



Central Update

OCTOBER 2024

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Central Mississippi Planning &
Development District

Feedback Needed on the 2024-2028 South Central Mississippi Works Local Workforce Plan

As we move forward with the South Central Mississippi Works (SCMW) Local Workforce Development Area's (LWDA) efforts, we are excited to announce the upcoming implementation of our new local area plan, covering the period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2028. This plan aligns with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and supports Mississippi's vision for economic growth in Mississippi by creating a robust workforce.

The Combined Plan reflects our commitment to addressing the evolving needs of our community. It aims to integrate various workforce services, enhance training opportunities, and ensure that individuals are equipped with the skills required by today's employers.

With resources such as Sector Training Plus Comprehensive One-Stop Centers and Digital Access One-Stop Centers, our workforce delivery system is designed to better serve both job seekers and businesses alike.

To ensure that our local plan remains relevant and effective, we are seeking feedback from our valued workforce partners and community members. Your insights are crucial in helping us understand the challenges and opportunities in our region. We invite you to review the plan and complete a survey available at cmpdd.org/workforce/ by October 23.

The survey will include questions about the effectiveness of our current initiatives, the specific workforce needs

in your community, and suggestions for enhancing collaboration among partners. Your feedback will play a vital role in shaping the future of workforce development in South Central Mississippi, ensuring we can better serve our job seekers and meet the demands of local businesses.

We appreciate your continued commitment to workforce development and look forward to hearing your valuable input. Together, we can build a stronger, more competitive workforce that supports economic growth and provides sustainable employment opportunities for all Mississippians.

CMPDD Launches Online Transportation Survey for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

CMPDD is excited to announce the launch of an online transportation survey, offering residents an opportunity to engage in the development of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The online survey invites residents to provide valuable input on various topics, including congestion locations, bike and pedestrian pathways, transit needs, safety improvements, and funding prioritization. This early involvement is essential for ensuring the long-range plan reflects the community's needs and priorities. To access the survey, scan the QRL code or visit cmpdd.org/lrtp/ to learn more.

Help us plan the region's future transportation system.



<https://metroquestsurvey.com/yy20i>

Federal planning regulations require MPO's to update Metropolitan Transportation Plans, also known as
(see *Transportation* on p.2)



long-range transportation plans, every five (5) years to reflect new planning priorities and account for changes in population or economic growth that may impact travel demand. The comprehensive plan establishes a multimodal vision for the region's transportation system and guides both capital investments and research studies in the region for the next 25 years. CMPDD's staff is working to develop the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Jackson Urbanized Area as part of MULTIPLAN 2050, which is a coordinated effort to develop the MS Department of Transportation's statewide long range transportation plan and regional plans for the MPO at CMPDD, the Hattiesburg-Petal-Forrest-Lamar MPO, and the Gulf Regional Planning Commission MPO.

CMPDD encourages all residents to participate in this survey. Your feedback is invaluable as we work towards creating a regional transportation network that serves everyone efficiently and safely.

Do not wait to share your transportation needs and ideas. The survey ends November 15, 2024.

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Project Milestones

-  1 Define our current transportation needs.
-  2 Explain long-range transportation planning, why it is important and how people can participate in planning for future needs. **WE ARE HERE**
-  3 Develop growth forecasts.
-  4 With input from the public, begin to plan how and where limited transportation funding should be spent.
-  5 Develop goals and performance standards for our state.
-  6 Identify ways for improving transportation.
-  7 Develop a financial plan.
-  8 Put together a draft long-range transportation plan that includes short-range programs.
-  9 Estimate the impact the draft plan might have on the environment.
-  10 Invite the public to review and make official comments about the draft plan.
-  11 Develop the final plan, which can be updated or amended if new information is discovered.

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 reinforces 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 to develop 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 Mississippi Valley State University and Mississippi State University with 5-year updates to their Hazard Mitigation Plans and is assisting the University of Mississippi Medical Center with their first Hazard Mitigation Plan. CMPDD Planners remain available to assist local governments with their annual reviews.

Redistricting Updates

Since the release of the 2020 Census population data in September 2021, CMPDD worked with 24 jurisdictions to re-draw election districts. These include five (5) counties, 17 municipalities, and two (2) school districts.

If your community needs assistance with the redrawing of election districts, contact Gray Ouzts at 601-321-2197 or gouzts@cmpdd.org.

