

JULY 2024

# Central Update

A Quarterly Publication of  
Central Mississippi Planning &  
Development District



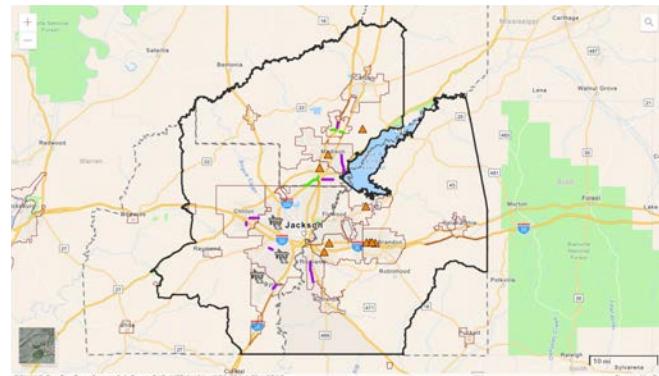
## CMPDD Announces Grant Awards for 26 Metro-Area Transportation Projects

In May, a total of \$28.1 million in grant funds was awarded to 26 projects in the metro Jackson area by the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) through its Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The MPO grants support a wide variety of projects that will be implemented over the next two (2) - seven (7) years. Numerous grants went toward improving roadway safety in Brandon, Ridgeland, Pearl, Madison, and Flowood. Other grants went toward bridge improvements in Jackson and Byram, congestion improvements in Gluckstadt and Ridgeland, and resurfacing improvements throughout the region.

Grant funds awarded by the MPO represent smart investments in community-based projects. Funding for these projects is available through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program, which are federal funds allocated annually by the U. S. Department of Transportation to urbanized areas with a population over 50,000. STBG grant funds are administrated in the metro area by the Central MS Planning and Development District through its MPO planning process.

Eligible jurisdictions in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties submitted applications to CMPDD in February 2024. The applications were then evaluated by the CMPDD



staff based on the project category and assigned a project score. The projects with the highest scores were the basis for a recommendation to the MPO Policy Committee, which approved the funding for 26 projects on May 8th. Combined, cities and counties receiving the \$28.1 million in federal surface transportation grant funds have committed to provide over \$50 million in local matching funds.

For more information on the project selection process or CMPDD's regional transportation planning process visit our website at [www.cmpdd.org](http://www.cmpdd.org).

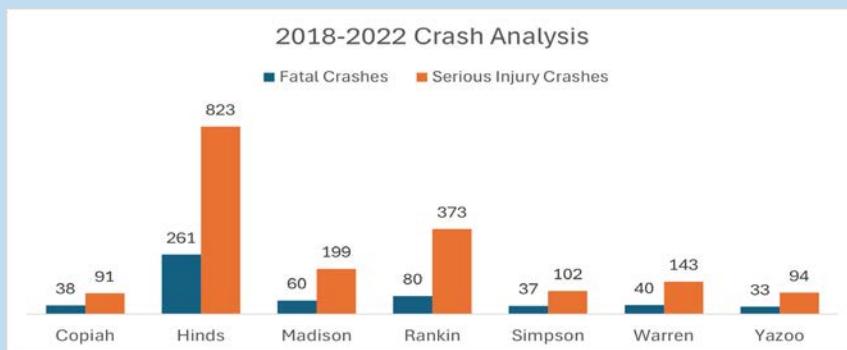
## Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) Update

CMPDD has contracted with Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) to assist in the upcoming Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) challenge designed to identify residential addresses in our district that may be underserved in terms of internet speed. The official challenge period will go through September 2, 2024. During this period residents in our district and across the state are encouraged to visit [www.broadbandms.com](http://www.broadbandms.com) and take the internet speed test to see if their address is underserved. The information gathered during these tests will ultimately help BEAM in their efforts to expand and improve broadband access for all Mississippians. If your address is underserved, CMPDD will assist your local government in submitting



the challenge on behalf of the resident. Anyone who would like to know more about this effort should visit the BEAM website at [www.beam.ms.gov](http://www.beam.ms.gov).

