

SCPDC

South Central Planning & Development Commission

Serving the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, and Terrebonne

Quarterly Newsletter



June 21, 2023 | Issue 12

Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts (LAPDD) Receive 2023 Star of the Southwest Award



LAPDD's Broadband Initiative Targeting Strategy (BITS) was recognized with a 2023 Star of the Southwest Award during the Southwest Region Economic Development Association's (SWREDA) Conference in New Orleans, LA on May 4. Five projects from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas were recognized for their accomplishments. All of the winning projects were funded, in part, through support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Austin regional office.

BITS received an EDA grant in the amount of \$700,000 plus \$200,000 in other federal, state, and local investments to provide technical services at the region and state level for implementation of the Governor's Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana (BEL) Commission and to realize strategies in the plan.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Alejandra Castillo and EDA Austin Regional Director Jorge Ayala recognized them. "EDA is pleased to have been a part of these very important projects. Each one has played a critical role in helping bolster local and regional economies through job creation or infrastructure development or expansion," said Ayala. "EDA's investments into each of these projects was just one part of the overall financial package and illustrates the benefits of leveraging different resources to achieve success."

SWREDA is a membership organization consisting of economic development organizations located in the five-state region of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

SWREDA's general members are regional planning and development organizations, such as councils of governments, economic development districts, regional councils, regional commissions, regional planning commissions, and planning districts. These organizations are part of a national network of over 500 entities that are normally controlled by their member local governments, though some states have passed laws granting them with region-wide powers over specific functions, and still other states mandate such councils. Additionally, SWREDA's associate members include private, public, civic, and non-profit entities and individuals who embrace the objectives and purposes of the Association and who support its goals and objectives.

"Innovative projects across SWREDA's five-state region have made positive impacts on the lives of residents and on the local and regional economies. We are pleased to be honoring five projects that have made significant strides at helping improve the quality of life for citizens in the communities they are located and serve," said Jamie Setze, SWREDA Chairperson and Executive Director of the Capital Region Planning Commission in Baton Rouge, LA.

For more information about the award-winning project, contact Lea Ann Rucker, of South Central Planning and Development Commission, at LeaAnnR@SCPDC.org.



Opportunities for Funding: US Department of Transportation

From US DOT's Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) initiative.

DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard

The [DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard](#) provides communities with an overview of discretionary grant opportunities that can help meet their transportation infrastructure needs. Designed with all communities in mind, the Dashboard identifies grant programs with rural and Tribal set-asides or match waivers available. The Dashboard also includes Federal grant programs outside of DOT that may be of particular interest to [rural communities](#). An updated *Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit* will soon be published to help rural communities harness the Dashboard. The Dashboard is updated weekly.

Active & Upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)

ROUTES maintains a running list of open NOFOs that may be relevant to rural transportation. This list can be found [here](#), along with historical information on these grants (including prior NOFOs). The U.S. Department of Transportation lists key upcoming NOFOs [here](#).



U.S. Department of Transportation

[Charging and Fueling Infrastructure \(CFI\)](#)

[Airport Improvement Program \(AIP\)](#)

[Discretionary Grant Program](#)

June 13, 2023

\$700,000,000

FHWA

[Apply Here](#)

[Hazardous Materials Safety Inspection](#)

[\(HMSI\) Grant](#)

June 19, 2023

\$4,000,000

PHMSA

[Apply Here](#)

[Supplemental Public Sector Training \(SPST\)](#)

[Grant](#)

June 19, 2023

\$1,000,000

PHMSA

[Apply Here](#)

[Tribal Transit Competitive Grant Program](#)

June 26, 2023

\$8,935,753

FTA

[Apply Here](#)

[Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port](#)

[Facilities Grant Program](#)

June 26, 2023

\$160,000,000

FHWA

[Apply Here](#)

[Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Program](#)

July 10, 2023

\$1,177,213,000

OST/FHWA

[Apply Here](#)

July 14, 2023

\$1,500,000,000

FAA

[Apply Here](#)

[Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program](#)

July 17, 2023

\$170,000,000

FTA

[Apply Here](#)

[Passenger Ferry Grant Program](#)

July 17, 2023

\$50,100,000

FTA

[Apply Here](#)

[Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grants](#)

July 24, 2023

\$392,000,000

PHMSA

[Apply Here](#)

[Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program](#)

August 1, 2023

\$111,850,000

FHWA

[Apply Here](#)

[Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation \(PROTECT\) Grant Program](#)

August 18, 2023

\$848,000,000

FHWA

[Apply Here](#)

Download PDF of NOFO Chart

All Federal grants, including transportation grants, can be found at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). To find transportation related funding opportunities, select "All Department of Transportation" under the "Agency" menu on the left-hand side.

