

# 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

April 14, 2021 | Issue 3



### Reserve Welding School on Track for Fall 2021 Semester

Despite delays in material deliveries due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Reserve Welding School at the **River Parishes Community College** is on track to serve students this autumn. Work is moving fast as doors have been installed, classroom and office areas have been renovated, and much



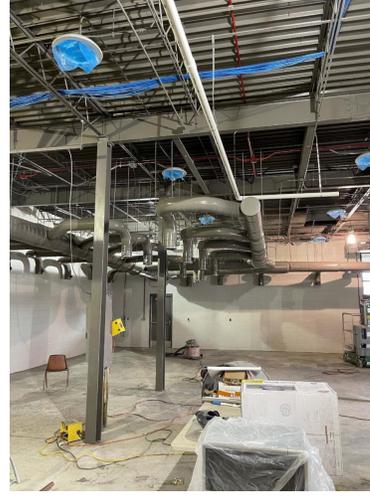
improved ventilation systems have been installed. After the new epoxy floor is laid and welding stations are affixed, only finishing touches will remain. With no expected delays in the project, welding students will be able to work comfortably in this newly renovated space and learn their new craft come September 2021.

All renovations are planned for completion no later than August 2021.

**EDA Grant Amount:** \$1,300,000.00

**Start Date:** September 2020

**Completion Date:** March 2021 (Tentatively)



## Nominations Being Accepted! LGAC's Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee



United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing a solicitation for nominations to serve on its Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), which advises the EPA on critical environmental issues impacting local governments. The agency is also accepting nominations for LGAC's Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS). Members of the LGAC and SCAS

will provide advice and recommendations on a broad range of issues, including: ensuring access to clean air and water; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; advancing environmental justice; bolstering resilience to the impacts of climate change; and limiting exposure to dangerous chemicals and pesticides.

Candidates must be current elected or appointed officials representing local, state, tribal or territorial governments. EPA expressly values diversity, equity, and inclusion, and encourages the nominations of individuals from diverse backgrounds, so that the LGAC and SCAS look like America and reflect the country's rich diversity. To be considered for 2021 appointments, nominations should be submitted by April 16, 2021.

[Learn more about the nomination process here](#)

[For more information about the LGAC, please Click Here](#)

[For more information about the SCAS, please visit here](#)

## Delta Regional Authority Now Accepting Grant Applications

The **Delta Regional Authority (DRA)** is now accepting applications until June 6<sup>th</sup> for all programs. SCPDC has had great success in assisting our partners with applications and administration for

40 DRA States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) grants. DRA SEDAP priorities are:

- 1) job creation and/or retention utilizing a participation agreement;
- 2) include other sources of public and/or private funds, and;
- 3) have a regional impact.

If you have an infrastructure project that will help with your community's economic development efforts, we encourage you to contact us to discuss how to begin your DRA application. Awards are generally less than \$200,000; however, DRA has funded smaller parts of larger projects in the past. If your community is considered distressed, the local match can be reduced to 20%. Even more, if we can show that your community was heavily impacted by COVID-19, the DRA program is able to waive any local match.

If you have any questions, or would like SCPDC to assist you with this opportunity, contact Tim Bourcier at (985) 851-2900 or [timb@scpd.org](mailto:timb@scpd.org).



DRA ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

**Deadline to send application to SCPDC for review: June 6, 2021**

**Deadline to submit application to DRA: June 20, 2021**



Learn more about the HTMPO

[HTMPO's 2020 Annual Report](#)

The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization, responsible for all **transportation planning** in the Houma-Thibodaux region, has developed its 2020 annual report. This report highlights funding levels obligated for various sidewalks, bridges, roadway infrastructure projects, and transit in the urbanized areas of Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne. In addition to the report, a full annual listing of obligated projects may be found on the MPO's website at <http://www.htmpto.org/annual-reports/>.

**Applications Being Accepted!**  
**Louisiana State Flood Control Program**

The **Louisiana State Flood Control Program (SFCP)** is **open for applications**. This competitive program was developed to help fix existing flood issues through funding stand-alone projects that will not affect upstream



or downstream flooding. Pre-applications are reviewed for projects that exceed \$100,000 in costs. **Accepted projects can have up to 90% of the costs covered.** However, the more a municipality can put toward the cost-share, the more likely SFCP will fund the

project.