# CMPDD's Board of Directors Adopt Safety Action Plan



On May 8, 2024, the CMPDD Board of Directors adopted the region's first Safety Action Plan. The Plan was developed in consultation with local jurisdictions and key transportation stakeholders with the goal of developing a holistic, well-defined strategy to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries throughout the CMPDD seven-county region. The Safety Action Plan analyzes safety needs, identifies high risk crash locations, and prioritizes projects and strategies to address the identified concerns.

CMPDD was awarded grant funding through the Safe streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program in 2023 to assist with the development of the plan. Adoption

of this plan allows local jurisdictions with identified projects in the plan to apply for supplemental planning funds or implementation grants through the SS4A program.

Utilizing a data driven process to analyze crash records, the Safety Action Plan for CMPDD's region takes a proactive approach to road safety with the goal of eliminating crashes resulting in traffic deaths and serious injuries.

Key findings from the safety analysis included in the Safety Action Plan include: Within the CMPDD region, there were 549 fatal crashes and 1,825 serious injury crashes reported during the five-year analysis period (2018-2022). The most common crash types were run-

off the road (36%), angle (14%), and rear-end (12%) crashes. The late fall months, particularly October, were the most common times of the year for crashes. In contrast the winter and summer months, especially January and February, have historically seen fewer crashes compared to the rest of the year.

There were 235 fatal and serious injury pedestrian crashes and 22 fatal or serious injury bicycle crashes recorded within the CMPDD region during the five-year analysis period. Among the pedestrian involved in crashes, there were 97 fatal crashes and 138 suspected serious injury crashes. Bicycle involved crashes included nine (9) fatal crashes and 13 suspected serious injury crashes.

With the approval of the CMPDD Safety Action Plan, local jurisdictions are wasting no time in pursuing additional funding opportunities for infrastructure enhancements. Several local jurisdictions submitted implementation grant applications recently during the FY 2024 SS4A Implementation application cycle. The final round of FY 2024 planning and demonstration grant applications are due by August 29, 2024.

## CMPDD is Accepting Comments Related to the Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2028

One of the primary planning responsibilities of the CMPDD is to prepare and maintain a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The TIP is a multi-year listing of transportation projects that have received a commitment of funding from a combination of federal, state, and/or local sources within the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Area. The TIP is a financially constrained, short-term planning document that lists approximately four (4) years of federally funded or regionally significant transportation projects designed to address needs identified in the region's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan. CMPDD works with local governments, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, and JTRAN to develop a TIP that includes projects to meet various capital and operating needs of the region including reconstruction, maintenance, and operation of major highways, arterials,

collectors, and intersections; maintenance of the public transit services; and construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements within the Jackson Metropolitan Area.

CMPDD is hosting a 45-day comment period to allow citizens the opportunity to review and provide comments on the list of proposed projects included in the TIP. In addition, CMPDD is hosting a series of in-person community meetings July 23-25, 2024. The 45-day comment period began June 17, 2024, and ends August 2, 2024. The draft document and an interactive project map is available for review on CMPDD's website at [www.cmpdd.org/public-notices/](http://www.cmpdd.org/public-notices/).

For questions regarding the development of the 2023-2026 TIP or for assistance locating a copy of the proposed TIP please contact CMPDD at [mpo@cmpdd.org](mailto:mpo@cmpdd.org).

# 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.

## MAPDD Annual Conference

The Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts (MAPDD) held its annual conference in Biloxi, MS at the Beau Rivage April 23-26. It was attended by over 700 individuals from across the state. Speakers included EDA Regional Director, Philip Paradice; Accelerate MS Deputy Director, Garrett McInnis; and NADO Deputy Executive Director, Mirielle Burgoine. Concurrent sessions offered during the conference included sessions on Medicaid Waiver, Workforce, Aging, and Planning. Plans are already underway for next year's conference. Mark your calendar for April 22-25, 2025!