The programs listed below are anticipating to release a NOFO in the coming months. This timeline is subject to change.

[Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#)

Late Spring 2023

OST

[Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program \(Mega, INFRA, Rural\)](#)

Late Spring 2023

EDA NOFO Published

The Economic Development Administration has published its latest Notice of Funding Opportunity for the 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance. From the NOFO:

EDA intends to review applications expeditiously upon receipt of the complete application. There are no application submission deadlines. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new PWEAA NOFO, cancellation of this PWEAA NOFO, or all available funds have been expended.



This NOFO sets out EDA’s application submission and review procedures for two of EDA’s core economic development programs authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 3121 et seq.) (PWEDA): (1) Public Works and Economic Development Facilities (Public Works) and (2) Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA).

EDA supports bottom-up strategies that build on regional assets to spur economic growth and resiliency. EDA encourages its grantees throughout the country to develop initiatives that present new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.

Through this NOFO EDA intends to advance general economic development in accordance with EDA’s investment priorities, but also to pursue projects that, where practicable, incorporate specific priorities related to equity, workforce development, and climate change resiliency so that investments can benefit everyone for decades to come.

Please access this opportunity at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=346815>.

The FY 2023 PWEAA NOFO supersedes EDA’s FY2020 PWEAA NOFO.

SCPDC staff is available to assist partner organization identify and apply for quality EDA projects. These projects require a local match of 20%. For more information, please contact Joshua Manning at josh@scpd.org.

Construction Begins on Acadian Road Roundabout

Construction has begun on the Acadian Road Roundabout in Thibodaux. The Roundabout is



\$10.9 million project with \$3.4 million coming through the MPO and \$6.7 million funded by DOTD's Highway Safety Improvement Program. The project aims to eliminate hazardous turn movements along LA 20 and North Canal in Thibodaux, as well as provides for greater east-west connectivity in the City. It is the first part of the larger Acadian Road West project which is envisioned to connect Percy

Brown Road to the West Thibodaux Bypass.

Construction Underway at Thibodaux Water Treatment Plant



Construction is underway on the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the City of Thibodaux. The plant, originally constructed in

1935 and renovated in 1992, is being upgraded to replace the filter media in two large treatment tanks. This project is essential for the continued operation of the system in a safe and sustainable manner.



The project is being paid for with \$2 million in funding from EDA and a \$500,000 match from the City.

Small Business Recovery Program Fund

South Central Planning and Development was allocated 63.5 (\$37.5M Laura/Delta and \$25M Ida) of 95 Million in available funding to assist small business owners in impacted areas across the state.

The program will start accepting application

IMPACTED BY **HURRICANE IDA**
OR FLOOD OF 2021



0% INTEREST
&
40% FORGIVABLE

**SMALL BUSINESS
RECOVERY PROGRAM FUNDS**

1-800-630-3791 OR SCPDC.ORG





Funded through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

from May 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

IMPACTED BY **HURRICANES LAURA OR DELTA**



0% INTEREST
&
40% FORGIVABLE

**SMALL BUSINESS
RECOVERY PROGRAM FUNDS**

1-800-630-3791 OR SCPDC.ORG





Funded through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Disaster Recovery Opportunities

South Central Planning and Development Commission has taken on the challenge of implementing the **Restore Louisiana Small Business Loan Program** commissioned through the Louisiana Office of Community Development- Disaster Recovery Unit with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Due to the economic impact Hurricanes Laura, Delta, Ida and the May Floods of 2021 have had on Louisiana, the Legal & Special Projects Department in coordination with the Loan Department have opened up offices throughout the state to assist small business applicants in accessing financial capital. The long-term recovery program comes at a time when Louisiana continues to struggle to sustain its small business growth from year to year. In its 2022 Louisiana Small Business Profile Report, the SBA Office of Advocacy found that although 10,250 SBA defined small businesses opened between March 2020 and March 2021, 9,302 went out of business during the same period. This data mirrors their 2021 report which confirmed 9,453 openings but 9,733 closures between March 2019 and March 2020. Employment tracking also revealed that net losses outweighed the net gains, with a gain of 108,977 jobs but a loss of 157,249 jobs. It is apparent that strengthening the infrastructure of the small business community to sustain their businesses has never been more acute.