Rural areas with limited matching funds or technical expertise should certainly consider applying. The match requirement can be waived for rural areas, where 55% of the total funding is being allocated. The state is also trying to assist rural governments at no cost to them for hydraulic modeling if resources are available.

While only 45% of the funding is set aside for urbanized areas (MPO urbanized area), our region is located in between two funding districts. Along Bayou Lafourche, the LSFC divided the urbanized area so part of the region is in the program's south-central district with the other part lies in the southeastern district. The state has equitably distributed funds between the districts, so technically municipalities in the **SCPDC region have two funding pots to choose from, making an increased potential for project approval.**

If you are interested in this program or have any questions, please contact Tim Bourcier, Planner IV at (985) 851-2900 or send a message to [timb@scpsc.org](mailto:timb@scpsc.org).

Pre-applications are due May 1, 2021.

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## CDBG CARES Act Funds Available for HVAC Systems

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The Office of Community Development announced \$31.5 million in grant funding to improve HVAC systems in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Funds are evenly split for communities over 10,000 residents and smaller communities under 10,000 people. Through the CARES ACT, Community Development Block Grant funds are available for up to \$1 million per community and can cover HVAC systems at multiple facilities within a jurisdiction. The grant is being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis (non-competitive). As of this newsletter, only four applications have been submitted and no awards have been made.

SCPDC is available to assist our partners with the application process, grant administration and labor compliance. No local match is required, so it is possible to have the grant cover all of the administration fees and other costs. More information about the program and eligible facilities can be found at: <https://www.doa.la.gov/ocd/Powerpnt%20CDBG%20CV.pdf>

If you have any questions, or would like SCPDC to assist you with this opportunity, contact Tim Bourcier at (985) 851-2900 or [timb@scpsc.org](mailto:timb@scpsc.org).

**Minimum Construction Amount: \$80,000**

**Maximum Award: \$1,000,000**



# Register Today! Virtual Road Safety Assessment (RSA) Workshop





## LTAP offers RSA Training!

[www.louisianaltap.org](http://www.louisianaltap.org)

in partnership with the South Central Regional Safety Coalition.  
 Contact: [cassie@scpsc.org](mailto:cassie@scpsc.org)  
[www.scpsc.org](http://www.scpsc.org)



### Road Safety Audits or Road Safety Assessments (RSA)

An RSA is a proactive, formal safety performance examination of an existing or future road or intersection by an independent and multi-disciplinary team.

**SAFETY BENEFIT:**

**10-60%**  
Reduction in total crashes

Source: Road Safety Audits: An Evaluation of RSA Programs and Projects, FHWA-SA-12-037, and FHWA Road Safety Audit Guidelines, FHWA-SA-09-06.

**VIRTUAL!**

**Register Today: April 27, 2021 10am-12:30pm**  
[https://zoom.us/join/register/UcofumqrD0oGtE0yKgyttK5H5\\_MMel5kk-d](https://zoom.us/join/register/UcofumqrD0oGtE0yKgyttK5H5_MMel5kk-d)

RSAs are performed by a multi-disciplinary team independent of the project. RSAs consider all road users, account for human factors and road user capabilities, are documented in a formal report, and require a formal response from the road owner. (See the eight steps for conducting an RSA below.)

RSAs provide the following benefits:

- Reduced number and severity of crashes due to safer designs.
- Reduced costs resulting from early identification and mitigation of safety issues before projects are built.
- Improved awareness of safe design practices.
- Increased opportunities to integrate multimodal safety strategies and proven safety countermeasures.
- Expanded ability to consider human factors in all facets of design.

RSAs can be performed in any phase of project development, from planning through construction. RSAs can also be conducted on any size project, from minor intersection and roadway retrofits to large-scale construction projects. Agencies are encouraged to conduct an RSA at the earliest stage possible, as all roadway design options and alternatives are being explored.

**For an updated schedule of RSAs, visit the "Training" section of [www.louisianaltap.org](http://www.louisianaltap.org)**

**For questions, email LTAP's Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) Manager at [Leo.Marretta@la.gov](mailto:Leo.Marretta@la.gov)**

**CONDUCTING AN RSA**



→ For more information on this and other FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures, please visit <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures>.

