

CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT'S

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2013 - 2018

Submitted September, 2012

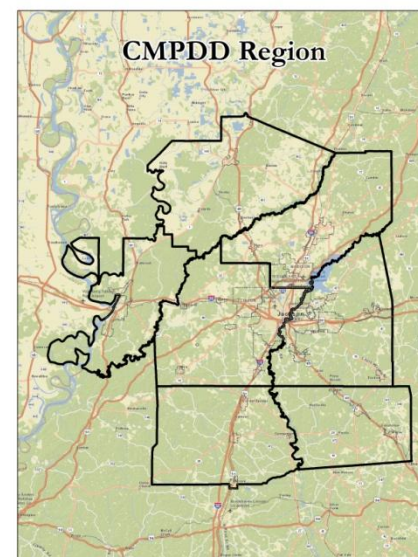


Contents

Community and Private Sector Participation.....	3
Regional Analysis.....	4
Analysis of Economic Development Problems and Opportunities	6
Strengths	7
Weaknesses	9
Opportunities.....	10
Threats	12
CEDS Goals and Objectives	14
Goal I	15
Goal II	16
Strategic Projects and Action Plan by County.....	17
Copolia County.....	17
Hinds County.....	19
Madison County.....	23
Rankin County	26
Simpson County	29
Warren County.....	32
Yazoo County	36
Hazard Mitigation	39
CEDS Plan of Action.....	40
Performance Measures.....	42
Appendix A: CMPDD Board of Directors	43
Appendix B: CEDS Steering Committee	44

The Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) is a sub-state regional planning organization, located in the central part of the Mississippi, serving the local governments of a seven county area including Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren and Yazoo Counties and the 34 municipalities within these seven counties. The CMPDD was created in 1968 through the voluntary actions of local government and community leadership as a private, non-profit corporation to address common issues ranging from local planning, economic development, governmental management, and human resource coordination. The land area served encompasses 5,232 square miles, which contains a population of 615,895 persons and includes the state's largest Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The CMPDD assists local governments with economic development financing options through state and federal sources, local land use planning and zoning, transportation, workforce, and elderly programs. The CMPDD serves the area as the Economic Development District, Regional Clearinghouse Coordinator, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Area Agency on Aging, Southcentral Mississippi Works, and U.S. Census Data Affiliate.



This Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the result of a local planning process designed to guide the economic growth of the area. It was developed using a grass-roots approach and studies the economy of the area and provides a glimpse of the area as a whole. It includes goals and objectives to assist local governments to create more jobs, foster a stable and diversified economy, and improve living conditions. It lists specific projects that will enhance the region's competitiveness and details an action plan to assist with the successful implementation. The CEDS also includes an evaluation section which will help in assessing the plan and provide for future updates.

Upon completion of the CEDS, copies are made available to State and Federal agencies in an attempt to coordinate and integrate economic priorities. The CEDS is also available for review at the CMPDD offices and copies are provided to others based on requests.

The CEDS is a requirement of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to maintain funding eligibility for the region. Before EDA will consider funding a project, it must be addressed in the regional economic development plan, which is the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Furthermore, EDA requires the CEDS to be updated annually with a new CEDS being written every five years.

Community and Private Sector Participation

The CMPDD works closely with our member governments as well as state and federal agencies. The CMPDD also works with economic development professionals from the member government economic development offices. Further, the CMPDD works with private industries, independent agencies, committees, and boards such as utility companies and special service organizations.

With these partners, the CMPDD works to address a multitude of issues on a local, regional, state, and often national level. Issues addressed are not limited to what most label as economic development but include issues relating to local planning, serving the elderly population of our area, and implementing the Workforce Investment Act to name a few. Often these organizations tend to have the same goals and visions in regard to Economic Development.



Specifically, during the development of the CEDS, the CMPDD solicited the participation of these partners. Partners were invited to attend brainstorming meetings in each county. At these sessions, participants conducted an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in their communities and the CMPDD region as a whole. A discussion of strategic projects followed the SWOT process. The results of these meetings are the foundation of this CEDS. Further, all members of the CEDS committee were asked to respond to a survey regarding needs, specific projects, and priority projects for their community and the region.

The CMPDD also published the CEDS on its website for a thirty-day public comment period prior to adopting the strategy. Notice of the comment period was published in the CMPDD's quarterly newsletter as well as through mailings to CEDS committee members.



Regional Analysis

	CMPDD	Mississippi	USA
Population*	615,895	2,967,297	308,745,538
Growth % Since 2000*	0.69%	0.42%	0.93%
Labor Force**	303,830	1,352,200	155,163,000
Unemployment Rate**	8.6%	8.8%	8.2%
Per Capita Income***	\$22,944	\$19,977	\$27,334
Median Household Income***	\$43,012	\$37,881	\$51,914
Poverty Rate***	18.8%	21.2%	13.8%
H.S. Diploma or More***	84.4%	79.6%	85.0%
Bachelor's Degree or More***	28.1%	19.5%	27.9%

*US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

**Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Data, Seasonally Adjusted, June 2012

*** US Census Bureau, 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey

the last two years, and since it reached record highs in 2010.

Based on this information, it is obvious that the region's unemployment rate is lower than the state's but higher than the nation's. While the unemployment rate in the state is at a "recession era" low, it is still a higher than the nation's. Therefore, it is important for this region to find ways to lower the unemployment rate even further to be more in line with the nation. Again, more job opportunities are needed for the region's workforce. Further, it is important that those who are unemployed have knowledge of potential job opportunities as well as the skills to perform them.

Poverty

Poverty is a good indicator of the health of an economy. The CMPDD's poverty rate is lower than the state, which is positive. However, compared to the nation, the CMPDD region is burden with a significant poverty rate. Further, the median household income in the CMPDD was \$43,012, which remains higher than the overall state level of \$37,881. However, both remain significantly lower than the nation.

The reduction in the poverty rate and increase in median household income is vital to the economic future of the area. Therefore, the sheer number of persons and families who are below the poverty level require that every effort be made to increase job opportunities, provide workforce training and tie potential workers to potential jobs.

Population Growth

Total population growth from 2000 to 2010 in the CMPDD has been ahead of the state, but both are lagging behind the United States. In regard to projected population growth, the CMPDD region is projected to grow by 0.46% between 2011 and 2016, a much higher growth than is projected in the state's projection of 0.39%, and significantly behind the nation's projected rate of 0.67%.

Unemployment

The labor force for the District as of June, 2012, was 303,830, with an 8.6% unemployment rate, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is the lowest unemployment rate for the District in

Per Capita Income

Per capita income is a very good measure of how a region is faring in comparison to the state and nation. In the CMPDD region, the per capita income has continued to increase over the recent past, as has the PCI of the state and the nation. The CMPDD's PCI is nearly \$3,000 higher than that of the state, which is a continuation of previous indicators suggesting that the economy of the CMPDD region is slightly stronger than the state. However, the CMPDD's PCI is still \$4,390 behind the United State's which indicates a very large gap to overcome.

Thus, while the CMPDD region is showing improvements in its per capita income, it is lagging well behind the United State's PCI. The means to substantially increasing the region's PCI is to provide higher paying job opportunities to the workers of the area. This can be done through additional industrial recruitment, better education of the workforce, increasing the quality of life in the region to induce potential employers to move into the area as well as to expand existing businesses and industries.

Clusters

The CMPDD has three main economic clusters. The CMPDD region is a center for medical services in the State of Mississippi. There are four major regional hospitals located in Jackson, and each county has a smaller hospital. Jackson is also the home of Mississippi's only Children's Hospital. Within the CMPDD region, the healthcare cluster has 55,958 employees. This cluster accounts for 18% of the regional workforce and is expected to grow by 23% through 2018 within the Jackson MSA (which includes five of CMPDD's seven counties).

Since the State Capital is located in the CMPDD, the Government Cluster is the second largest cluster in region with 38,754 employees. The Government Cluster makes up 12.5% of the regional workforce.

The CMPDD's third largest cluster is retail trade as it serves as the retail center for much of the state. The Retail Trade Cluster consists of 36,416 jobs. The Retail Trade Cluster accounts for 11.7% of the regional workforce.

Analysis of Economic Development Problems and Opportunities

	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
POSITIVE	<p>STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Network Significant Land Available for Development Healthcare Cluster Higher Education Resources Quality of Life, Recreational Assets 	<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Assets Expansion of Healthcare Sector Relative Low Cost of Land/Buildings Natural Resources Film Industry Incentives
NEGATIVE	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Local Transportation Network Lack of Port Sites on Mississippi River Diversity of Housing Stock Flood Protection in Industrial Ports 	<p>THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Opportunities and Structures Perception of Mississippi Brain Drain National Economy

During May 2012, members of the CEDS Steering Committee, along with representatives of both the public and private sector, participated in an analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) of the CMPDD region. A SWOT analysis offers a more in-depth view of the economic development problems and opportunities that may not be gathered from basic data. By soliciting the input of community representatives in the SWOT process, a more realistic view of the economic development situation is achieved.

