

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

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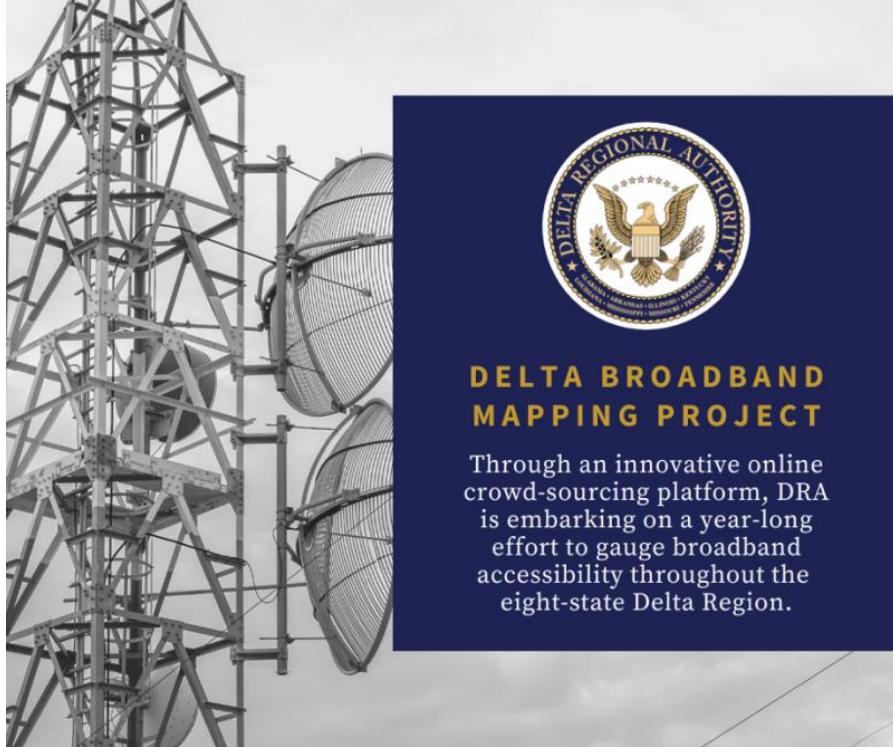


MGO Continues to Expand!



Our MGO Software Services has continued to expand into hundreds of jurisdictions across 20 states, we are excited for the future! This year we have been hard at work spreading awareness about MGO around the country. South Carolina, Mississippi, California, and Michigan are some of the states that we have visited and have active contract development because of it.

**We have recently had new modules go live in Apache Junction AZ,
Bastrop County TX, City of Georgetown TX.**

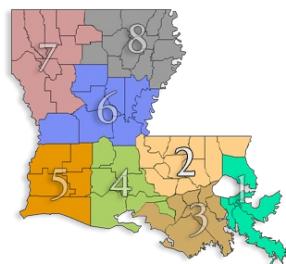


DELTA BROADBAND MAPPING PROJECT

Through an innovative online crowd-sourcing platform, DRA is embarking on a year-long effort to gauge broadband accessibility throughout the eight-state Delta Region.

As we have all experienced over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted significant gaps in internet accessibility across the country. The Delta, especially rural areas, has been shown to lack the adequate digital infrastructure to support access to critical services such as healthcare, distance learning, and remote work.

In response to these challenges, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) has announced the Delta Broadband Mapping Project, and South Central Planning & Development Commission is proud to support DRA on this initiative. The goal of this project is to create a regional map of internet availability and speeds, which will help you attain funding opportunities for your communities.



The test takes less than 1 minute to complete and can be taken on any internet-connected device. To learn more and to take the test, visit: dra.gov/speedtest.



Under Construction!

SCPDC continues to move forward to build an 8,200 square foot accessory structure. The second floor will be climate control for important files and maps while the bottom floor will be used to store equipment.

Lafourche Awarded \$1.9 Million from LWI Program

Recently the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) Program awarded Lafourche Parish \$1.9 Million for the purchase of Emergency Backup Pumps for Force Drainage



LOUISIANA
**WATERSHED
INITIATIVE**

Pump Stations to be used as backup at any of the 90 pump stations in Lafourche Parish. South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC), Planning and Development, assisted Lafourche with the grant application and look forward to providing additional assistance. The Watershed Region 6 Steering Committee will be recommending to LWI funding to an additional \$5-6 Million for other projects in July.