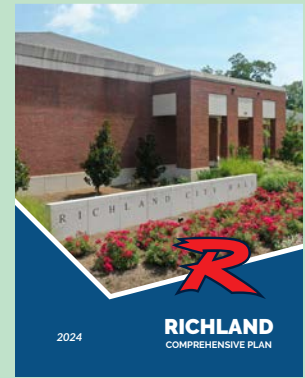
CMPDD Wraps Up Work on Broad Band Challenge (BEAM)

In September, CMPDD completed support and service work related to the BEAM initiative in MS. CMPDD along with many other PDDs assisted BEAM with the challenge process by being a resource to local officials and residents interested in challenging the level of service they receive from their broadband provider. CMPDD worked with residents, reviewed submissions, and took action to submit qualified challenges using the BEAM portal.



Planning Updates

The District is currently under contract with the Cities of Brandon, Crystal Springs, Madison, Richland, and the Town of Bentonia for comprehensive plan updates and/or zoning ordinance revisions. During this quarter, plan and ordinance development was nearing completion for Richland and Bentonia and continues for Brandon, Crystal Springs, and Madison. CMPDD is also assisting Simpson County with the development of their first Zoning Ordinance based on the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan.



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 legal documents, retain their traditional print formatting but are now linked to parcel data on interactive maps, this allows quick discovery of the zoning regulations applicable to a specific area or parcel.

Launching the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship Program in Ridgeland, MS

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship Program, designed to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed for a successful career in cloud computing and information technology. This program, part of a national initiative, aims to address the growing demand for skilled workers in the rapidly evolving tech industry and is the first training opportunity for future workers at Amazon Web Services economic development project in Madison County.

The AWS Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship Program provides participants with hands-on training, mentorship, and access to valuable resources to prepare them for careers in cloud computing. Participants will

learn essential skills such as cloud architecture, data management, and cybersecurity, all while gaining a comprehensive understanding of AWS services and technologies.

Key Features of the Program:

- **Hands-On Training:** Participants will engage in practical, real-world projects that provide the experience needed to excel in the field.
- **Mentorship Opportunities:** Each participant will be paired with industry professionals who will offer guidance and support throughout the program.
- **Job Placement Assistance:** Graduates will receive assistance in securing internships and job placements with local employers looking for skilled tech talent.

This pre-apprenticeship program is an excellent opportunity for individuals

seeking to enter the tech industry, especially those from underrepresented communities. By participating, you can build a strong foundation in cloud technologies and enhance your employability in a high-demand field.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the AWS Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship Program, we encourage you to apply. For more information on eligibility, program details, and application deadlines, please visit aws-workforce.pearson.com/i2pa/.

Join us in paving the way for a brighter future in technology! Your journey toward a rewarding career in cloud computing begins here. Stay tuned for more updates and success stories from our program participants!

Jackson MPO Approves 2025-2028 TIP and 2025-2026 UPWP Documents

In August, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) at CMPDD approved the 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a regional planning document used by MPOs to provide an overview of how federal transportation dollars will be invested over a four-year period by federal, state, and local agencies responsible for building, operating, and maintaining the multimodal regional transportation system. The TIP serves as a short-term planning document designed to carry out the recommendations of the region's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The projects include 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 develops the TIP collaboratively with local governments, JTRAN, and MDOT. The TIP is required to be updated at least every four (4) years. CMPDD typically updates its TIP document every two (2) years. The FY 2025 – 2028 TIP covers the period from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2028.

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) provides a description of the transportation planning activities CMPDD, as the MPO for the Jackson urbanized area, and JTRAN, as the designated public transit provider, will endeavor to

achieve within the next two-year timeframe (October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2026). The UPWP includes a listing of major planning activities and tasks anticipated to be performed including details on who will complete the work, the schedule for completing the work, the resulting planning products, and a summary of the proposed funding sources. The 2025-2026 UPWP contains four (4) major program areas with associated subtasks for each including:

- Transportation Planning Process Program Administration
- System Planning
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Support Activities

A significant amount of time and resources outlined in the UPWP for 2025 involves the development of the MPO's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan which is anticipated to be completed by December 2025. In addition, activities such as collecting traffic count data, existing land use, and pavement conditions were continued in the UPWP.

For more information about CMPDD's transportation planning process visit the transportation tab on CMPDD's website, www.cmpdd.org.



Grants Update

CDBG

CMPDD staff worked with local municipalities and counties recently to conduct four (4) site visits for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Public Facilities projects in September with the Mississippi Development Authority. The chosen site visits were conducted on behalf of municipalities in Copiah, Hinds, and Rankin counties totaling more than \$2.6 million dollars in potential grant funds. CMPDD staff continues to administer previously awarded projects with Cities of Byram, Flora, Raymond and Warren and Madison Counties. CMPDD staff will also soon begin working with municipalities to start new 2025 CDBG applications.