The thorough SWOT analysis became the

foundation for the CMPDD CEDS. It identifies the barriers and issues facing the region that can be mitigated using the identified strengths and opportunities, all of which influence the goals and objectives of the CEDS.

Strengths

Transportation

The transportation network in the region is vast. The CMPDD region has two interstate highway systems which intersect in the center of the CMPDD region in Jackson; Interstate 20, which travels east/west, and Interstate 55, which travels north/south. These two Interstate systems are connected within Jackson by Interstate 220. Interstate 55 provides quick access to Memphis and New Orleans, both of which are approximately 200 miles away. Interstate 20 connects Jackson to Dallas via Shreveport and to Atlanta via Birmingham. In addition to the Federal Interstate system, there are several Federal Highways which intersect the metro area, including: US Highways 49, 51, and 80. State Highways and the scenic Natchez Trace Parkway connect these major highways and interstates and provide more access to and from other points.

The Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport provides domestic passenger service as well as international freight service for the CMPDD. The airport is a United States Customs Port of Entry and has been designated a foreign trade zone. It is served by two parallel 8,500-foot runways and an all-weather Category III precision approach landing system and is attended 24 hours a day. Eight airlines provide 40 non-stop flights per day to 10 cities and is home to two air cargo centers. The CMPDD also has seven non-commercial airports, which are located in Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Simpson, Warren, and Yazoo Counties.

The region is also bordered on the west by the Mississippi River and the Yazoo River with two port facilities. The largest port is located at the Port of Vicksburg on the Mississippi River and is a United States Customs port of entry and a designated foreign-trade zone. The mean depth of the channel at the Port of Vicksburg is 12 feet and can accommodate tow boats, small oceangoing vessels, and river barges. The second port is located at the Yazoo County Port on the Yazoo River. The mean depth of this channel is 9 feet and can accommodate standard river barges. The Yazoo River connects south with the Mississippi River.

The main north-south as well as east-west lines of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad provides access to all parts of the CMPDD. The Illinois Central Gulf Railroad is serviced by two carriers: the Canadian National Railway and the Kansas City Southern Railway Company. The Canadian National Railway has a major terminal switching yard and headquarters for the Gulf Division located in Jackson. They have lines that connect Jackson to Memphis, New Orleans, and Mobile. Jackson is located in the center of Kansas City Southern's Meridian Speedway line from Meridian to Shreveport. It is also home to one of KCS' primary rail yards and an 85-acre intermodal ramp.

Available Land for Development

Each county within the CMPDD region has significant land available for industrial, commercial, and residential uses in urban, suburban, and rural settings. The development pattern of the CMPDD is similar to many other regions in that the region has developed outward from the City of Jackson, which is in the geographic center of the region. Within approximately 10 miles of the City-center, the development pattern is suburban

in nature, consisting of residential and commercial properties. The CMPDD becomes mostly rural beyond approximately 20 miles from the city center, spotted with more populated pockets within the municipalities. Due to this pattern of development, there are significant pockets of undeveloped land that can be utilized in the future.

Further, each county in the CMPDD region has industrial property available for development. Many of these sites are in existing industrial parks and are served by infrastructure. While there is also available property designated for industrial uses areas outside of the industrial parks. Opportunities for commercial and residential development are also abundant within the CMPDD region.

Healthcare Cluster

The CMPDD is a center for medical services in the State of Mississippi. There are four major regional hospitals located in Jackson, and each county has a smaller hospital. Jackson is also the home of Mississippi's only Children's Hospital. Within the Jackson MSA, which includes Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, and Simpson Counties, the healthcare cluster has 53,826 employees with an average wage of \$41,805. This cluster makes up 16% of the Jackson MSA workforce and is expected to grow by 23% through 2018. This is a growing cluster, not only in the CMPDD, but in the state and the United States. Further, the healthcare cluster provides jobs for all skill levels, reaching from administrative assistants to physicians.

Higher Education Resources

The CMPDD is home to six accredited institutions of higher learning as well as three community colleges. This includes five private, non-profit colleges, including Belhaven College, Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Tougaloo College, and Tulane University, and two public, state-supported universities, the University of MS Medical Center and Jackson State University. The Hinds Community College and Copiah-Lincoln Community College are headquartered in the CMPDD, while Holmes Community College has satellite campuses in the CMPDD.

Quality of Life, Recreational Assets

The region served by the CMPDD is home to several recreational opportunities that influence the quality of life for its residents. The Ross Barnett Reservoir is a 33,000-acre lake created in the late 1960's by damming the Pearl River on the borders of Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties in the CMPDD region. The Reservoir offers five campgrounds, 16 parks, and 22 boat launches, all of which are open to the general public. The CMPDD region is also home to over 33 miles of dedicated bike and walking trails with new trail construction underway. Additionally, the Natchez Trace Parkway, a 444-mile National Parkway, travels through the CMPDD and is a popular bicycle route. The combination of the bike trails and the Reservoir has attracted several triathlon events, which has a significant impact on the local economy.

Weaknesses

Infrastructure

While the CMPDD region is served by a vast infrastructure system, there are significant deficiencies that, if not addressed, will limit future development. It should be noted that a significant portion of the systems are more than adequate to support development. Specifically, the water and sanitary sewer systems in the region are weaknesses to the CMPDD due to their age and condition. In the rural areas of the CMPDD, there are areas that unserved by any such systems. Many of the systems were constructed over 50 years ago, and due to lack of funding, have not been updated properly or their capacity has been reached. Systems that fall out of compliance with Federal and State regulations are faced with significant fines and could be forced to stall development until the system is in compliance. Without adequate water and sanitary sewer infrastructure, new development and the attraction of private investment is hampered.

Local Transportation Network

The CMPDD is well served by interstate highways and regional, principal arterials; however, there is a need for additional local, principal arterials. Specifically, the 2035 Jackson Urbanized Transportation Plan determined that several of the area's principal arterials are at or near capacity and require expansion. Further, the need for additional arterials and local roads was identified to address the "gaps" in the north/south, east/west roadway system.

Public School Systems

Each County has at least one public school district providing K-12 education with most Counties having separate school districts. The systems are very diverse in terms of size, financial standing, and performance. Of the 14 systems in the CMPDD region, 11 of the systems are accredited based on the State's accreditation status, while two have "advised" status and one is "probation." It must also be noted that within each system, there are high performing and failing schools. The inconsistency of the quality influences the quality of life for many of the counties and communities within the CMPDD region.

Lack of Port Sites on Mississippi River

Warren County, which forms the western boundary of the CMPDD, is located on the Mississippi River. While the River is a significant asset for the region, the lack of available port sites along the River is a weakness. The Warren County Port Commission has 55 acres currently available, and is seeking additional property for future development.

Diversity of Housing Stock

Several counties within the CMPDD noted having a shortage of moderate income housing. A community must contain an adequate supply of quality housing for a variety of income levels to support economic development. Some communities noted an adequate supply of housing that is affordable for low income and for higher income levels, but a noticeable lack of housing for moderate incomes.

Flood Protection in Industrial Ports

The Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers, both of which are located in the CMPDD region, reached record flood levels during the spring 2011. While major damage was minimized, the ports located in both Warren and Yazoo Counties were impacted by the flooding, which caused several industries to shut down temporarily. Additional flood protection measures are necessary to prevent industry shut down, specifically to ensure that rail and truck traffic can access the ports during “high-water” situations.

Opportunities

Tourism Assets

Tourism is a fair reaching industry as it provides jobs at the tourist attractions and generates revenues through admission fees and on-site sales. It also generates expenditures in the service sector through dining and overnight accommodations. The CMPDD region is home to numerous tourism assets including historic sites, museums, and natural resources. Tourism, as an industry, is built on the attraction of visitors to a region through the development and marketing of sites of interest. In the case of the CMPDD region, many of the attractions are “natural” to the area or have been previously developed. The Mississippi River, the Ross Barnett Reservoir, the State Capital, the Vicksburg National Military Park; all are attractions based on their inherent nature and location in the region. There are also numerous museums, historic homes, and other attractions located in the CMPDD region. However, there remain opportunities to build upon the existing resources and develop even more attractions.

Expansion of Healthcare Sector

As previously mentioned in the “Strengths” section, the healthcare sector is a growing, high paying industry that has strong roots in the CMPDD region. This cluster makes up 18% of the regional workforce, and 16% of the Jackson MSA’s workforce and is expected to grow by 23% through 2018. The average wage paid in the region is \$41,805; however, the range of average wages for the healthcare sector is more descriptive. The highest average wage for the healthcare industry is over \$220,000 for surgeons and the lowest average wage is \$17,620 for home health aides. Due to the location of four regional hospitals, including a teaching hospital, the only children’s hospital in the state, smaller hospitals in each county, and hundreds of outpatient clinics, the CMPDD region is the center of the healthcare industry within the State of Mississippi. Further, this sector is, by its nature, insulated from changes in the national economy. Most importantly, the healthcare sector has grown over the past five years, and continues to expand.