FHWA-SA-17-068



Investment in roadway safety saves lives  
<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>

We have teamed up with our amazing partners from the **Local Technical Assistance Program** to offer our valued **South Central Regional Safety Coalition** partners the opportunity to participate in our **Virtual Road Safety Assessment (RSA) Workshop!**

**When: April 27, 2021**  
**Time: 10:00am-12:30pm**  
**Deadline to Register: April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Register for FREE Today!**

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/UcofumqrD0oGtE0yKgyttK5H5\\_MMel5kk-d](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/UcofumqrD0oGtE0yKgyttK5H5_MMel5kk-d)

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

#### Targeted Audience

- Transportation Professionals
- Engineers
- Parish Public Works/Maintenance
- Law Enforcement
- First Responders
- Road Safety Professionals

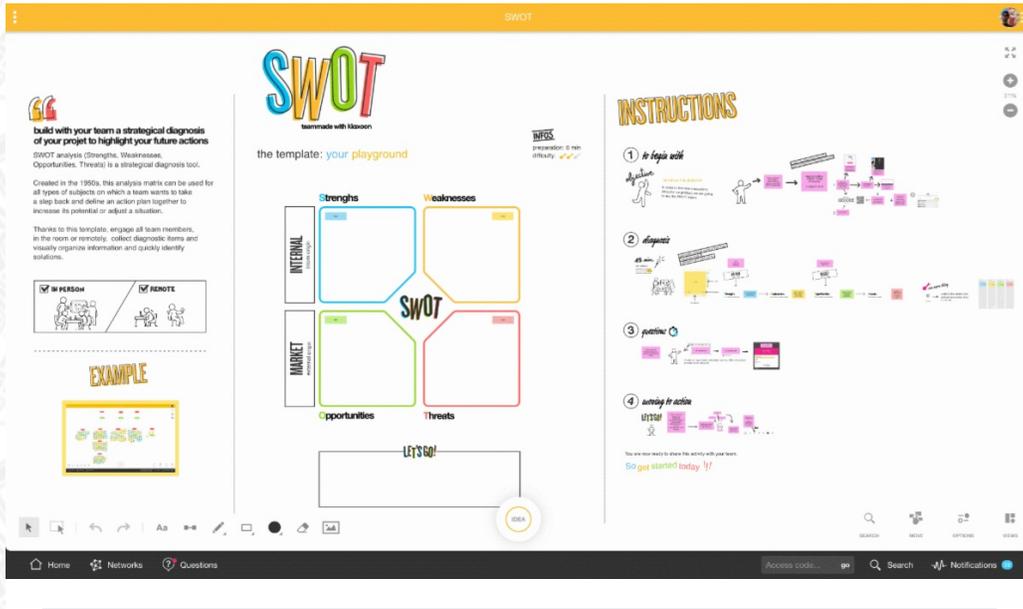
## SWOT Analysis Completed for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

On March 2nd SCPDC held a SWOT analysis with Dr. Geoffrey Stewart, Associate Professor at the Moody College of Business Administration, University of Louisiana

Lafayette. The SWOT analysis is an integral process in steering the direction of the five-year update to the SCPDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). CEDS is required by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for regional planning districts. The goal of the CEDS is to help prioritize regional economic development efforts over the next five years.

Prior to the SWOT analysis, regional stakeholders were given the opportunity to answer a questionnaire that evaluated the regions strengths and weaknesses. The survey results showed that our region felt the local culture was its main strength and identified crumbling infrastructure and the need to diversify the economy as areas for improvement. The SWOT analysis was used to dig deeper into these topics and gain more feedback from our partners.

SWOT analyses are usually performed in person. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, getting all of the regional stakeholders into one physical place was not advisable. We were able to adapt the process using online survey software and Klaxoon virtual SWOT software. Using the virtual software in a webinar format allowed us to solicit participation from those involved almost as if everyone was sitting together.



### KLAXOON VIRTUAL SWOT SOFTWARE

SCPDC will be making its draft CEDS update available online soon. At that time, we will be accepting public comment on the strategy. The CEDS update webpage currently has a recording of the SWOT analysis and the pre-SWOT questionnaire results available for viewing and comment. Please check the CEDS webpage periodically for updates on the process and to provide feedback on our strategy.