DRA

CMPDD also submitted multiple grants to the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) in the past quarter. Four (4) grants were submitted for consideration of the Community Infrastructure (CIF) funds, one (1) State Economic Development Assistance Program and one (1) proposal was submitted for a strategic planning grant. DRA announced a September deadline for their Community Infrastructure Program (CIF) grants for FY 2024. This program allows applicants to apply for up to \$2,000,000 for necessary infrastructure, workforce, or business growth programs to increase economic development along the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions. DRA is anticipating re-opening funding for FY2025 grants soon.

NADO

CMPDD was awarded two (2) National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Impact Awards for the 2024 class of awardees which consists of 98 projects from 64 organizations spanning 21 states. CMPDD was selected for the Town of D'Lo Water Tower Rehabilitation and Piney Woods School Infrastructure Improvements. The Town of D'Lo rehabilitated two (2) potable water tanks due to significant deficiencies and non-compliance with regulations. The Piney Woods School applied for funding for major infrastructure improvements for their road and wastewater lagoon facility. The annual Impact Awards Program celebrates NADO members' efforts in advancing regional planning, economic development, resilience, and more.

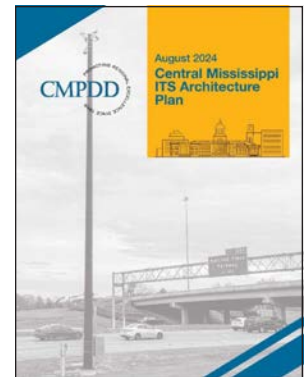
CMPDD Adopts the Central Mississippi Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Plan

On August 14, 2024, the CMPDD Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee adopted the Central Mississippi Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Plan. The Plan will provide a long-range plan for the deployment, integration, and operation of ITS within the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District MPO. Originally developed in 2008, CMPDD recognized the need for the existing plan to be updated and in 2023 selected Kimley Horn to conduct the needed update.

Stakeholder input was critical in the development of the plan to ensure that the architecture reflected regional needs. Two (2) workshops, one in the fall of 2023 and the other in the spring of 2024, were held with stakeholders to gather input. Interviews were conducted with representatives from many of the regional stakeholder agencies. Participants included federal, state, and local officials representing traffic engineering, public safety, first responders, and others.

These meetings allowed stakeholders to plan for what they want their system to look like in the long term. It also organizes the regional ITS network into smaller pieces that can be implemented over time as funding permits. Development of a regional ITS architecture encourages interoperability and resource sharing among agencies and allows for cohesive long-range planning among regional stakeholders. Completion of the Plan will ensure that federal transportation funds may be spent on ITS elements of projects being implemented in the region.

For more information on the Central Mississippi Intelligent Transportation System Architecture Plan, please visit cmpdd.org/its/.



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.

A new State Fiscal Year (SFY) began July 1, 2024, for business operations. The Division of Medicaid issued a revised SFY25 E & D Waiver monthly activity report. The revised report included the new total number of slots that each PDD can serve per fiscal year. Based on appropriations House Bill 1800 signed into law by Governor Tate Reeves, an additional statewide 859 waiver slots were approved. CMPDD was granted 160 additional slots to be filled by individuals that have been maintained on waiting lists throughout our seven-county service area. CMPDD reserves the capacity to serve 2,840 clients living throughout all seven (7) counties.

The revised monthly activity report will also include the number of individual Registered Nurses and the number of individual Licensed Social Workers on staff at each PDD.

With the 2023 renewed E & D Waiver document, Case Management teams may consist of a RN and LSW; two (2) RN's; or two (2) LSW's.

Also, with the renewal of the Waiver, two (2) new services were added 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 and 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 fiscal year. We are encouraging all licensed and insured contractors to become a part of the ESS provider resource database.

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.

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.

Improving Accuracy

With people today having easy access to a reliable smart device in their pocket and organizations having more access to more data than they know what to do with, it is understandable that citizens expect governments decisions to be highly accurate.

Citizens expect governments to know where to shut off the water main before it ends up on the nightly news or to fix the pothole on the most trafficked street first. But without accurate and reliable information the government would be unable to make these informed decisions.

Today, organizations use GIS to standardize data models and establish an authoritative system of record to increase accuracy. GIS allows organizations to clean their data through comprehensive checks that ensure that they are always of high quality, and accurate.

