asked for their wish

lists and the sponsors supplied the items. Robes, blankets, towels, electric heaters, shower chairs, and toiletries are just some of the items purchased for seniors who are homebound and in long term care facilities. Case Managers presented gifts to the seniors who were uplifted and expressed appreciation by the generosity extended to them.

Because of the sponsors continued participation with this project, the District has been able to provide many needy seniors with Christmas cheer and joy during the holiday season for over thirty years. We are grateful for the interest and generous support of our sponsors and look forward to working with them in the future.



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