## 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 was granted 160 additional slots to be filled by individuals that have been 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 available services under the E&D Waiver. Those new services are Medication

Management and Environmental Safety Services.

- Medication Management services would be 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 would be 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. Services shall be provided by a licensed contractor.



**May 5 – 11, 2024 was National Nurses' Week. Congratulations and thanks to all our dedicated Registered Nurses!**

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, RN, Case Management Director at 601-855-5914 or [tburrell@cmpdd.org](mailto:tburrell@cmpdd.org).

# Central Mississippi Planning and Development District: Catalyzing Workforce Development for AWS

CMPDD is at the forefront of a transformative workforce development initiative in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS). As a principal coordinator of training providers for AWS-related training throughout the district, CMPDD is facilitating collaboration among multiple institutions, including Holmes Community College, Hinds Community College, and Build Mississippi. This initiative is pivotal as AWS invests a staggering \$10 billion to establish multiple data center complexes in two (2) Madison County industrial parks. This monumental project is projected to create at least 1,000 high-paying, high-tech jobs and over 8,000 related construction jobs, marking the single largest capital investment in Mississippi's history, according to AccelerateMS.

In a concerted effort to raise awareness and prepare the local workforce for the opportunities ahead, workforce partners hosted AWS Fiber Broadband Awareness Week from May 20 to 24, 2025. This week-long event featured a series of significant activities designed to engage, educate, and empower the community.

## May 20 - Groundbreaking Ceremony at Madison County MEGA Site

The week commenced with a groundbreaking ceremony at the Madison County MEGA site, hosted by Governor Tate Reeves. This event marked the beginning of the construction of the data center complexes and highlighted AWS's commitment to Mississippi. AWS announced its plans to support the state through substantial economic contributions, renewable energy agreements, workforce development training, and community engagement programs.

## May 22 - AWS Data Center Role Mapping Workshop

Held at the Jackson Campus and the Bean Path, the Data Center Role Mapping Workshop aimed to provide attendees with a comprehensive understanding of the various career roles

available at the data centers. This workshop was instrumental in helping future employers and job seekers align their skills and aspirations with the opportunities presented by AWS.

## May 22-23 - Two (2)-Day Fiber Fusion Training and Culminating Reception and Job Fair

A highlight of the week was the 2-day Fiber Fusion Training hosted by Holmes Community College, in collaboration with AWS and Sumitomo Electric Lightwave. This free certificate course introduced participants to fusion splicing, fiber optics, and cabling, with no prior experience required. Sumitomo Electric Lightwave, a leader in optical fiber technologies, provided expert training. The course concluded with an employer reception, offering trainees the chance to meet potential employers in the fiber business and apply for jobs with AWS contractors. At the job fair, Martez L. Rivers of Camden was offered a job on the spot with Sumitomo Electric Lightwave.

## Building a Future-Ready Workforce

CMPDD's role as a coordinator of these training initiatives underscores its commitment to workforce development and economic growth in the region. By partnering with AWS and esteemed educational institutions, CMPDD is ensuring that the local workforce is equipped with the skills needed to thrive in high-tech, high-paying roles. This collaborative effort not only supports the immediate needs of the AWS project but also contributes to the long-term economic vitality of Central Mississippi.

As we look to the future, the ongoing partnership between CMPDD, AWS, and local training providers promises to unlock new opportunities for the community, paving the way for a prosperous and technologically advanced Mississippi.



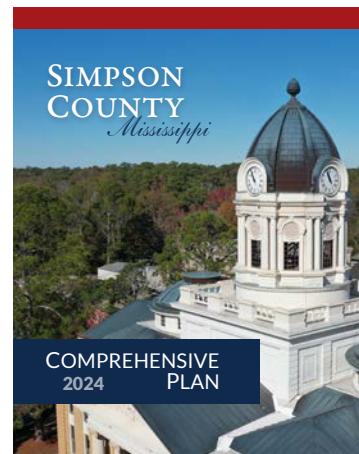
# Simpson County Adopts New Comprehensive Plan

In April, the Simpson County Board of Supervisors adopted the county's latest Comprehensive Plan. CMPDD planners, County Supervisors, and members of the Simpson County Economic Development Foundation worked on the Comprehensive Plan over the past two (2) years.