The introduction of new precision support technologies – such as drones, high resolution aerial imagery, remote sensing, GPS/GNSS, and laser measurement devices increases the validity of GIS databases.

Improving Productivity

The definition of improved productivity has evolved as new technology has been introduced and has impacted on our workflows. Productivity is typically measured in the performance of labor outputs. The most common examples deriving from the introduction of GIS are increased numbers of assets inventoried or the number of inspections handled in a day. The locating of the assets, distance travelled, and reductions in trips back to the office typically result in a higher return of investment.

GIS



Increasing Efficiency

The application of location-based thinking has demonstrated numerous measurable benefits with respect to increased efficiency. Efficiency is a companion benefit to increase productivity. Rarely do organizations recognize measured benefits in one area without recognizing return in the other.

Efficiency is realized in time savings, maximized material management, and optimizing capital or operational expenditures. For example, optimizing the routing of solid waste pickup can result in reductions in the number of vehicles and drivers required to accomplish the same task within the same amount of time across a larger geography. The review of efficiency often yields returns on savings from items such as fuel and maintenance costs. This is particularly relevant today with the current high fuel prices. Applying GIS to modern workflows has demonstrated the value of optimizing response times with emergency responses.

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



CMMA/Clerks Meeting

Both the Central Mississippi Mayors Association (CMMA) and the City Clerks Association will meet in October. These groups share best practices with each other and discuss issues that directly affect their jobs and municipalities. CMMA will start accepting scholarship applications for 2025 applicants beginning October 15, 2024. The CMMA Scholarship is for students from Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren, or Yazoo counties who will be continuing their education at a college or university within the state. The scholarship can cover the cost of tuition, textbooks, or room and board. For more information regarding the scholarship please visit cmpdd.org/cmma.

CMDC BULLETIN



Commissioner De'Keither Stamps, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC), announced the approval of no new loans.

CMDC is pleased to announce the completion of the Kia of McComb, LLC automobile dealership. The \$1,883,000 SBA 504 Loan was utilized to create a new location and ten (10) 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

| <u>TERM (YEARS)</u> | <u>INTEREST RATE</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 10 (September 2024) | 5.87% |
| 20 (September 2024) | 5.83% |
| 25 (September 2024) | 5.76% |

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 5.50% 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 cmpdd.org. See the tab labeled "Small Business Loans."



CMPDD Expands Services with PRVWSD

CMPDD has contracted with Pearl River Valley Water Supply District (PRVWSD) to provide digitizing services for documents and maps related to leased properties within their district. PRVWSD has an extensive portfolio of leased properties, and this service will provide them with better access to and redundancy of documents that they rely on within their organization. The project kicked off in August of 2024 and is expected to carry well into 2025.

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

Wills and Advanced Directive Clinic

Recently, CMPDD/Area Agency on Aging collaborated with the Mississippi Center for Legal Services on a Wills and Advance Directive Clinic. The Clinic was held at the Jackson Medical Mall and drew a diverse crowd eager to gain invaluable insights into planning for the future and safeguarding their wishes. With legal experts and healthcare professionals at the helm, the event delivered crucial guidance on the significance of creating these essential documents. Kicking off with an in-depth exploration of wills, the Clinic underscored the important role of having a legally sound document that outlines the distribution of assets and belongings.

Attendees were urged to consider beneficiaries and designate an executor to ensure that their loved ones are provided for according to their wishes. In addition to wills, the Clinic underscored the critical importance of advanced directives, which empower individuals to articulate their medical treatment preferences in scenarios where they are unable to communicate. Legal professionals stressed the need to have advanced directives in place, emphasizing the clarity and guidance they provide to family members and healthcare providers during challenging circumstances. The interactive nature of the event encouraged attendees to seek

personalized advice and ask pertinent questions, fostering discussions on estate planning, probate, and the legal prerequisites for creating valid wills and advanced directives. Many participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address their concerns and gain a better understanding of these legal documents.

In conclusion, the Wills and Advanced Directive Clinic emerged as a pivotal resource for the community, equipping individuals with the tools to proactively plan and ensure the realization of their wishes. As we reflect on the Clinic, it is evident that the knowledge and resources shared have the potential to positively impact the lives of the attendees, empowering them to make informed decisions and secure their legacy for the benefit of their loved ones. Events such as these play a role in creating awareness and understanding of legal and healthcare planning, ultimately contributing to the well-being and peace of mind of individuals and families within the community. For more information on Legal Services, please contact Aging Division Director, Chelsea B. Crittle, PhD at 601-321-2147.



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