[Learn more about Region 6 Watershed Efforts](#)

SCPDC Awarded \$330,000 for its South LA Brownfields Coalition!



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced Louisiana's South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) will receive a \$330,000 Revolving Loan Fund for its South Louisiana Brownfields Coalition. The grant is part of \$11.6 million in supplemental funding EPA is providing to 27 high-performing Brownfields Revolving Loan

Fund (RLF) grantees to help communities continue their work to carry out cleanup and redevelopment projects on contaminated brownfield properties. ***"Many of the brownfields cleanups supported by EPA's Revolving Loan Funding are in economically disadvantaged communities where environmental cleanup and jobs are needed most,"*** said Carlton Waterhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Land and Emergency Management. "This supplemental funding will help sustain and increase the great progress these communities have made in cleaning up brownfields sites, while also helping them become stronger, healthier, and more economically competitive."

For more information on South Central Planning and Development Commission's Brownfield Program, please contact our Brownfields Program Manager – Lesley Long at 985-851-2900 or lesley@scfdc.org.

[Historic Structure Surveys](#)



Historic structure surveys are currently being conducted in St. Charles Parish and Red River Parish. The grant is funded by the FY 2020-2022 Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Disaster Recovery Grant through the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

St. Charles Parish

This structure survey began May 2021 and is part of a **\$100,000 Historical Structures Survey** of St. Charles Parish grant awarded to South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) on behalf of the Parish in 2020.

Red River Parish

This structure survey began April 2021 and is part of a **\$57,400 Historical Structures Survey** of Red River Parish grant awarded to South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) on behalf of the Parish in 2020.

We are excited to highlight and learn more of the historical resources and its extensive past! Questions can be directed to Lesley Long with SCPDC at 985-851-2900 or lesley@scfdc.org

EDA American Rescue Plan Act Project Plans Requested

As of the writing of this article, the EDA has not officially announced funding opportunities under the American Rescue Plan Act. However, EDA staff is asking that SCPDC begin providing potential project summaries in order to begin planning for the funding announcements.

Six different funding pools are planned to be announced and the available funds for Louisiana are likely to be the highest in some time. Upon announcing the funding opportunities, EDA will have one year to allocate all of the funds. This is why putting together project summaries now is so important.



If your community has a potential infrastructure or workforce development project that will help diversify your local economy and create private-sector jobs, SCPDC encourages you to contact us right away to discuss how EDA could fund this project.

For more information, contact Tim Bourcier, Planner IV, at timb@scfdc.org or (985) 851-2900.

Large Unmanned Aircraft Systems Renovations Underway at Houma-Terrebonne Airport



Renovations continue at Houma-Terrebonne Airport to reinforce the runway to allow large, unmanned aircrafts to utilize the facility. While the original project idea was phased back due to high costs, upon completion the renovations will allow for C-130 sized cargo planes to safely land on the runway. Some sewer lines and underground infrastructure needed to be relocated for future phases of the project, including the construction of a hangar for repairing unmanned crafts. All construction is planned to be completed by the end of the year.

Redistricting Plans

As you may be aware, COVID-19 delayed Census operations throughout the country. As a result, the release of the **2020 Census data has been delayed from April 2021 to Sept. 30th**. This has delayed this decade's Redistricting timeframe.

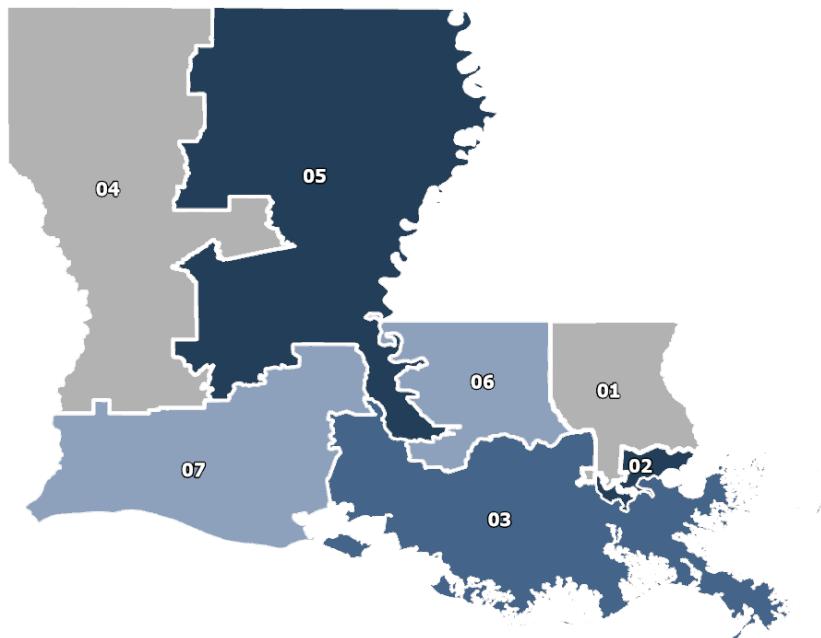
Redistricting – the redrawing of legislative districts – takes place every ten years after the results of the Census are released to the