In 2009 Simpson County began the planning process by working with CMPDD to develop the county's first Comprehensive Plan. The result was

the 2010 adoption of a Comprehensive Plan. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan is the first update to the original 2010 Plan.

Following adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the County has begun implementing many of the recommendations in the document. Specifically, the Board of Supervisors are in discussion with CMPDD regarding the possibility of drafting the County's first Zoning Ordinance and Map.



## CMPDD GIS TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

GIS stands for geographic information systems. GIS is a computer-based tool which is used to store, visualize, analyze, and interpret geographic data. Modern advances in technology mean the expectations from the public have grown as well. GIS technology can aid local leaders by saving time, saving money, avoiding costs, increasing accuracy, improving productivity, generating revenue, increasing efficiency, automating workflows, managing resources, and aiding in budgeting.

### Saving Costs

Some may say avoiding costs is the same as cost savings, but GIS can show a clear distinction. GIS can streamline processes. Like the elimination of paper and printing by storing information on computer and digital filing systems. GIS is always touted for saving money by streamlining processes, enhancing field data collection, improving navigation, and optimizing services.

Many people have used the Rankin or Madison County map viewers. The map viewers show property details through the parcel layer which is linked to the relevant tax deed. This allows county employees to avoid the time and cost of having to meet with citizens or developers to answer simple questions about their property.

Cost avoidance is sometimes referred to as soft savings, but the impact is real. Expenditures are avoided because processes



and workflows can handle new demands without additional staff or tools. With the introduction of GIS, organizations can eliminate outdated or costly workflows and modernize operations. In many cases cost avoidance occurs as a by-product of well-constructed workflows assisted by GIS.

If you would like to know more about how GIS can aide your organization, please contact Johnathan Simon at [jsimon@cmpdd.org](mailto:jsimon@cmpdd.org) or 769-777-7311.

## 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 24 jurisdictions to develop Redistricting

Plans. These include five (5) counties, 17 municipalities and two (2) school districts. To date, 23 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](mailto:dewade@cmpdd.org).

## Grants Update

CMPDD staff worked with local municipalities and counties to submit Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) in May to the Mississippi Development Authority. Applications were submitted on behalf of municipalities in Copiah, Hinds, and Rankin counties totaling more than \$2.6 million dollars in potential grant funds.

CMPDD also submitted multiple grants to the Delta Regional Authority in the past quarter. Four (4) grants were submitted for consideration of the Community Infrastructure (CIF) funds and one (1) proposal was submitted for a strategic planning grant. The Town of Georgetown was awarded more than \$860,000 in CIF funding for their sewer lagoon repairs. Lastly, (DRA) announced a July deadline for their States Economic Development

## David Wade Appointed as Director of Planning

CMPDD is pleased to announce that Mr. David Wade has been named the new Director of Planning & Management, effective May 3rd. Mr. Wade began his career at CMPDD in 1993 as an Assistant Planner after finishing his degree in Community and Regional Planning at the University of Southern Mississippi. He has worked extensively throughout the District and State of Mississippi developing numerous comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, redistricting plans, and hazard mitigation plans.



Assistance Program (SEDAP) grants. This program allows applicants to apply for up to \$500,000 for necessary infrastructure, workforce, or business growth programs to increase

economic development along the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions.

## Georgetown Secures more than \$870,000 for Critical Sewer Improvement Project

The Town of Georgetown is thrilled to announce it has been awarded more than \$870,000 for a sewer improvement project, aimed at modernizing the community's wastewater infrastructure to enhance public health, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.