Relative Low Cost of Land and Buildings

The participants in the CMPDD SWOT indicated that the cost of land and building space is lower than the national average. While many factors influence the cost of land and buildings, the cost per acre in the CMPDD region is less than the cost in larger metropolitan areas due to the amount of available property. Based on a report from the CoStar Group, the average rent per square foot in the CMPDD tends to be less than the national average. Office space rent is nearly \$5.00 less in the CMPDD area than the national average. The rent for industrial space in the CMPDD area is approximately 30 percent less than the national average. The relative low cost of land and buildings in the CMPDD area is an advantage for the region when working to attract businesses and industries from higher rent areas of the nation.

Natural Resources

The CMPDD region has deposits of natural gases and oil in quantities adequate for extraction. As such, the continued extraction of these natural resources creates jobs, generates sales tax revenues by industry employees shopping, dining, and lodging in the CMPDD, and provides opportunities for other natural resources to be utilized.

The presence of underground rock formations has created opportunities for gravel extraction in the CMPDD. Gravel pits, as they are commonly named, are found throughout the region. However, it is the by-product of gravel extraction, sand, that presents a significant opportunity for future growth in the natural gas and oil extraction process. "Sand Fracking" is utilized to stimulate gas production by opening the underground cracks from which natural gas is harvested. The recent increase in this practice has created a larger market for the by-product sand, creating a new economic opportunity for many communities in the CMPDD region.

The CMPDD region, specifically Copiah and Simpson Counties, is home to naturally occurring salt domes. These underground formations are mostly impermeable and are utilized for storage of natural gas. Given the presence of natural gas within the CMPDD, these salt domes are of significant benefit to companies extracting and storing the products. Further, the CMPDD is located along several natural gas pipelines, which would also benefit from additional storage locations. The salt domes are a natural resource that if marketed to the natural gas industry could have a significant impact on the economy of the region.

Film Industry

The CMPDD region is home to a state-of-the-art, newly renovated film studio located in Canton, Mississippi. The Mississippi Film Studio is located on a secured, 31 acre site just minutes for Interstate 55. The facility is designed to accommodate a wide range of productions, from commercials to full-length movie productions. Hinds Community College, located in the CMPDD region, offers educational programs related to the film industry. This educational program offers the training necessary to develop a film industry workforce. In recent years, the Mississippi State Legislature has taken action to enhance the incentives offered to the film industry. The current Mississippi Motion Picture Incentive

Program provides a cash rebate on eligible expenditures and payroll, and provides sales and use tax reductions. While there is a minimum investment of \$50,000 in state required, the company can claim up to \$8 million in incentives per project.

Threats

Funding Opportunities and Structures

The CMPDD and many of the local governments served by the CMPDD are reliant on federal and state grants and loans to supplement revenues generated locally. The local governments utilize federal and state funds to construct infrastructure improvements, provide social services, and support the provision of basic services. Infrastructure, specifically, requires constant attention and improvements, and if necessary maintenance is ignored, the condition of the infrastructure begins to limit development. However, significant reductions in federal and state funding will have a negative impact on the ability of local governments to fund such activities. Many capital improvements, including basic infrastructure improvements, exceed the revenue a local government can generate under the existing tax and fee structure within the State of Mississippi. An alternative funding structure to reduce reliance on federal and state funding is necessary to ensure that local governments within the CMPDD region can continue to complete capital improvements.

Perception of Mississippi

The CMPDD region is hampered by the perception of Mississippi as a state that is lagging behind many others in the United States. It is common to hear stereotypes of Mississippi as undeveloped, without modern utilities, and uneducated. While the negative perception may be as a result of low statewide ratings in education and health status, a negative image of the state significantly impacts ability to attract industries and young professionals to Mississippi and the CMPDD region.

Brain Drain

During the SWOT Analysis, it was noted that the CMPDD is experiencing a “brain drain” in which young professionals are leaving and not coming back. The percent of the total population, age 25 and older, with at least a bachelor degree from 2000 to 2010 confirms the suspected loss of highly educated residents from the CMPDD region. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 54% of the total population, age 25 and older, had at least a bachelor degree. The 2010 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, which is a product of the U.S. Census Bureau, estimates that only 28% of the total population, age 25 and older, had at least a bachelor degree in 2010. The outflow of the highly educated population can limit future economic growth, if not corrected.

National Economy

The CMPDD region is not insulated from the fluctuations in the national economy as evidenced by increases in unemployment rates during the recent national recession. While the CMPDD's unemployment rate did not reach the extremes that some regions experienced, the national economy has impacted and will continue to impact the business climate within the CMPDD.

CEDS Goals and Objectives

As previously suggested, the CEDS Goals and Objectives are formulated based on the analysis of the problems and opportunities. These goals and objectives are necessary to overcoming the barriers and exploit the strengths of the region. The goals are more general, or overarching, while the objectives are more specific and clearly measurable.

Upon review of the findings of the SWOT, two main goals, economic development and community development, were identified. These goals were clearly supported by objectives that collectively would address the barriers and issues of the CMPDD region.

Goal I



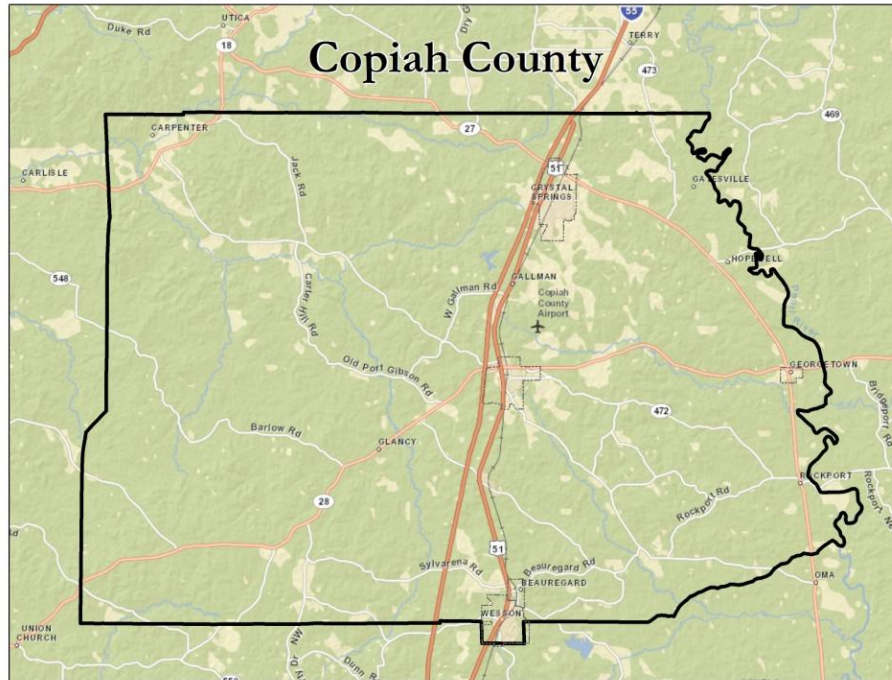
Goal II





Strategic Projects and Action Plan by County

Copiah County

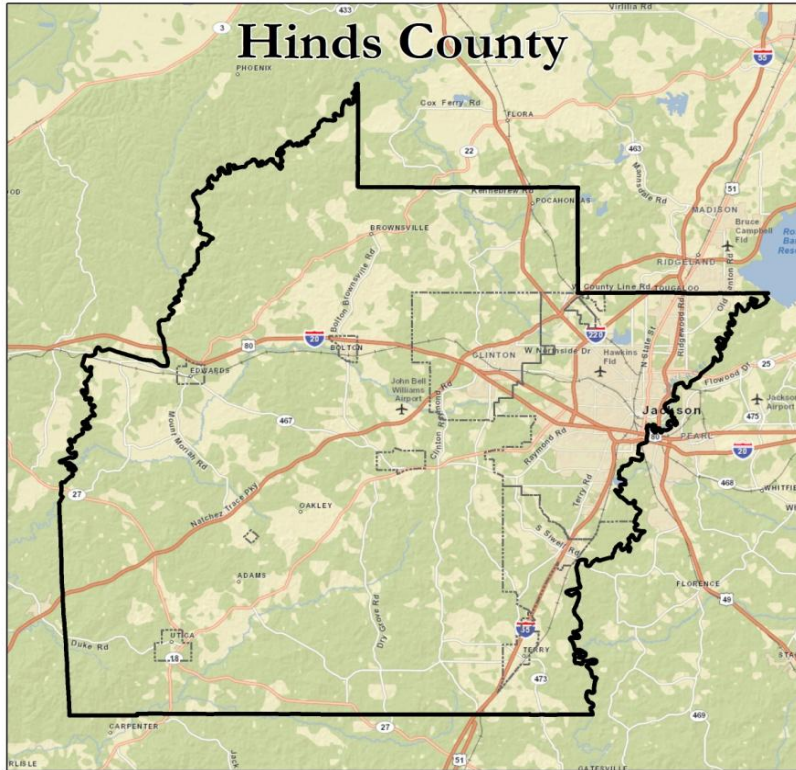


Copiah County	Value	Rank in the Region
Land Area*	777.24	3
Persons Per Square Mile*	37.9	6
Population*	29,449	5
Growth % Since 2000*	0.24	3
Households*	10,708	5
Labor Force**	12,680	5
Unemployment Rate**	10.9%	5
Per Capita Income***	\$17,473	4
Median Household Income***	\$36,673	6
Poverty Rate***	22.6%	2
H.S. Diploma or More***	76.7%	5
Bachelor's Degree or More***	14.1%	6