Redistricting is mandated by federal and state law. It is mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2 and via the Equal Protections Clause in the 14th Amendment.

The Redistricting process is also governed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which prohibits plans that intentionally or inadvertently discriminate on the basis of race,

states. It is necessary to redistrict because communities are constantly changing for social, economic, and environmental reasons. Births, deaths, and in- & out-migration are significant factors.

which could dilute the minority vote. In Louisiana, Article 3, Section 6 of the State Constitution governs the process for state legislative offices, and Revised Statutes 33:1371, 33:1411, and 17:21.1-71:71.11 govern the process for municipalities, parochial governments, and school boards respectively.



SCPDC expects to receive an advanced release of the 2020 Census data in mid to late August (2021) from our software and data vendor Caliper. It is important to note that School Board Redistricting Plans must be complete by March 2022. Parish Councils, Police Juries, and Municipalities must determine the need for redistricting by March 30, 2022 and, if needed, plans must be completed by the end of the term (**July 2022 for municipalities and August 2023 for Parish Councils and Police Juries**).

SCPDC has decades of experience working with member governments on redistricting plans, and has already began the Redistricting process with some of our member parishes and area school boards. If your government would like SCPDC's assistance in drafting these plans or would simply like more information on redistricting and the process, please contact Kevin Belanger or Joshua Manning.

Gov. Edwards Highlights \$1.6 Million U.S. Department Of Commerce Award For Louisiana's SmartPort Initiative

Gov. John Bel Edwards announced the State of Louisiana's SmartPort initiative is the



recipient of a \$1.6 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. That federal award will be matched by \$1.4 million from the state and port partners for the \$3 million project that will enhance Louisiana's Mississippi River ports with next-generation maritime technology. [Continue Reading LED's News Release](#)

Funding Available to Improve HVAC Systems

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@scfdc.org.

Minimum Construction Amount: \$80,000

Maximum Award: \$1,000,000



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

Learn more about the HTMPO

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@scfdc.org for details on applying.

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](#)

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@scfdc.org or (985) 851-2900.

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



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.



Our South Central Regional Safety Coalition teamed up with its sister coalition, Capital Regional Transportation Safety Coalition, the Arrive Alive Tour and Representative Mike Huval to conduct the texting and driving simulator at the Louisiana State Capital for State

Representatives and Senators during the 2021 legislative session.



Louisiana's Statewide Teen Meme & Video Contest

Louisiana's Destination Zero Deaths' Coalitions throughout the state have kicked off **Thrive to Survive the Drive: Teen Meme & Video Contest**. The contest is open to all Louisiana middle & high school students (grades 6th-12th).

Distracted driving accounted for 840 deaths and 2340 suspected serious injuries on our Louisiana roadways from 2015-2019.

Students become the voice of traffic safety in their schools and communities by submitting a meme or video that illustrates a distracted driving safety message in an effort to change behavior and save lives on our roadways. Cash prizes are available for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners. Help spread the word with students in your area by sharing this [link](#).

Traffic Safety Campaigns



Drive Sober or Get Pulled



LA Roadway Departure



[Join us on Facebook](#)
@scrsafetyco

SCPDC Calendar of Events

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@scpdc.org.

SCPDC Board Meeting

October 21, 2021 @ 10:30am

SCPDC Loan Board Meeting

*July 20th @ 8:30am
August 17th @ 8:30am
September 21st @ 8:30am
October 19th @ 8:30am*

HTMPO Policy Committee Meetings

*July 22nd @ 12pm
October 28th @ 12pm*

HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee

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

Regional Transit Committee

August 18th @ 10am

Region 6 Watershed Meeting

*June 23rd @ 10am
July 28th @ 10 am
August 25th @ 10am
September 22nd @ 10am*

**South Central Planning & Development
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