Georgetown was selected by the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) to be awarded \$870,428 to make improvements to its basic public infrastructure (the first federal grant ever received by the town). The award was made available through DRA's Community Infrastructure Fund program, which is funded partly by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed by President Joe Biden. This project reflects DRA's steadfast commitment to fostering resilience and opportunity within the communities in its eight-state footprint, along the lower Mississippi River and Alabama Black Belt regions.

"We are very thankful for the support from the Delta Regional Authority and our local partners at Central Mississippi Planning and Development District in getting this funding," said Russ Dubose, Mayor of Georgetown. "This project is a big step in making our community stronger and better. These improvements to our infrastructure are just the beginning for Georgetown."

The Georgetown Sewer Improvement Project will overhaul the town's existing wastewater management system, addressing current limitations and future challenges.



Key components of the project include the installation of equipment, expansion of the sewage discharge network, and added measures to withstand environmental stressors. By modernizing the infrastructure, this funding will safeguard the sensitive wetland areas surrounding the system and bring the town to compliance with regulatory standards.

### About Delta Regional Authority:

The DRA was established in 2000 as a formal framework for joint federal-state collaboration to promote and encourage the economic development of the lower Mississippi River and Alabama Black Belt regions. To fulfill this purpose, DRA invests in projects supporting transportation infrastructure, basic public infrastructure, workforce training, and business development. DRA's region encompasses 252 counties and parishes in parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

## Hazard Mitigation Planning

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local jurisdictions to maintain an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to maintain grant eligibility for certain pre- and post-disaster grant programs available through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Recent spring and early summer severe thunderstorms have brought high winds, large diameter hail, frequent lightning, and tornadoes to Central Mississippi, which highlight the need for mitigation planning. All jurisdictions are reminded to review their adopted Hazard Mitigation Plans annually to ensure accuracy with current visions and needs and to account for any development or population changes that might have occurred that could increase or decrease a community's risk to a particular hazard.

Predicting where the next disaster will occur, and how severe its impact will be on a community is difficult. Given the right conditions natural disasters, such as tornadoes and flash floods, can occur at anytime and anyplace. Their human and financial consequences can be significant. Mitigation Planning is intended to assist communities in determining their risks to natural disasters and developing an action plan to address the known risks by lessening the impact of natural disasters when they do take place. Currently, CMPDD Planners are assisting the City of Gluckstadt, Mississippi Valley State University, Mississippi State University, and the University of Mississippi Medical Center with 5-year updates to their Hazard Mitigation Plans. CMPDD Planners remain available to assist local governments with their annual reviews.

## CMPDD Develops Comprehensive Plan for the City of Richland

CMPDD is developing a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Richland. 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 Plan will serve as an update to the City's 2019 Comprehensive Plan. In addition to seeking public engagement through an online survey, the new Plan will be presented at a public hearing prior to adoption.



## CMMA/Clerks Meeting

Both the Central Mississippi Mayors Association (CMMA) and the City Clerks Association met in June. These groups shared best practices with each other and discussed issues that directly affect their jobs and municipalities.

The mayors came together while on the Coast at the annual Mississippi Municipal League Conference and met with Mississippi State Senator Jenifer Branning.



## Planning Updates

CMPDD is currently under contract with the Cities of Brandon, Crystal Springs, Madison, and the Town of Bentonia for Comprehensive Plan updates and/or Zoning Ordinance revisions. During this quarter, plan and ordinance development continues for Bentonia, Brandon, and Crystal Springs, and an existing land use survey is underway in Madison.

All Comprehensive Plans developed by CMPDD Planners are now released in both interactive, digital formats and booklet style print copy. The use of these formats allows local governments to easily share and distribute their planning documents in a marketable manner that is attractive to potential and current investors. Zoning documents, as a legal document, retain their traditional print formatting but are now linked to parcel data on interactive maps, which allow quick discovery of the zoning regulations applicable to a specific area or parcel.