To date, our organization has been able to service over 400 individuals at its 17 office and 2 library locations via in-office visits and through its hotline, receiving over 200 applications since opening on May 1st. An online application is available at for IT savvy borrowers, but a majority of applicants visit our field offices to ask questions prior to applying or to follow-up and/or supply required documentation.



Restore Louisiana

HELPING DISASTER-IMPACTED BUSINESSES

Small Business Loan Program

Apply Today

If you had \$10,000 in physical damage or a 20% gross annual revenue decline following Hurricanes Laura, Delta, Ida or the May floods of 2021 you may be eligible for Restore's Small Business Loan Program.

1-800-630-3791

WWW.SCPDC.ORG



RESTORE
LOUISIANA



LOUISIANA
Office of
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Office locations and hours:

Houma Headquarters in Terrebonne Parish

5058 West Main Street, **Houma**, LA

M-F 8:00AM – 4:30PM

Galliano in southern Lafourche Parish

Lafourche Plaza Shopping Center,
182110 West Main St., Ste 5, **Galliano**, LA

M-F 9:00AM – 4:00PM

Reserve in St John the Baptist Parish

River Parish Community College,
181 Regala Park Rd., **Reserve**, LA

M-F 9:00AM- 4:00PM

Boutte in St Charles Parish

River Parish Community College/United Way Ctr
13145 Hwy 90, **Boutte**, LA

M-F 9:00AM- 4:00PM

Capital and North Shore Region

Capital Region Planning Commission Office in **EBR**
14734 S. Harrell's Ferry Rd., **Baton Rouge**, LA

M-TH 8:00AM-4:00PM

Denham Springs Historic Museum in **Livingston**
115 Mattie St., **Denham Springs**, LA

T-F 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Southeastern LA Univ. Business Center in **Tangipahoa**
11514 Martens Drive, **Hammond**, LA

M-TH 8:00AM-4:00PM

New Orleans Area

UNO "The Beach"-Advanced Tech Center in **Orleans**
2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 207, **New Orleans**, LA

M-TH 8:00AM – 4:30PM
F – 9:00AM – 3:00PM

DBA Business Center on the **WestBank in Jefferson**
4657 Westbank Expressway, **Marrero**, LA

M-TH 9:00AM – 4:00PM
F – 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Port of St Bernard

M-TH 8:00AM – 3:00PM

100 Port Blvd, Ste 10, **Chalmette**, LA

On the **East Bank in Jefferson**
2200 Veterans Memorial, Ste. 200, **Kenner**, LA

M-TH 9:00AM – 4:00PM
F 9:00AM- 3:00PM

Acadiana, SouthWest and SouthCentral Louisiana

Acadiana in **Lafayette Parish**
208 West Gloria Switch, **Lafayette, La**

M-TH 9:00AM-4:00PM
F 9:00AM – 3:00PM

In **Vermilion** Parish
404 Pere Megret St., **Abbeville**, La

M-F 10:00AM-2:00PM

Central La Reg Chamber of Commerce Office in **Rapides**
118 Third Street, **Alexandria, La**

M-TH 9:00AM-4:00PM
F 9:00AM-3:00PM

Natchitoches Library in **Natchitoches Parish**
450 Second St. **Natchitoches**, La

Wed. 10:00AM-3:00PM

SEED Center on McNeese Campus in **Calcasieu**
4310 Ryan Street, **Lake Charles**, LA

M-TH 9:00AM-4:00PM
F 9:00AM-3:00PM

1917 North Pine Street, Ste C
DeRidder, La.

T/T 9:00AM-4:30PM

Jeff Davis Arts and Tech Center in **Jeff Davis Parish**
137 North Main Street, **Jennings**, La

Wed. 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Grand Lake Library
10200 Gulf Hwy, **Lake Charles**, La

F 10:00AM-3:00PM

South Central's Brownfields Program



EPA
Brownfields

SCPDC
Brownfields

For more information on SCPDC's Brownfields Program, contact our Brownfields Program Manager Lesley Long at lesley@scpsc.org or (985) 851-2900.

South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) Brownfields Program works to assess, clean up, and facilitate the redevelopment and/or reuse of potentially contaminated properties known as brownfields.