*US Census Bureau, 2010 Census
 **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Data by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted, May 2011 – June 2012
 *** US Census Bureau, 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey

County	Strategic Project	Goal: Objective	Lead Organization	Jobs	Investment
Copiah County	Market Salt Domes: Encourage the utilization of naturally occurring salt domes to natural gas companies as storage facilities.	Goal I: Objective C	Copiah County Economic Development District	TBD	TBD
	Attract Companies to Utilize Sand: Market sand, a by-product of the gravel pits, to extraction companies for use in sand-fracking.	Goal I: Objective C	Copiah County Economic Development District	TBD	TBD
	Construct New Hospital: Construct a new 20 - 25 bed hospital building to replace existing facility.	Goal I: Objective C	Copiah County, Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital		\$15,000,000
	Encourage DSL Expansion: Work with telecommunication providers to expand DSL service within the County	Goal I: Objective B; Goal II: Objective B	Copiah County, Copiah County Economic Development District, Municipalities	TBD	TBD
	Support Construction of Sports Complex: Support the construction of a privately-owned sports complex, including a hotel and restaurants.	Goal II: Objective C	Copiah County, Private Investors	75	5,000,000
	Participate in HOME Consortium: Encourage and support development of quality housing for all income levels.	Goal II: Objective F	Copiah County, Municipalities	TBD	TBD

Hinds County



Hinds County	Value	Rank in the Region
Land Area*	869.74	2
Persons Per Square Mile*	282	1
Population*	245,285	1
Growth % Since 2000*	-0.22	7
Households*	91,351	1
Labor Force**	120,416	1
Unemployment Rate**	9.2%	4
Per Capita Income***	\$20,676	4
Median Household Income***	\$39,215	4
Poverty Rate***	22.5%	3
H.S. Diploma or More***	84%	3
Bachelor's Degree or More***	27.5%	3

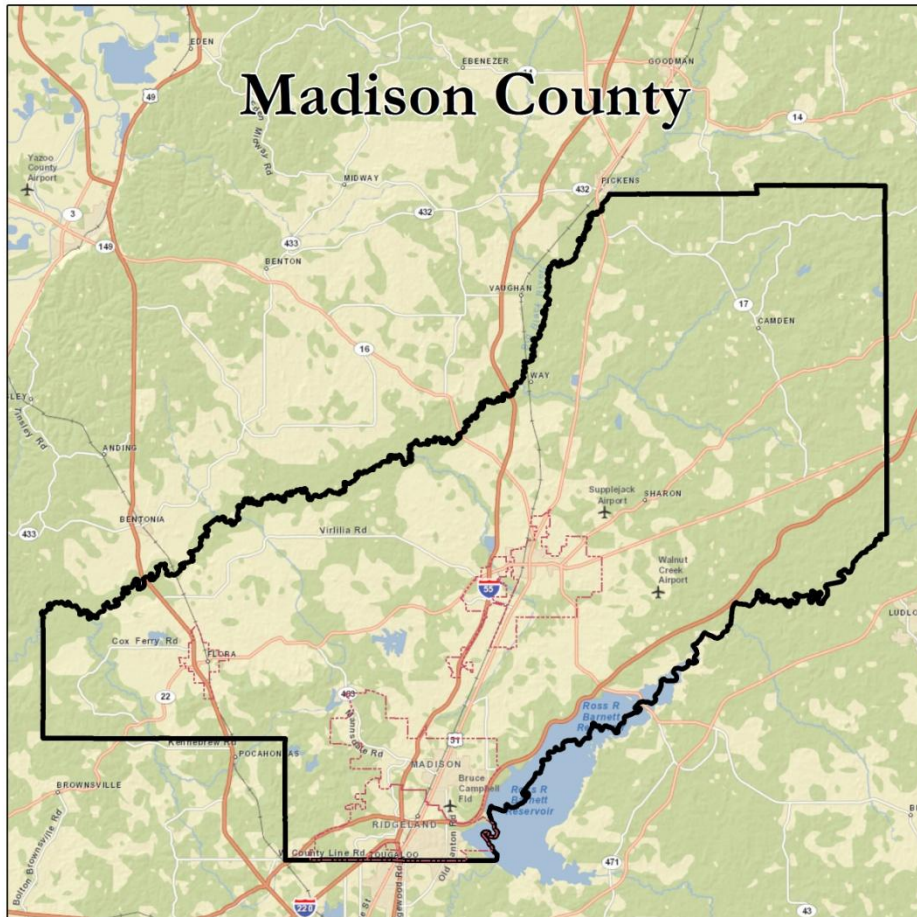
*US Census Bureau, 2010 Census
 **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Data by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted, May 2011 – June 2012
 *** US Census Bureau, 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey

County	Strategic Project	Goal: Objective	Lead Organization	Jobs	Investment
Hinds County	Expand Infrastructure to Existing Industrial Parks: Support the expansion of infrastructure to all existing industrial parks.	Goal I: Objective B	Hinds County Economic Development Authority, Hinds County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
	Attract Businesses to Existing Industrial Parks: Encourage businesses, new and existing, to locate in the County's existing industrial parks.	Goal I: Objective C	Hinds County Economic Development Authority, Hinds County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
	Public/Private Workforce Training: Develop a partnership with the public school system and local businesses to offer workforce skills training.	Goal I: Objective E	Southcentral Mississippi Works, WIN Job Center, School Districts in Hinds County	TBD	TBD
	Support Shared Services for Healthcare Cluster: Encourage and support the development of services and suppliers, such as laundry services and equipment suppliers that may be utilized by the healthcare cluster.	Goal I: Objective C	City of Jackson, Hinds County, Hinds County Economic Development District, Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership	TBD	TBD
	Revitalize Downtown: Support the redevelopment and revitalization of downtown areas, especially the continuation of the revitalization of downtown Jackson.	Goal II: Objective A	Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
	Support Downtown Business Incubator: Encourage the development of a commercial business incubator in downtown Jackson.	Goal I: Objective C; Goal II: Objective A	City of Jackson	TBD	TBD

Revitalization of Farish Street: Complete the revitalization of Farish Street and other similar entertainment districts in Jackson.	Goal II: Objective A; Goal II: Objective E	City of Jackson	TBD	TBD
Continuation of Infrastructure Improvements: Continue to fund and complete water and wastewater improvements to support industrial, commercial, and residential development.	Goal I: Objective B; Goal II: Objective B	Hinds County, Various Municipalities, Various Water Authorities	TBD	TBD
Improve Quality and Capacity of Roads: Fund road improvement projects that protect the quality and enhance capacity of the existing roads.	Goal I: Objective D	Hinds County, Various Municipalities, MPO	TBD	TBD
Construct Byram-Clinton Corridor: Continue seeking funds for and construction of the Byram-Clinton Corridor.	Goal I: Objective D	Hinds County, Various Municipalities, MPO	TBD	TBD
Construct Multi-Use Trail System: Participate in the construction of a regional multi-use trail system.	Goal I: Objective D; Goal II: Objective C	Hinds County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
Explore Alternative Flood Control Methods: Continue exploration and support of flood control methods along the Pearl River that may create new development and tourism opportunities.	Goal I: Objective B; Goal II: Objective B; Goal II: Objective C; Goal II: Objective E	Hinds County, City of Jackson	TBD	TBD
Participate in HOME Consortium: Encourage and support development of quality housing for all income levels.	Goal II: Objective F	Hinds County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD

Develop Downtown Housing: Encourage the private development of housing through the utilization of tax credits in the downtown/town center areas.	Goal II: Objective A; Goal II: Objective F	Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
Expand Public Transit System: Expand the public transit system, as funding will allow, serving a larger area and encouraging increased ridership.	Goal I: Objective D	City of Jackson	TBD	TBD
Support Workforce Development Program: Encourage and support workforce development programs that focus on trade and vocational skills.	Goal I: Objective E	Southcentral Mississippi Works, Various Municipalities, Hinds County, Hinds County Economic Development District	TBD	TBD
Encourage Development of Healthcare Corridor: Support and encourage the development of the "Healthcare Corridor" along Woodrow Wilson Avenue linking UMMC, the Jackson Medical Mall, and other healthcare providers.	Goal I: Objective C	City of Jackson, Hinds County, Hinds County Economic Development District, Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership	TBD	TBD
Improvements at Community Parks: Continue improvement and expansion projects at community parks to meet the needs of current users.	Goal II: Objective C	Hinds County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
Participate in Regional Planning: Participate in regional transportation, development, and other plans when possible.	Goal II: Objective D	Hinds County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD

Madison County



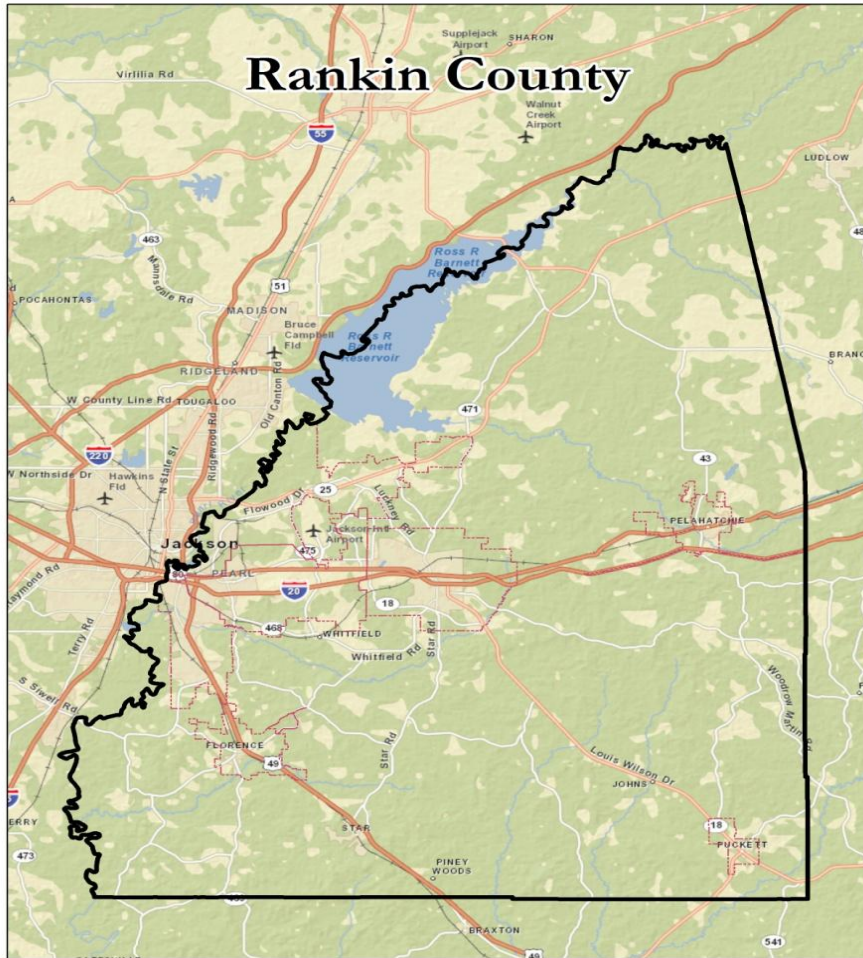
Madison County	Value	Rank in the Region
Land Area*	714.51	5
Persons Per Square Mile*	133.2	3
Population*	95,203	3
Growth % Since 2000*	2.46	1
Households*	35,829	3
Labor Force**	49,452	3
Unemployment Rate**	7.1%	2
Per Capita Income***	\$31,517	2
Median Household Income***	\$59,585	1
Poverty Rate***	13%	6
H.S. Diploma or More***	88.1%	2
Bachelor's Degree or More***	43%	1

*US Census Bureau, 2010 Census
 **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Data by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted, May 2011 – June 2012
 *** US Census Bureau, 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey

County	Strategic Project	Goal: Objective	Lead Organization	Jobs	Investment
Madison County	Secure Industrial Sites: Secure a long-term option on industrial sites for future development.	Goal I: Objective A	Madison County Economic Development Authority	1,000	\$5,000/year
	Expand Infrastructure to Existing Industrial Parks: Support the expansion of infrastructure to all existing industrial parks.	Goal I: Objective B	Madison County Economic Development Authority, Madison County, Various Water Authorities	65	\$1,075,000
	Continuation of Infrastructure Improvements: Continue to fund and complete water and wastewater improvements to support industrial, commercial, and residential development.	Goal I: Objective B; Goal II: Objective B	Municipalities, Various Water Authorities.	50	\$15,000,000
	Market Film Studio: Continue efforts to market nationally and internationally the Mississippi Film Studio in Canton.	Goal I: Objective C	Mississippi Film Studio, Madison County Economic Development Authority	TBD	TBD
	Support Job Skills Training: Develop and support job skills training programs for administrative staff and film industry.	Goal I: Objective E	Southcentral Mississippi Works, WIN Job Center, Madison County Economic Development Authority	100	\$15,000
	Revitalize Downtown: Support the redevelopment and revitalization of downtown areas, including brownfield areas.	Goal II: Objective A	Municipalities, MDEQ	TBD	TBD
	Develop Town Centers: Support the development of town center areas for communities without a defined downtown area.	Goal II: Objective A	Municipalities	TBD	TBD

Develop a Bio-Medical Commercialization Accelerator: Develop a commercialization accelerator for the bio-medical sector to provide shared services and facilities for researchers with prototypes.	Goal I: Objective C	Madison County Economic Development Authority	100	\$10,000,000
Expand Tourism through Film Production: Utilize film productions to expand tourism opportunities.	Goal II: Objective E	Mississippi Film Studio, Madison County Economic Development Authority, Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau	400	\$200,000
Implementation of Roadway Projects: Support financially the implementation of identified roadway projects to address capacity needs, including but not limited to Colony Park Blvd, Highland Colony Parkway, I-55 Connector Roads, Reunion Parkway Interchange, Hoy Road Improvements, and a truck route in Flora.	Goal I: Objective D	Madison County, MPO	250	\$106,000,000
Encourage Expansion of Telecommunications: Encourage private providers to continue expansion of broadband services to rural areas. Also participate in statewide emergency operations network.	Goal II: Objective B	Municipalities, Madison County, Madison County Economic Development Authority	25	\$408,000
Retain Tulane University Satellite Campus: Continue to support Tulane University's Satellite Campus located in Madison.	Goal II: Objective E	City of Madison, Madison County, Madison County Economic Development Authority	100	TBD
Improvements at Community Parks: Continue improvement and expansion projects at community parks to meet the needs of current users.	Goal II: Objective C	Municipalities, Madison County	15	\$25,900,000

Rankin County



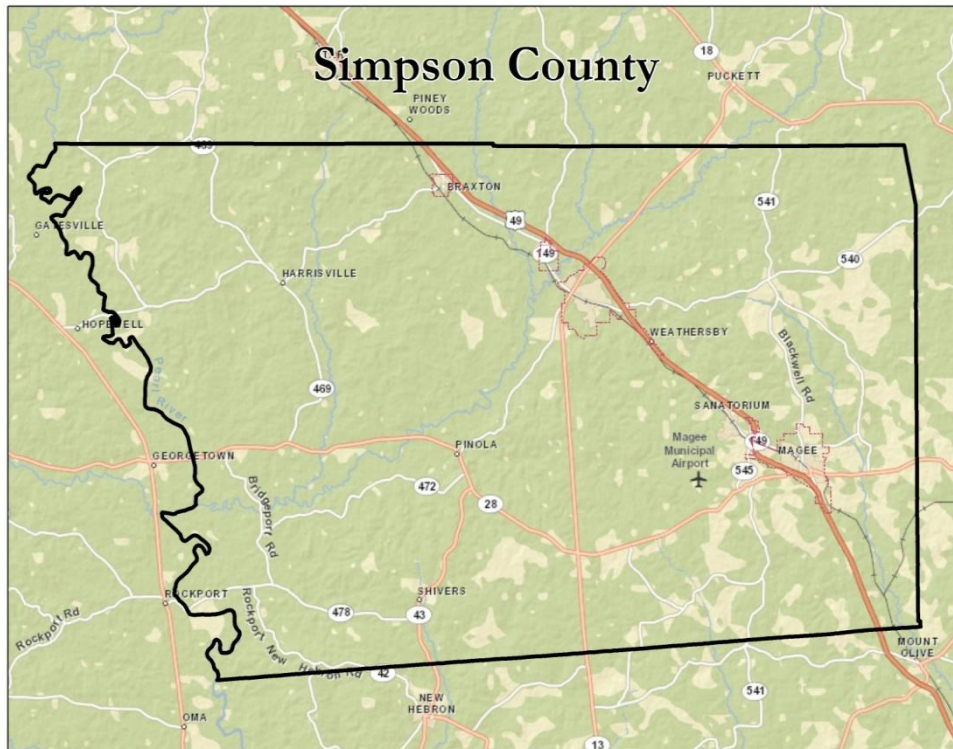
Rankin County	Value	Rank in the Region
Land Area*	775.49	4
Persons Per Square Mile*	182.6	2
Population*	141,617	2
Growth % Since 2000*	2.08	2
Households*	52,836	2
Labor Force**	76,450	2
Unemployment Rate**	6.4%	1
Per Capita Income***	\$26,637	2
Median Household Income***	\$54,028	2
Poverty Rate***	11.1%	7
H.S. Diploma or More***	88.3%	1
Bachelor's Degree or More***	29%	2

