

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

October 21, 2021 | Issue 5



A Message from our CEO, Mr. Kevin Belanger

Over the last month or so, those affected by the storm have been trying to navigate through the rebuilding efforts of dealing with insurances, contractors, finding a place to live, finding materials, and managing funds. No wonder why people have been somewhat depressed, belittled, and sometimes even sick. A wise person once said, that only worry about the things you truly have control over and the others handle with steadfast persistence. That has proven to be very good advice and has ruled my handling of personal matters and as well as in my position as CEO with our Commission.



However, personal recovery cannot happen until the government is able to provide access and restoration of basic services. What has been obviously very different in our region in the recovery from IDA than in every other storm, has been the speed at which government and the unaffected communities across this country have come to provide services and assistance to those impacted. At the onset of the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, everyone believed that basic services would take easily 4-6 months to achieve. Within the recovery efforts of one month, most basic services (electricity/water/sewer/gas/garbage collection) were all restored, with very few exceptions of severely impacted areas. This should give all of us a good sense of ease and comfort knowing that years of planning and coordination have paid off. In addition, it was also easy to notice the successes achieved by the new building codes, and I would only expect that if we keep the course our resiliency will even be better against future storms. [Continue Reading.](#)

Code Enforcement Efforts Post Ida

Hurricane Ida was the strongest storm to ever impact our region. The winds of the storm, especially if you were near the eyewall, were relentless. Terrebonne,

Lafourche, St. Charles, and St. John the Baptist all took heavy damage and the recovery effort will be long and arduous. However, if you take the time to ride through the hardest-hit areas, you will consistently see how much better homes built to current building codes performed considerably better than



those built prior to the statewide adoption of building codes.

If you want to see the stark contrast, ride through a subdivision like Ormond Estates in Destrehan. This subdivision is filled with older homes but also includes some infill homes that have been built in recent years. The level of damage sustained by the older homes compared to the newer homes is astonishing. There is one area where newer homes proved to still be susceptible to damage, shingle loss. On homes that were built very recently, we saw little to no shingle loss. But for homes that were over ten years old, we have seen that they are still susceptible to shingle loss even when installed per code.



As you know, our environment is extremely harsh on roof shingles. Very seldom does a “30-year roof shingle” last 30 years in South Louisiana. It appears, from our observations, that once the roof gets a little age on it, the shingles still don’t perform well even when installed correctly.

SCPDC inspectors have been on the ground in our affected Parishes since

the storm passed. They have performed a great deal of inspections to help the residents of our Parishes return to normal as quickly as possible while also protecting those same residents from sub-standard work being performed sometimes by unqualified contractors. We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to help in a healthy recovery and to also be a resource for our member Parishes.

[Click Here for more information regarding Hurricane Ida Recovery Loans for Small Businesses](#)

On August 29, 2021, upon the impact of **Hurricane Ida**, a Major Federal Disaster Declaration was declared for the State of Louisiana. As no federal funds have been allocated as of yet to support small business recovery,

South Central Planning is committing to assist small businesses within its regional boundaries, as well as other Louisiana Parishes included in the primary disaster parishes AND covered by existing SCPDC loan programs.

SCPDC's Loan Department is assessing, by both phone and in person, every current business borrower to determine the extent of the need for additional lending throughout the disaster zone. As a first step, the Commission is offering a disaster recovery loan in what will hopefully become a large-scale response to the devastation wrought by this powerful storm. The Loan Department anticipates working with State and Federal partners to participate in future comprehensive recovery programs related to small businesses.

Please note that SCPDC is using existing loan funds (which are limited) to offer these loans, without the financial backing of the Federal Government. These loans are not associated with SBA and are NOT forgivable. They are meant to "bridge a gap" and get businesses to the next phase of recovery funding.