<https://www.scpdc.org/departments/planning/ceds/2022-2027-ceds-stakeholder/>



## \$1.2 Billion to Address the Louisiana Watershed Initiative



South Central Planning has been allocated \$400,000 to act as the Fiscal Agent and Coordinator for the Watershed Region 6 Steering Committee. The Committee's three (3) goals for this year are to complete a 3 year work plan, establish a project inventory and create a structure of governance. Work Plan and Inventory have been completed and the structure of governance will be submitted to the LA Office of Community Development (OCD) by January of 2021. HUD has recently approved the funding of **\$1.2 Billion to address the Louisiana Watershed Initiative program** in creating Projects, Programs and Modeling to address our States flooding needs for the next 5-6 Years. Round 1 applications are currently being submitted to OCD for State and Regional funding opportunities. For more information on this program contact [Pat Gordon](#).

Learn more about Region 6 Watershed Efforts

## Apply for a Small Business Loan

In 2020, SCPDC was awarded funding under the Economic Development Administration's CARES Act Recovery Assistance program to help businesses in the region respond to the unprecedented challenge created by CoVid-19 and associated shutdowns. SCPDC considers



ALL small businesses to be affected by the VIRUS and the associated economic SHUTDOWNS and pledges to support and sustain small businesses during the re-opening and re-tooling in the new CoViD economy. Loans range from \$25,000 to \$250,000 and feature a 0% initial interest rate. Please contact SCPDC Loan Department at (985) 655-1051 or [businessloans@scpsc.org](mailto:businessloans@scpsc.org) for details on applying.

In the first quarter of 2021, the SCPDC Loan Board approved CARES Act projects funded by the CRLF (CARES Revolving Loan Fund) for a mechanic shop, a local restaurant chain, a plumber, an electrician, a specialty retail clothing store, and a truck driver, in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes, totaling \$785,000.

For information on the small business loan programs offered through South Central Planning, please see brochures attached here: [EDA CARES Act Loans](#), [Comprehensive Loan Brochure](#)

## Thibodaux Receives EDA Cares Act Funding



The City of Thibodaux has been selected to receive funding from the EDA CARES Act in February 2021. EDA has invested \$2.5 million to support the City of Thibodaux with upgrading its wastewater system. SCPDC staff assisted with preparing the application and will be administering the project. The wastewater system supports many major employers in the City including Nicholls State University and Thibodaux Regional Medical Center. This project will improve the facility's capability allowing the city to focus on recovery and sustainability with modern treatment. The wastewater system serves businesses, residents, governments, education systems, and industrial operations within the City limits. Through the CARES Act, EDA was awarded \$1.5 billion for economic development assistance. The City has hired David A. Waitz Engineering and Surveying, Inc. as the engineering firm to design the improvements.

## Buying or Selling Property with Underground Storage Tanks, such as Old Abandoned Gas Stations?

South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) currently has U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessment** funding to assess properties for the cleanup and reuse of petroleum-contaminated sites. **Funding may be used for sites that are contaminated with petroleum substances (such old gas stations, auto service businesses, factories, mill sites, shipyards, transit stations, junkyards, etc.)**



So, what is a Brownfield? Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. A limited amount of Petroleum Site Assessment Grant funds is available to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs).

A Phase I ESA helps **identify potential contaminants** on a site as well as recommending clean up options. A Phase II ESA **provides a more detailed analysis of site conditions**, the cleanup required per industry standards, and any follow-up monitoring of the site post-cleanup.

Want more information on SCPDC's Brownfield Program and to determine if your petroleum site is eligible for brownfield funding? Contact our Brownfield Program Manager, Lesley Long at [lesley@scpsc.org](mailto:lesley@scpsc.org) or (985) 851-2900.

More information can also be found at <https://www.epa.gov/ust/petroleum-brownfields>.