*US Census Bureau, 2010 Census
 **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Data by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted, May 2011 – June 2012
 *** US Census Bureau, 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey

County	Strategic Project	Goal: Objective	Lead Organization	Jobs	Investment
Rankin County	Secure Industrial Sites: Locate and secure a "super-site" in east Rankin County and a smaller site in south Rankin County for future industrial development.	Goal I: Objective A	Rankin First	TBD	TBD
	Construct a Speculative Building: Construct a multi-purpose speculative building for prospective businesses.	Goal I: Objective A	Rankin First	TBD	TBD
	Expand Infrastructure to Existing Industrial Parks: Support the expansion of infrastructure to all existing industrial parks.	Goal I: Objective B	Rankin First, Rankin County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
	Market Existing Industrial Sites for Non-Traditional Uses: Market remaining sites in existing industrial areas for non-traditional uses that would be appropriate with existing uses.	Goal I: Objective C	Rankin First	TBD	TBD
	Establish Alternative Funding Options: Encourage the establishment of alternative financing options, such as bonding authority for development authorities.	Goal I: Objective B	Rankin First, Rankin County	TBD	TBD
	Revitalize Downtown: Support the redevelopment and revitalization of downtown areas, including residential opportunities.	Goal II: Objective A	Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD

Develop Town Centers: Support the development of town center areas for communities without a defined downtown area.	Goal II: Objective A	Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
Support Establishment of a Business Incubator: Encourage and support the establishment of a business incubator to foster business development.	Goal I: Objective C	Rankin First	TBD	TBD
Designate Reservoir Area with Resort Status: Support the designation of the Reservoir area as a Resort area to allow for fewer restrictions.	Goal II: Objective E	Rankin County, Rankin First	TBD	TBD
Market Foreign Trade Zone: Place emphasis on the Foreign Trade Zone when marketing the area to prospective industries.	Goal I: Objective C	Rankin First	TBD	TBD
Construct a Rail Spur to Serve East Metro: Support the construction of a rail spur to serve the East Metropolitan Center.	Goal I: Objective B; Goal I: Objective D	Rankin First	TBD	TBD
Continue Implementation of Transportation Improvements: Working through the MPO, continue implementation of all transportation improvements to address capacity, congestion, and quality deficiencies.	Goal I: Objective D	Rankin County, Various Municipalities, Rankin First, MPO	TBD	TBD
Develop Medical Parkway: Attract medical-related businesses to the newly constructed Medical Parkway in Flowood.	Goal I: Objective C	Rankin First, City of Flowood	TBD	TBD
Continuation of Infrastructure Improvements: Continue to fund and complete water and wastewater improvements to support industrial, commercial, and residential development; specifically, in the West Rankin County area.	Goal I: Objective B; Goal II: Objective B	Rankin County, Various Municipalities, Rankin First	TBD	TBD

Simpson County



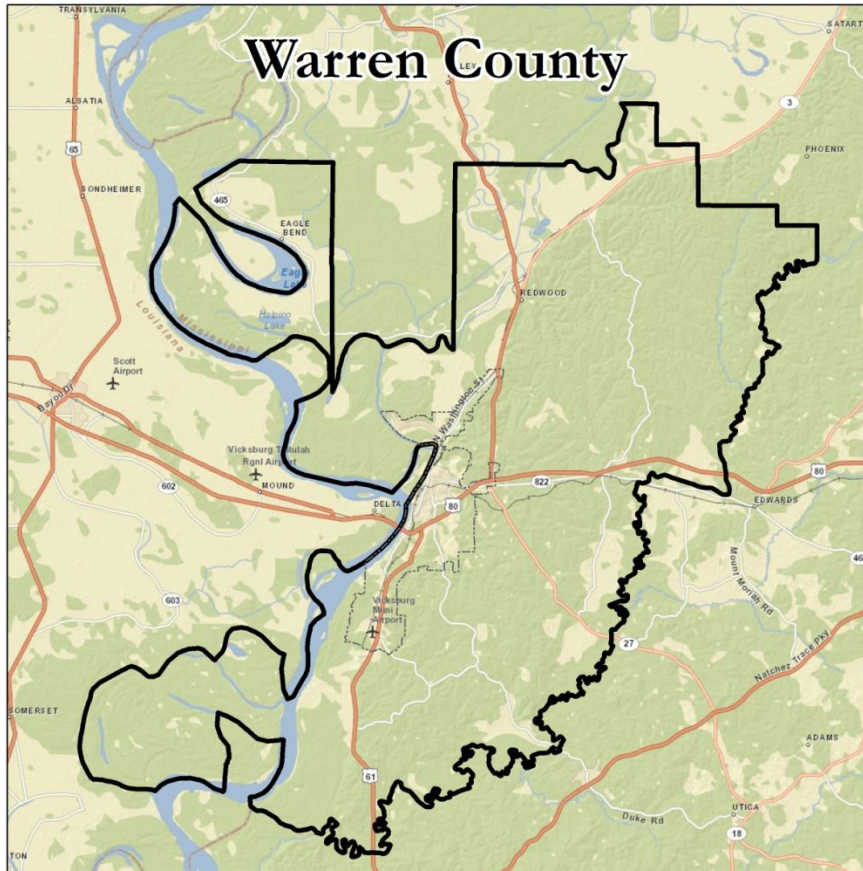
Simpson County	Value	Rank in the Region
Land Area*	589.16	6
Persons Per Square Mile*	46.7	5
Population*	27,503	7
Growth % Since 2000*	-0.05	5
Households*	10,330	6
Labor Force**	11,834	6
Unemployment Rate**	9%	3
Per Capita Income***	\$18,397	5
Median Household Income***	\$36,739	5
Poverty Rate***	22.4%	4
H.S. Diploma or More***	76.2%	6
Bachelor's Degree or More***	14.5%	5

*US Census Bureau, 2010 Census
 **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Data by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted, May 2011 – June 2012
 *** US Census Bureau, 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey

County	Strategic Project	Goal: Objective	Lead Organization	Jobs	Investment
Simpson County	Identify and Secure New Industrial Sites: Identify and secure a new industrial park site to supplement the existing parks.	Goal I: Objective A	Simpson County Economic Development Foundation, Simpson County	TBD	TBD
	Expand Infrastructure to Existing Industrial Parks: Support the expansion of infrastructure to all existing industrial parks.	Goal I: Objective B	Simpson County Economic Development Foundation, Simpson County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
	Market Existing Industrial Sites: Market existing industrial sites and buildings, specifically the former PFG building, to new users.	Goal I: Objective C	Simpson County Economic Development Foundation, Simpson County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
	Public/Private Workforce Training: Development a partnership with the public school system and local businesses to offer workforce skills training.	Goal I: Objective E	Simpson County School District, Simpson County Economic Development Foundation, Simpson County	TBD	TBD
	Revitalize Downtown: Support the redevelopment and revitalization of downtown areas, including residential uses.	Goal II: Objective A	Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
	Market Business Park: Market the Business Park to prospective companies looking to locate in the area.	Goal I: Objective C	Simpson County Economic Development Authority, Simpson County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
	Market Downtown Businesses: Place emphasis on marketing downtown businesses along US 49 to attract travelers.	Goal II: Objective E	Various Municipalities, Simpson County Economic Development Foundation	TBD	TBD
	Continuation of Infrastructure Improvements: Continue to fund and complete water and wastewater improvements to support industrial, commercial, and residential development.	Goal I: Objective B; Goal II: Objective B	Various Municipalities, Simpson County, Simpson County Economic Development Foundation	TBD	TBD