For information on the Hurricane Ida Small Business Recovery Loan, please visit the homepage at www.scpdc.org and follow the big red button on the left to apply

Technology Department

Many new implementations and additional jurisdictions sign-ups across all modules have been happening. But we are particularly excited to announce the **City of Martinsburg of West Virginia** has recently gone live with our **Public Works Module**. This Public Works module has provided such tremendous value that it was volunteered to be a reference and featured jurisdiction in our new Public Works brochure! A few highlights from the new brochure about key public works functionality are listed below:

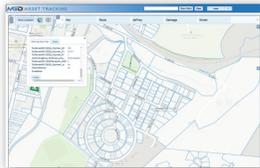
Key Functionality

MAPPING

One Map that allows you to view and interact with all data in one place:

- Service Requests

- Asset Data
- GIS Layers
- Labor, Equipment and Material Cost Data



INSPECTIONS & WORK ORDERS

- Automatic work order assignment and scheduling tools
- Collect Cost information by Asset and/or Work Order

- Field inspection completion with mobile app
- Real time dashboards to track request status
- Drag and drop calendar of assignment/scheduling



MGO MyGovernmentOnline
POWERED BY GOVERNMENT FOR GOVERNMENT

MGO Public Works

Public Works divisions are important to government administrations as they are how residents feel the value they provide. Because of this, administrations place high demands on demonstrating results. Public works projects are often discussed in public meetings with questions such as "How much have we been spending?" or "How Long has a project been open?" But accurate information is hard to get when work is done on paper or employee word of mouth. MGO Public Works module addresses these issues with our web-based work order management system, project management scheduling features, drag and drop calendar dashboards, field cost tracking tools and integrated mobile apps.

COST REPORTING

- Generate Custom Reports on Labor, Equipment, Material, and Other Costs
- Visualize Graphs to Display project information
- Display Project Data in easy to understand formatting
- Quickly Export to PDF and Word Documents



"The public works module that MyGovernmentOnline has to offer is an important system we use in our work day. The efficiency offered by this system has saved us countless hours of data entry, report creation, and wasted project management efforts. It has defined the way that we run our department and will continue to do so for some time."

- Paula Michael, Public Works Secretary

MGO MyGovernmentOnline
POWERED BY GOVERNMENT FOR GOVERNMENT

30 Meeting at
CEDAR PARK TEXAS
10:00AM to 4:00PM
SEPTEMBER Lunch provided

MGO Connect Live is the annual MyGovernmentOnline(MGO) / MyPermitNow in-person seminar where you can speak to our MGO software trainers, a newly created Account Representative position and our very own Implementations Manager and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) about new features, what's coming, and best practices, **LIVE!!**

MyGovernmentOnline (MGO)

wrapped up a successful conference, hosted by the City of Cedar Park Texas, one of our partnered jurisdictions. One hundred twenty-eight customers from across the state of Texas registered for the conference!

Some driving from 4 hours

away to attend. This was our largest conference yet and based on comments we expect an even larger attendance next year. Survey cards from the event were overwhelmingly positive with comments "how the many new features soon to be released at no cost" and "information on how to take advantage of existing features" as some of the top highlights of the conference.

The agenda included multiple sessions with 4 speakers. Ryan Hutchinson, CTO on What's New, Ken Jenkins, Implementations Manager on Automate!, McKenna Aloisio on Digital Plan Review best practices, and Greg Maidoh on new report functionality.



DRA Mapping Project - Take the Speed Test



Louisiana Planning & Development Districts (LAPDD)



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.

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.



Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program

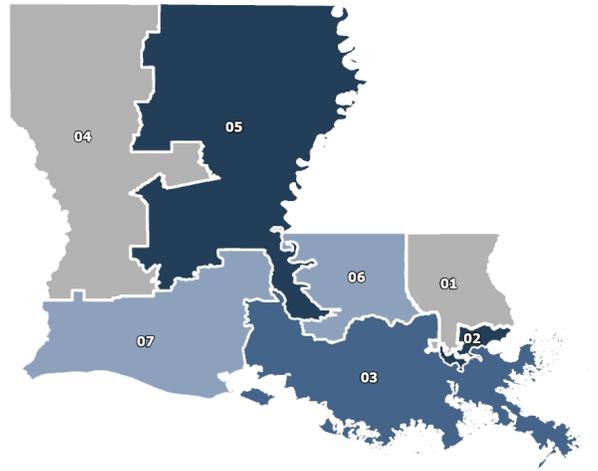
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) will receive \$480,850 in EPA Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) for its South Louisiana Brownfields Coalition RLF Program. Brownfield RLF grants enable funding for communities to provide loans and sub-grants for cleanup activities at brownfield sites. When Revolving Loans are repaid, the loan amount is returned to the fund and lent to other borrowers, providing an ongoing source of capital within a community. Through the award of the RLF supplemental funding, the pursuit of cleanup planning and implementation will continue throughout the South Louisiana Brownfields Coalition RLF program's regional area.