# CMDC BULLETIN

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

The approval was for Cannery Row, LLC a boutique hotel. The loan was for \$1,564,896 of a \$5,216,320 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will finance the purchase and renovation of an existing building. The renovation will create a 25-room boutique hotel and a Viking Cooking School in Laurel, Mississippi. The hotel will create 25 new jobs in the private sector.

CMDC is a commercial lender certified by the U. S. Small Business Administration and works with local banks and other financial institutions in providing debt capital for small businesses. CMDC provides fixed rate low interest long term financing for small businesses and saves thousands of dollars in debt service on fixed assets. This type of financing removes the problem of variable rate financing on long-term assets. Many economic forecasters are certain that interest rates will rise. These predictable interest rate increases will not negatively impact the cash flow of those small businesses that have fixed rate low interest loans through the U. S. Small

Business Administration's (SBA) 504 Loan Program. The most recent fixed interest rates under this loan program were:

## SBA 504 Loan Program Interest Rates

TERM (YEARS)	INTEREST RATE
10 (June 2024)	6.90%
20 (June 2024)	6.44%
25 (June 2024)	6.35%

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 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.)

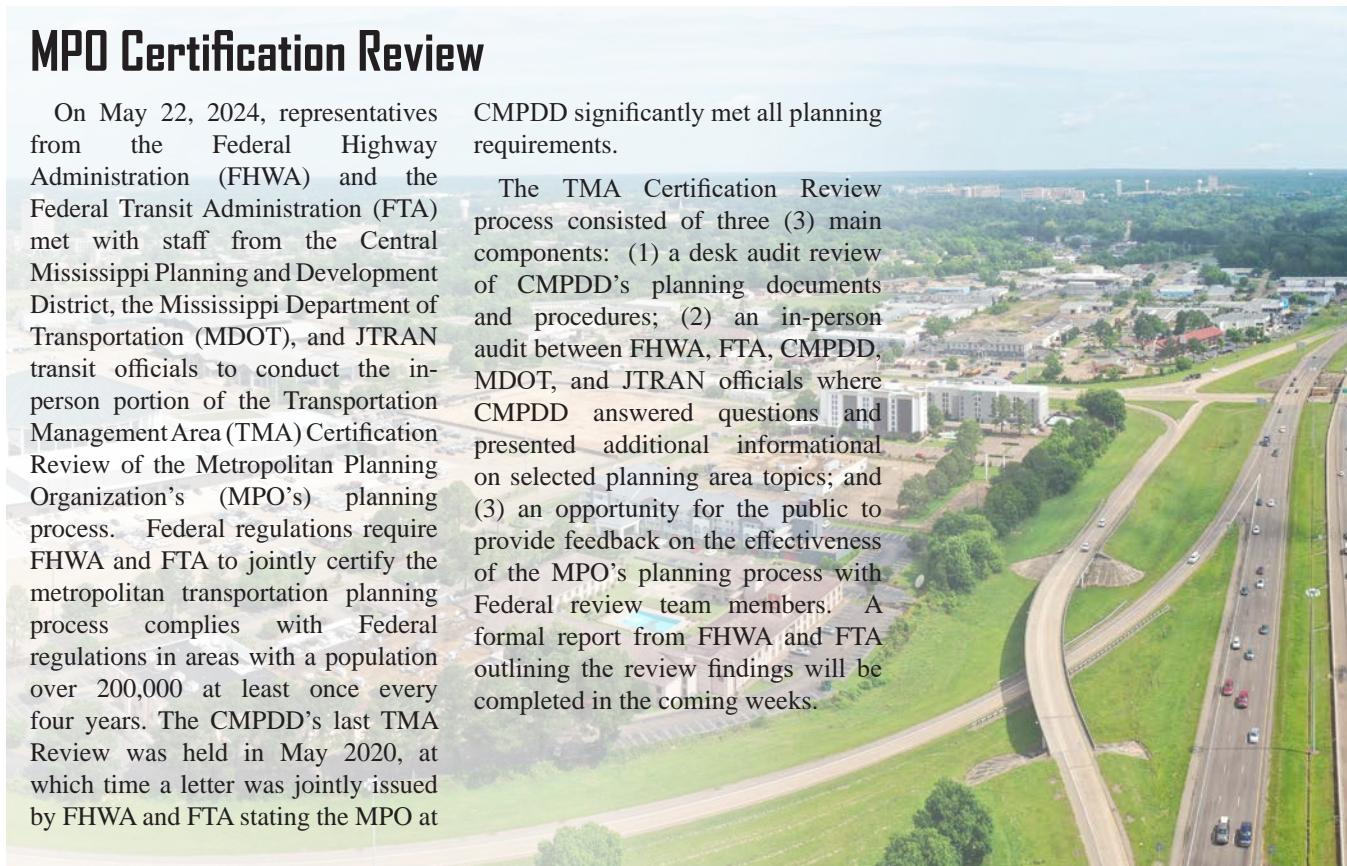
Commissioner De'Keither Stamps invites bankers, commercial loan officers, business owners, real estate developers, and general contractors to contact Dwayne Perkins at 601-981-1625, or visit our website at [www.cmpdd.org](http://www.cmpdd.org). See the tab labeled "Small Business Loans."