Continue Implementation of Transportation Improvements: Continue implementation of all transportation improvements to address capacity, congestion, and quality deficiencies; specifically along US 49 and associated Frontage Roads, and a street overlay program.	Goal I: Objective D	Simpson County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
Encourage Expansion of Telecommunications: Encourage private providers to continue expansion of broadband services to rural areas.	Goal II: Objective B	Simpson County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
Participate in HOME Consortium: Encourage and support development of quality housing for all income levels.	Goal II: Objective F	Simpson County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
Improvements at Community Parks: Continue improvement and expansion projects at community parks to meet the needs of current users.	Goal II: Objective C	Simpson County, Various Municipalities	TBD	TBD
Establish Development Controls: Establish development controls to ensure future growth is in keeping with the rural nature of the County and buildings are well-constructed.	Goal II: Objective D	Simpson County	TBD	TBD

Warren County



Warren County	Value	Rank in the Region
Land Area*	588.5	7
Persons Per Square Mile*	82.9	4
Population*	48,773	4
Growth % Since 2000*	-0.18	6
Households*	18,941	4
Labor Force**	22,112	4
Unemployment Rate**	12.6%	6
Per Capita Income***	\$22,079	3
Median Household Income***	\$40,404	3
Poverty Rate***	21.4%	5
H.S. Diploma or More***	83.3%	4
Bachelor's Degree or More***	24.6%	4

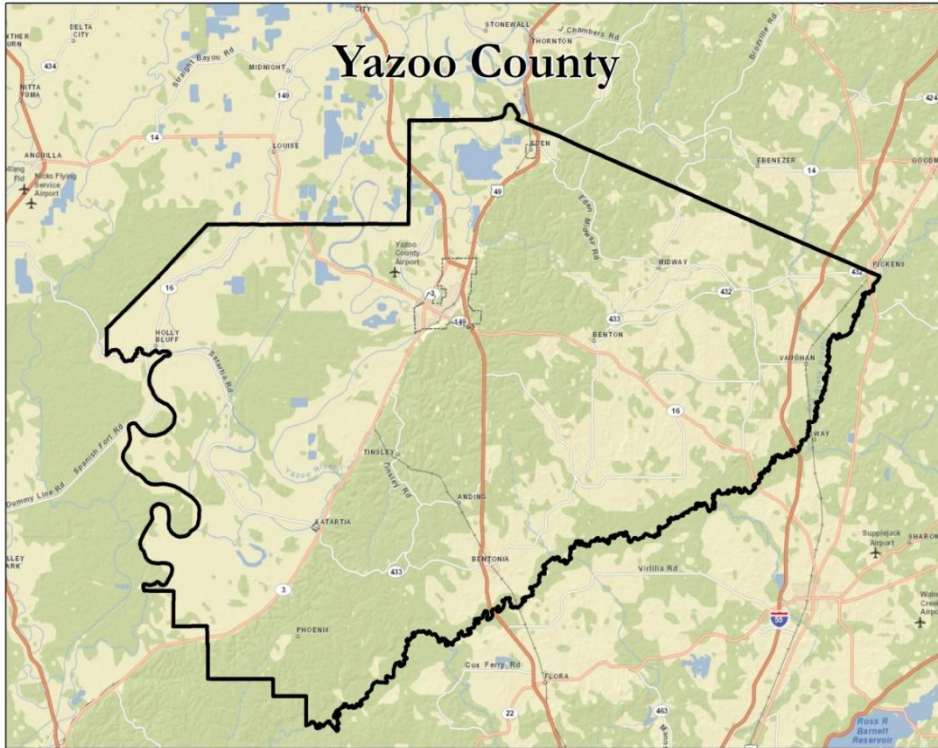
*US Census Bureau, 2010 Census
 **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Data by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted, May 2011 – June 2012
 *** US Census Bureau, 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey

County	Strategic Project	Goal: Objective	Lead Organization	Jobs	Investment
Warren County	Identify and Secure New Industrial Sites: Identify and secure a new industrial park site to supplement the existing parks; specifically along the Mississippi River.	Goal I: Objective A	Vicksburg –Warren County EDF, Warren County Port Commission	TBD	TBD
	Expand Infrastructure to Existing Industrial Parks: Support the expansion of infrastructure to all existing industrial parks.	Goal I: Objective B	Warren County, City of Vicksburg, Vicksburg-Warren County EDF, Warren County Port Commission	TBD	TBD
	Construct a Flood Wall in Industrial Areas: Construct a flood wall in unprotected areas to prevent future damage from flood conditions.	Goal I: Objective B	Warren County, City of Vicksburg, Warren County Port Commission	TBD	TBD
	Construct a Rail Spur to Serve River Port: Support the construction of a rail spur to serve the River Port and other industrial sites. The proposed spur should be constructed in manner that mitigates potential flood impact.	Goal I: Objective B; Goal I: Objective D	Warren County Port Commission	TBD	TBD
	Continue Implementation of Transportation Improvements: Continue implementation of all transportation improvements to address capacity, congestion, and quality deficiencies; specifically a connector from the River Port to US 61.	Goal I: Objective D	Warren County, City of Vicksburg, Warren County Port Commission	TBD	TBD
	Encourage Retail Development: Encourage the expansion of retail development along and south of the I-20 corridor.	Goal I: Objective C; Goal II: Objective E	City of Vicksburg, Warren County, Vicksburg-Warren County Chamber of Commerce	TBD	TBD

Encourage Business Beautification: Encourage property owners to participate in business beautification program.	Goal II: Objective D; Goal II: Objective E	City of Vicksburg, Warren County, Vicksburg – Warren County Chamber of Commerce	TBD	TBD
Establish a Beautification Program for the Clay and Washington Street Corridors: Establish a beautification program for the Clay and Washington Street Corridors as an entrance to downtown.	Goal II: Objective D	City of Vicksburg, Vicksburg-Warren County Chamber of Commerce	TBD	TBD
Support Establishment of a Small Business Center: Encourage and support the establishment of a small business center to foster business development.	Goal I: Objective C	City of Vicksburg, Warren County, Vicksburg – Warren County Chamber of Commerce, Vicksburg-Warren County EDF	TBD	\$1,000,000
Expand Tourism Opportunities: Expand tourism opportunities through marketing of new museums, construction of Convention Center hotel, and a sports complex.	Goal II: Objective E	City of Vicksburg, Warren County, Vicksburg – Warren County Chamber of Commerce, Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau	TBD	\$18,000,000
Continuation of Infrastructure Improvements: Continue to fund and complete water and wastewater improvements to support industrial, commercial, and residential development.	Goal I: Objective B; Goal II: Objective B	City of Vicksburg, Warren County, Vicksburg-Warren County EDF, Warren County Port Commission	TBD	\$16,000,000
Expand the Vicksburg Municipal Airport: Expand the existing Vicksburg Municipal Airport to support larger aircraft.	Goal I: Objective D	City of Vicksburg	TBD	TBD
Develop Downtown Housing: Encourage the private development of housing through the utilization of tax credits in the downtown/town center areas.	Goal II: Objective A; Goal II: Objective F	City of Vicksburg	TBD	TBD

Public/Private Workforce Training: Development a partnership with the public school system and local businesses to offer workforce skills training.	Goal I: Objective E	Vicksburg-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, Vicksburg-Warren County School District	TBD	TBD
Participate in Regional Planning: Participate in regional transportation, development, and other plans when possible.	Goal II: Objective D	City of Vicksburg, Warren County	TBD	TBD
Establish Development and Zoning Controls: Establish development controls through a zoning ordinance that will ensure future development is appropriate for the area.	Goal II: Objective D	City of Vicksburg, Warren County	TBD	TBD

Yazoo County



Yazoo County	Value	Rank in the Region
Land Area*	922.95	1
Persons Per Square Mile*	30.4	7
Population*	28,065	6
Growth % Since 2000*	-0.03	4
Households*	8,860	7
Labor Force**	10,886	7
Unemployment Rate**	14.1%	7
Per Capita Income***	\$14,339	7
Median Household Income***	\$27,356	7
Poverty Rate***	33%	1
H.S. Diploma or More***	73.6%	7
Bachelor's Degree or More***	13.4%	7

*US Census Bureau, 2010 Census
 **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Data by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted, May 2011 – June 2012
 *** US Census Bureau, 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey

County	Strategic Project	Goal: Objective	Lead Organization	Jobs	Investment
Yazoo County	Construct a Flood Wall in Industrial Areas: Construct a flood wall in unprotected areas to prevent future damage from flood conditions.	Goal I: Objective B	Yazoo County Port Commission, Yazoo County	TBD	\$800,000
	Construct a Rail Spur to Serve River Port: Support the construction of a rail spur to serve the River Port and other industrial sites. The proposed spur should be constructed in manner that mitigates potential flood impact.	Goal I: Objective B; Goal I: Objective D	Yazoo County Port Commission, Yazoo County	14	\$750,000
	Improve Rail Spur Crossing in Port: Improve rail crossings within the River Port to ensure crossings are safe and functional.	Goal I: Objective D	Yazoo County Port Commission, Yazoo County	TBD	\$300,000
	Public/Private Workforce Training: Development a partnership with Holmes Community College and local businesses to offer workforce skills training.	Goal I: Objective E	Holmes Community College, Yazoo Chamber of Commerce	TBD	TBD
	Attract Federal Prison Complex Suppliers: Work to attract suppliers for the Federal Prison Complex to nearby industrial parks.	Goal I: Objective C	Yazoo Chamber of Commerce, Yazoo County Economic Development District	TBD	TBD
	Revitalize Downtown: Support the redevelopment and revitalization of downtown areas, including residential uses.	Goal II: Objective A	City of Yazoo City, Yazoo Chamber of Commerce	20	\$3,000,000
	Expand Tourism Opportunities: Expand tourism opportunities through marketing of new museums.	Goal II: Objective E	City of Yazoo City, Yazoo County, Yazoo Chamber of Commerce	TBD	TBD

Continue Implementation of Transportation Improvements: Continue implementation of all transportation improvements to address capacity, congestion, and quality deficiencies; specifically the Willie Morris Parkway and a street overlay project.	Goal I: Objective D	City of Yazoo City, Yazoo County, Yazoo County Economic Development District	900	\$7,000,000
Encourage Development of Quality Housing: Encourage the development of quality housing for all income levels; specifically, moderate income apartments for Federal Prison Complex employees.	Goal II: Objective F	City of Yazoo City, Yazoo County	TBD	TBD
Support the Construction of a New Hospital Building: Support the construction of a new hospital building for the Kings Daughters Hospital.	Goal I: Objective C	City of Yazoo City, Yazoo County, Yazoo County Economic Development District, Yazoo Chamber of Commerce	TBD	TBD

Hazard Mitigation

Mitigation Planning is an ongoing effort by local officials within the CMPDD region to reduce the impact natural disasters have on people and property through damage prevention. Over the past decade, emergency managers have altered their approach to disaster response and recovery due to the rising cost of natural disasters. Emergency managers no longer approach natural disasters with the sole thought of how to recover from a disaster. Instead, emergency managers stress the importance of pre-disaster or ongoing risk analysis in order to lessen the impact communities sustain from a disaster. Like any other region, the seven counties that comprise the CMPDD's area are vulnerable to many different types of natural disasters. These disasters, which include winter storms, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, droughts, dam/levee failures, wildfires, and thunderstorms, can have substantial human, economic and environmental consequences.

In an effort to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards, the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District began working with local jurisdictions in our seven-county region in 2005 to develop Hazard Mitigation Plans. Each plan, identifies natural hazards that threaten the area, characterizes each jurisdiction's vulnerability to those hazards, and outlines an action plan of projects that can be implemented to reduce the identified risks.

Since the implementation of these plans in 2005, many local jurisdictions have taken significant strides to protect the safety and welfare of its residents by implementing strategies outlined in their Mitigation Plan. This has included purchasing emergency generators for critical facilities, implementing drainage improvement projects, building community shelters, and improving emergency warning capabilities.

CEDS Plan of Action

The CMPDD's Plan of Action for the Comprehensive Development Strategy will guide the implementation of the Goals and Objectives of the CEDS in a manner that:

- promotes economic development and opportunity,
- fosters effective transportation access,
- enhances and protects the environment,
- maximizes effective development and use of the workforce consistent with any applicable State or local workforce investment strategy,
- promotes the use of technology in economic development, including access to high-speed telecommunications,
- balances resources through sound management of physical development, and
- obtains and utilizes adequate funds and other resources.

To do this, the CMPDD will continue to work closely with committee members and economic development partners to develop and implement the CEDS; use economic development programs to accomplish the strategic projects listed in the CEDS; use the Public Information Program to make the CEDS available to public and private partners; and will work with the state to ensure the integration of the CEDS Strategic projects with the state's economic priorities.

Current economic development programs will be utilized where possible to accomplish the listed Strategic Projects. A listing of available programs is listed below, but is not limited to:

Delta Regional Authority Programs
Economic Development Infrastructure Grants
Rural Impact Fund Grants
Federal and State Loan Programs
Home Investment Partnership Programs
Main Street Association Programs

Economic Development Planning Grants
Community Development Block Grants
Rural Development Community Programs
Metropolitan Planning Organization Funds
Tax Abatement and Credits
Workforce Development Programs

The Public Information Program, already in place at the CMPDD, is utilized as the formal citizen participation mechanism and to make the CEDS available to public and private partners. This involves publishing articles in newsletters, posting on the website and at www.cmpdd.org, providing press releases to the local newspapers and meeting with local civic clubs and other interested parties. Prior to the release of the CEDS or before any changes can be made, it is made available to the public at the CMPDD's office for a thirty-day comment period.

Finally, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is provided to the State of Mississippi and the Institutions of Higher Learning for integrating the CEDS and the state's economic priorities. The CMPDD staff and committee members will continue to work with state agencies to coordinate this effort.

Performance Measures

The CEDS for the CMPDD area will utilize a two phase performance measurement. The first phase will include a comparison of the local economy's unemployment rate and per capita income from year to year in relation to the region, the state, and the nation. It will also include the number of jobs created and retained in the workforce. These alone are not adequate measures of economic development but can be used as good indicators.

The second phase of the evaluation process will include a measure of previous years goals and objectives. It will look at the number and type of investments made in the region and the amount of private sector investment.

Specifically, the CMPDD will utilize the following measurements:

- Per Capita Income
- 24-Month Unemployment Rate
- Number of Jobs
- Amount of Public and Private Investment
- Completion of Strategic Projects

Appendix A: CMPDD Board of Directors

County	Name	Occupation	Sector Represented
Copiah County	Supervisor Earl Dixon, Jr.	Copiah County Board of Supervisors	Public, County
	Mayor Alton Shaw	Town of Wesson	Public, City
	Ms. Daisy Price	Retired Educator	Private, Minority
Hinds County	Mr. Wendell Stringer	Funeral Home Owner	Private, Business
	Supervisor Phil Fisher	Hinds County Board of Supervisors	Public, County
	Mayor Rosemary Aultman	City of Clinton	Public, City
	Mr. Derrick Johnson	Executive Director, MS Chapter of NAACP	Private, Minority
Madison County	Mr. Charlie McLemore, Jr.	Small Business Owner	Private, Business
	Supervisor John Bell Crosby	Madison County Board of Supervisors	Public, County
	Mayor Mary Hawkins Butler	City of Madison	Public, City
	Mr. Dan Hart	Cattleman, Retired Police Detective	Private, Minority
Rankin County	Mr. Jim Archer	Retired President of Jackson Paper Company	Private, Business
	Supervisor Jay Bishop	Rankin County Board of Supervisors	Public, County
	Mayor Knox Ross	Town of Pelahatchie	Public, City
	Mr. Walter Redd	Foreman at Seimans Corporation	Private, Minority
Simpson County	Supervisor Jared Morrison	Small Business Owner	Private, Business
	Supervisor Curtis Skiffer	Simpson County Board of Supervisors	Public, County
	Mayor Jimmy Clyde	City of Magee	Public, City
	Alderman Patrick Brown	Mississippi Prison Systems	Private, Minority
Warren County	Ms. Wanda Cowart	Banker	Private, Business
	Supervisor William Banks	Warren County Board of Supervisors	Public, County
	Alderman Michael Mayfield	City of Vicksburg	Public, City
	Mr. James Wilson	Retired School Principal	Private, Minority
Yazoo County	Mr. Jerry Hall	Banker	Private, Business
	Supervisor Cobie Collins	Yazoo County Board of Supervisors	Public, County
	Mayor McArthur Straughter	City of Yazoo City	Public, City
	Mr. Wardell Leach	Insurance Agent	Private, Minority
City of Jackson	Mr. David Berry	Small Business Owner	Private, Business
	Mayor Harvey Johnson	City of Jackson	Public, City
	Councilman Quentin Whitwell	City of Jackson	Public, City
	Dr. Otha Burton	Professor, Jackson State University	Private, Minority
	Mr. David Pharr	Attorney	Private, Business

Appendix B: CEDS Steering Committee

Name	Position	Occupation	Sector Represented
Mayor Knox Ross	President, CMPDD Board of Directors	Town of Pelahatchie	Public, City
Mr. Jim Archer	Vice President, CMPDD Board of Directors	Retired, Jackson Paper Company	Private, Business
Supervisor Cobie Collins	Secretary-Treasurer, CMPDD Board of Directors	Yazoo County Board of Supervisors	Public, County
Mayor Rosemary Aultman	President, MPO	City of Clinton	Public, City
Ms. Wanda Cowart	Steering Committee Member	Banker	Private, Business
Mr. Walter Redd	Steering Committee Member	Foreman at Siemens Corporation	Private, Minority