Brownfield Assessment Grant Program

South Central Planning & Development Commission is pleased to announce the agency is applying for an FY 2022 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant that would allow it to take inventory of brownfield properties within the region, complete environmental assessment, and raise awareness. If awarded, the \$500,000 grant may be used to assess sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum), and/or petroleum. In South Central's region are Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Mary parishes.

For more information, please contact Brownfields Program Manager:
Lesley Long at 985-851-2900 or lesley@scpdc.org.

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



SCPDC received an advanced release of the 2020 Census data on August 12 from our software and data vendor Caliper. We are currently working on developing plans for the Lafourche Council and School Board, the Terrebonne Council and School Board, the St. Charles School Board, the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board, the St. James Council, and the Town of Gramercy. 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. 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 (kevin@scpd.org) or Joshua Manning (josh@scpd.org).

Regional Employment Data Dashboard

Beginning in 2019, the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization has been collecting and analyzing regional employment data by census block group level. This analysis has been placed into an [online](#)

[dashboard](#) tracking employment trends such as the number of jobs by year and the top ten economic sectors by the number of jobs.

This data is made publically available on SCPDC's map and data portal:

<https://scpdc.maps.arcgis.com>. Contact Joshua Manning for more information or for further data analysis.



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

Historic structure surveys continue to be conducted in St. Charles Parish with work focused on resources located within Bayou Gauche. Historians continue to identify the additional historic-age structures to be documented on their next field visit. This structure survey 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

Historic structure surveys continue to be conducted in Red River Parish with work focused on resources located in Coushatta. Historians continue to identify the additional historic-age structures to be documented on their next field visit. This structure survey 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@scpdc.org



The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization is beginning the process of developing the 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

This is a federally required document for all transportation projects using federal funding. The MPO is allocated approximately **\$14 million in discretionary FHWA funding during the 4-year TIP horizon for eligible transportation projects**. Types of eligible projects include roadway and intersection improvements, capital costs for transit projects, and bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Examples of completed and ongoing projects using MPO funding include: Hollywood Road Widening between Martin Luther King Blvd. and Hollywood Road, asphalt overlays of various roadways in the City of Thibodaux, and sidewalk rehabilitation in downtown Houma. Contact Joshua Manning (josh@scpdc.org) for more information.



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.



Upcoming Traffic Safety Campaigns



**Thanksgiving Holiday
Buckle Up, Every Seat, Every
Time: Nov. 28**



**Pre Holiday Season Buzzed
Driving is Drunk Driving:
Nov. 30-Dec. 16**



**Holiday Season
Drive Sober or Get Pulled
Over: Dec. 16-Jan.1**

Join us on Facebook @scrsafetyco to promote traffic safety!

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

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

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@scpd.org.

SCPDC Board Meeting
October 21, 2021 @ 10:30am

SCPDC Loan Board Meeting
October 19th @ 8:30am
November 16th @ 8:30am
December 21st @ 8:30am

HTMPO Policy Committee Meetings
October 28th @ 12pm

HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee
October 28th @ 10am
December 9th @ 10am

Regional Transit Committee
November 17th @ 10am

Region 6 Watershed Meeting
October 27th @ 10am
November 24th @ 10am
December 22nd @ 10am

South Central Regional Safety Coalition
Contact Cassie Parker at cassie@scpd.org