## MPO Certification Review

On May 22, 2024, representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) met with staff from the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), and JTRAN transit officials to conduct the in-person portion of the Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification Review of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) planning process. Federal regulations require FHWA and FTA to jointly certify the metropolitan transportation planning process complies with Federal regulations in areas with a population over 200,000 at least once every four years. The CMPDD's last TMA Review was held in May 2020, at which time a letter was jointly issued by FHWA and FTA stating the MPO at

CMPDD significantly met all planning requirements.

The TMA Certification Review process consisted of three (3) main components: (1) a desk audit review of CMPDD's planning documents and procedures; (2) an in-person audit between FHWA, FTA, CMPDD, MDOT, and JTRAN officials where CMPDD answered questions and presented additional informational on selected planning area topics; and (3) an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the MPO's planning process with Federal review team members. A formal report from FHWA and FTA outlining the review findings will be completed in the coming weeks.



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

## Area Agency on Aging Public Hearing Fiscal Year 2025

CMPDD Area Agency on Aging division in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Human Services Division on Aging and Adult Services held its annual public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2025 Area Plan on Aging on Friday, May 24, 2024. It began at 11:00 a.m. at the Jackson Medical Mall. Over 250 seniors and representatives from partnering organizations attended this annual meeting. Dr. Chelsea B. Crittle, Aging Division Director, presented a comprehensive quantitative presentation displaying the Area Agency on Aging's accomplishments from FY October 1, 2023, through March 30, 2024. She informed the audience of the agency's FY 2025 programmatic goals and expected funding limits allocated by the Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. She continued the presentation by explaining the purpose of the Area Plan and the required mandates. She concluded by informing the audience they could review the Fiscal Year 2025 Area Plan on Aging. It will be available September 1, 2024. Anyone interested in reviewing the Plan could contact CMPDD and schedule an appointment.

Additionally, Ms. Brenda Hille, Aging Fiscal Director, with the Mississippi



Department of Human Services presented the FY 2025 State Plan Initiatives. Ms. Hille reported the State Unit on Aging (SUA) has six (6) goals for Mississippi. One of their goals is to provide long-term services and support that enable older Mississippians, their families, caregivers, and persons with disabilities to age in place and enable them to live safely in communities as long as possible. Ms. Benae Jackson, Home and Community Based Services Manager provided a broad program overview of resources within the SUA. She also discussed how they will strive to promote equity in service provision to older adults who participate in the Older Adult Nutrition Program by using person-center counseling. Ms. Jackson closed by providing several key points on services available and their overall functions.

Before the public hearing concluded, Dr. Crittle fielded questions and

comments from the audience about aging services. Most of the questions were centered around transportation services. For more information on FY 2025 Area Plan, please contact Chelsea B. Crittle, PhD at 601-981-1516.

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