Traffic Counting Program

After a hiatus due to COVID-19 and then Hurricane Ida, SCPDC's traffic counting program is now back in full swing! Traffic counts are taken throughout the region, though primarily in the MPO area, by the Planning Department to provide inputs to the regional Travel Demand Model, as well as to provide information to member governments. Many economic developers, real estate agents, and other community stakeholders often find this information to be useful for a variety of reasons.



Traffic Count
Database

My Government Online



Chief Technology Officer Ryan Hutchinson showcased the new MGO customer portal to the Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge. The new MGOConnect.org & Mobile Apps Customer Portal offers many new and exciting features, such as: Push notifications when an application is accepted or returned, Enhanced project management features, Custom branding and direct application linking with a city website and more!

Many jurisdictions across the country have begun the switch to our portal at no cost and received outstanding feedback from the building community.

MGO Connect Live National

New Orleans, LA

MyGovernmentOnline (MGO) is excited to announce our second annual MGO Connect Live National 2023 conference to be held December 12th, 13th, and 14th 2023. This momentous and informative conference will be held in the New Orleans, Louisiana area!

MGO Connect Live is the MyGovernmentOnline (MGO) in-person conference where you will meet with members of the MGO software staff directly to learn about new features, receive training and discuss best practices. Please RSVP for this free event today so that we can begin building our attendees list. By adding your name and e-mail address to our RSVP list, you will receive notifications regarding hotel

accommodations, scheduled activities and you'll also receive an exclusive MGO "Swag Bag" when you arrive at the conference!

The national conference will be a three-day event in the New Orleans, Louisiana area where you will enjoy some of the best cuisine in the world and other great amenities. To RSVP for the MGO Connect Live National 2023 conference, send an email to support@mygovernmentonline.org with the subject line "MGO Connect Live National 2023 Conference" and include the names and email addresses of each member of your party in the body of the email. We will add all members of your party to the notifications list to ensure everyone remains up to date with the latest conference details.

Mark your calendars to meet us in New Orleans on the dates of December 12th, 13th, and 14th 2023.

Anything you can do in-person at your local office you can do online. Examples include Apply for Permits, Pay Online, Request Inspections, Submit Files, Download Inspection Reports and Approved Plans, Check Status of a Permit, Download Permit Data, Search for Permits, Manage Contractor and Business Licenses. Visit <https://www.mygovernmentonline.org/> for more information.

Our MGO team participates in many conferences, here are just a few of those:



Louisiana Floodplain Management Association - LFMA Technical & Business Conference



Annual BOAL conference in Lake Charles, LA



Building Professional Institute Conference in Houston, TX

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Public Law 117-58, also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" or BIL) into law. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and economy in our Nation's history. It

Federal Programs Available to the Locals

provides \$550 billion over fiscal years 2022 through 2026 in new Federal investment in infrastructure, including in roads, bridges, and mass transit, water infrastructure, resilience, and broadband.

- Click here to visit the [FHWA BIL Website](#).
- Click here to visit the [USDOT BIL Website](#).



Federal Highway Programs Available to Local Agencies (LPA)

LTAP has produced a helpful brochure that provides a list of federal highway programs that local public agencies (LPA) can apply for funding for or have access to.

Agencies that use federal and state dollars for transportation projects are required to take the LPA Training Program provided by LTAP in partnership with FHWA and DOTD.

[Download Brochure](#)



LTAP offers various training programs that offer cost-effective learning for local transportation and public works agencies on topics that range from road and bridge maintenance to roadway safety, worker safety, emergency preparedness, crash data analysis, etc. [Download Training Resources](#)

LPA

Local Public Agency (LPA) Training Program



[Visit LTAP for more information](#)

Any local public agency that utilizes federal and state transportation dollars is required to attend the LPA Qualification Core Training. [Download Brochure](#).

Sign Up for LTAP's Newsletters and Training Announcements [HERE](#).

Local Road Safety Program

Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) is a federal-



Project applications for local road safety improvements are accepted year-round. However, those submitted by cutoff dates March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 shall be given priority for project selection.

Contact Cassie Parker at cassie@scpdc.org if you would like assistance on the application.

aid funding program that provides opportunity for parishes and municipalities to implement low-cost road safety improvements.

It is intended to increase local community participation in developing and implementing Local Road Safety Plans and proven safety countermeasures that help eliminate traffic deaths on locally owned roads

[Local Road Safety Program](#)
[Download brochure here](#)

South Central Regional Safety Coalition

Program Coordinator: [Cassie Parker](#)

South Central Regional Safety Coalition (SCRSC) is a traffic safety coalition comprised of multidisciplinary partners/agencies throughout the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne.