## Reaching Zero Deaths on our Roadways is a Team Effort



**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.

**Program Coordinator:** [Cassie Parker](#)

Learn more about what we are doing to save lives



### Is your child in the **right car seat?**

**Louisiana Child Passenger Safety Law**



Age/Size	Restraint Use
 Birth to at least 2 years old	Ride rear facing in an infant or convertible child safety seat
 At least 2 years old and has outgrown the rear facing seat by height or weight	Ride in a forward-facing child safety seat with an internal harness
 4 years old and has outgrown the forward-facing seat with internal harness by height or weight	Ride restrained in a belt positioning child booster seat using a lap shoulder seat belt
 9 years old or has outgrown the booster seat and can pass the 5 Step Test	Ride restrained with a lap shoulder seat belt secured correctly on the vehicle seat
Younger than 13 years old	Ride in the rear seat of a vehicle, when available, and properly restrained

A child who can be placed in more than one category shall use the more protective category. Child safety seats must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

5 Step Test: The seat belt fits correctly when the child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat, the child's knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat, the belt fits snugly across the child's thighs and lower hips, and not the child's abdomen, and when the shoulder strap snugly crosses the center of the child's chest and not the child's neck. Effective 8/1/2019

**Free of charge: Child safety seat fitting stations**  
 Region C: Lafourche, St. James, St. Mary, and Terrebonne Parishes

## From Our Regional Partners!

*"Stewardship for health equity"  
A Message from the Office of Public Health, Reg. 3*

*W.S. "Chip" Riggins Jr. MD, MPH, FAAFP, FACPM  
Administrator/Medical Director  
Louisiana OPH Region-3*

Just one year into the COVID-19 response, we are mindful that more than 700 people in our bayou and river parishes region have died from COVID-19. To their families and friends, we wish you peace.

For the rest of us, our work has taken on new importance in addressing the underlying determinants of health that put us at risk from COVID-19. Thankfully, many local organizations and citizens are heeding our state's mandates and guidance in 2021 to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 infection. We are encouraged by the potential to have a high level of vaccination-based immunity for a renewed quality of life in the coming year. I extend my sincerest appreciation to the vast network of healthcare and community partners—schools, churches, workplaces, governments, and social services -- who provide stewardship and leadership in this endeavor!



**The mission of the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) is to protect and promote the health and wellness of individuals and communities in Louisiana.** As we prepare for local involvement in the next cycle of the OPH State Health Assessment (SHA) and Improvement Plan (SHIP), OPH continues to facilitate various statewide programs aimed at health equity during COVID response. The ongoing, core OPH functions in Region 3 include:

1. **PREVENTING Chronic disease & injury.**
2. **CONTROLLING Communicable disease.**
3. **MONITORING Environmental health.**
4. **LINKING Clinical healthcare services.**
5. **PROMOTING Maternal, Child & Family health.**

[Spring 2021 HIGHLIGHTS from OPH Region 3](#)



**SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 15-16, 2021**

Hosted by both Clean Cities coalitions: Louisiana Clean Fuels and the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership, this Summit is designed for public and private fleet managers, business owners, MPOs, colleges, and policymakers.

### **CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS**

Email Ann Vail at [ann@louisianacleanfuels.org](mailto:ann@louisianacleanfuels.org) to discuss presenting at the Clean Fuels Summit.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

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 Ms. Cassie Parker at [cassie@scpd.org](mailto:cassie@scpd.org).

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**SCPDC Board Meeting**

*June 24th @ 10:30am  
October 21st @ 10:30am*

**Loan Board Meeting**

*May 18th @ 8:30am  
June 15th @ 8:30am  
July 20th @ 8:30am*

**HTMPO Policy Committee Meetings**

*July 22nd @ 10am  
October 28th @ 10am*

**HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee**

*June 10th @ 10am  
September 9th @ 10am*

**Regional Transit Committee**

*May 19th @ 10am*

**Region 6 Watershed Meeting**

*June 23rd @ 10am  
July 28th @ 10 am*

**South Central Regional Safety Coalition's**

*Full Coalition Meeting  
July 28th @ 10am*

*Infrastructure & Operations Committee*

*June 3rd @ 10:30am  
September 2nd @ 10:30am*

*Law Enforcement Work Group*

*May 5th @ 10:30am  
August 4th @ 10:30am*

*Education/Outreach Work Group*

*May 26th @ 10:30am  
August 26th @ 10:30am*

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**South Central Planning & Development**  
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985-851-2900 | [www.scpdc.org](http://www.scpdc.org)