[Learn More](#)



[LA Parish Engineers & Supervisors 2023 Spring Conference](#)



Trooper Ross Brennan, Troop C PIO and South Central's Distracted Driving team leader, presented on Nicholls State University's mini roundabout at the [LA Parish Engineers & Supervisors Conference](#).

[Louisiana's 4H University 2023](#)



Louisiana's Destination Zero Deaths Coalitions kicked off the summer by teaming up to conduct Distracted Driving education at [Louisiana's 4H University](#).

South Central Chairman, Lt. Dustin Poche (Lutcher Police Department) is pictured above engaging with students.



[Download Sample Policy](#)

Employers are going above and beyond to follow best practices. By putting a company policy in place to help eliminate distractions while driving, is not just smart business but most importantly, it's keeping your employees and their families safe! Download this sample cell phone policy for your organization. For more information, contact Cassie Parker at cassie@scpdc.org.

The Louisiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Center

In partnership with FHWA Resource Center, FHWA Louisiana Division, and Destination Zero Deaths initiative, invites stakeholders and local agencies to attend this 6-hour workshop.



South Central Region - Thibodaux

August 9th | 8:00 AM- 3:30 PM

Nicholls State University - 906 E 1st Street

John L. Guidry Stadium - Century Room

Thibodaux, LA 70301

Register here:

<https://registration.ltrc.lsu.edu/login>

Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) include pedestrians, bicyclists, and other personal modes of transportation. They accounted for 34% of U.S. traffic fatalities in 2019. This workshop will discuss how road safety stakeholders and local agencies can help reduce VRU deaths and serious injuries in Louisiana. Register today and begin thinking of potential bicycle and pedestrian projects in your area!

Topics include:

- Operating characteristics and safety concerns related to VRU's
- Factors in the operating environment that present risks for VRU's
- Available data sources and tools that can be used in VRU safety analysis
- Relating Proven Safety Countermeasures and the Safe Systems Approach to VRU's
- Adapting and implementing local safety plans to address VRU needs
- A field assessment will be conducted to provide participants an opportunity to physically evaluate issues on local roads and recommend proven safety countermeasures to address these issues.

Who Should Attend?

- Road safety practitioners
- Parish and city engineers
- Public works employees
- Law enforcement officers
- Health professionals
- Educators

Other local agency stakeholders who are vested in improving road safety in their respective communities, as well as Regional and Local decision makers interested in a safe and efficient local road network balanced with a higher quality of life in their communities.

Contact: Victor Lockwood LTAP Business Manager
Victor.Lockwood@la.gov | 225-767-9717

Crash Data Dashboard Training Available!

Regional data available in user friendly dashboards

LSU Center for Analytics and Research in Traffic Safety (CARTS), in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) created user-friendly crash data dashboards that are used in Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Plan efforts. Numerous filters allow users to sort data by injury level, location, demographics, contributing factors, and more.

If you are interested in hosting a Crash Data Dashboard Training in person or via Zoom, please contact Cassie Parker at cassie@scpd.org.

[LSU CARTS SHSP Crash Data Dashboards](#)

South Central Planning & Development Commission *Upcoming Meetings*

SCPDC Calendar of Events

SCPDC Board Meeting - 10:30 AM

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Contact: Emma Bergeron, emma@scpd.org

SCPDC Loan Board Meeting - 8:30 AM

Third Tuesday of each month

Contact: Missy Menuet, MissyM@scpd.org

Region 6 Watershed Meeting - 10 AM

4th Wednesday of each month

Contact: Pat Gordon, pat@scpd.org

HTMPO Policy Committee - 12 PM

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpd.org

Print SCPDC Meeting Calendar

HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee - 10 AM

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpd.org

Regional Transit Committee - 10 AM

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Contact: Joshua Manning, josh@scpd.org

South Central Regional Safety Coalition - 10 AM

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Contact: Cassie Parker, cassie@scpd.org

for emphasis area meetings.

Any Parish or Municipality that wants to share regional activities they're promoting, we will give them access to our Newsletter as a medium. For more information about the Newsletter please contact Jonathan Eastwood at jonathanE@scpd.org.

South Central Planning & Development
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985-851-2900 | www.scpdc.org

