



Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

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SMPDD

**Leslie Newcomb
Executive Director
9229 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
228-868-2311
les@smpdd.com**

National Association of Development Organizations' 2009 Innovation Award

WASHINGTON, DC – The Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District in Gulfport, MS received a 2009 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its Mississippi Housing Recovery Data Project.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. The association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities. Award winners will be showcased during NADO's 2009 Annual Training Conference, August 29—September 1 in Chicago, Illinois.

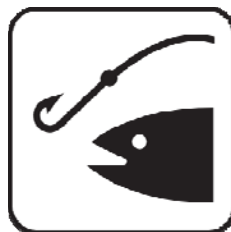
"For more than 20 years, NADO's Innovation Award has provided regional development organizations throughout the nation a unique opportunity to showcase creative projects like the Mississippi Housing Recovery Data Project, which make it possible to advance the economic growth and sustainability of our nation's regions. This recognition brings to the forefront the important work of regional organizations and their critical role in promoting economic development for rural and small metropolitan communities," said NADO President Sharon Juon, executive director of the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments in Waterloo, Iowa.

"The Mississippi Housing Recovery Data Project has been an essential tool to help guide our recovery efforts on the Gulf Coast," Governor Barbour said. "The information gathered on housing is critical to shaping the rebuilding effort and filling affordable housing needs in south Mississippi after the worst natural disaster in American history. I appreciate the hard work by the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District, the Compass Group and others who made this project successful."

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District partnered with the Compass Group, LLC and the Mississippi Development Authority to collect and analyze these data and to develop the Mississippi Housing Recovery Data Project Report.

Public Access Data

An alphabetical listing of boat launches, docks, fishing piers, and other access sites to rivers, lakes and coastal waterways is now available to the public on SMPDD's website. The District conducted an updated inventory of public access sites in the three Mississippi coastal counties using a list published in 2001. This newly updated list includes photographs, location and contact information, type of facility and amenities, and condition of site following Katrina. GPS points were taken and used to place each site on a map that offers a visual depiction for each location. The site survey has resulted in a practical tool that may be useful to jurisdictional officials as well as the general public. Updates will continue in Phase II of the project, which began in July 2009, and will include rebuilt sites and newly developed sites. The completion of this update will form the basis for the development of a comprehensive Public Access Management Strategy for DMR's Coastal Zone Program. Through a contract with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and funding from NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Program, the District was able to compile this information and make it available to the public. To access this information go to www.smpdd.com and then click on the DMR Public Access Inventory under the "Data Center" tab.



EDA Grant Awards

The Economic Development Administration recently awarded two planning grants in South Mississippi. The City of Waveland received a \$24,000 grant to develop a business plan for a small business incubator on Coleman Avenue. The plan will help ensure the success of the incubator set to begin construction in several months. Jointly, the Harrison County Development Commission and the Stone County Economic Development Partnership were awarded \$400,000 to produce a master plan for a Logistics Industrial Center. The study will evaluate potential land suitable for development, infrastructure needs, management options and other issues that will prepare the two counties for growth over the next 50 years. Both grant applications were prepared by SMPDD.

**SMPDD Regional
Municipal Elected
Officials
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New Board Members

The mayors throughout the 15-county district have elected three new members to the SMPDD Board of Directors. George Schloegel, Mayor of Gulfport will represent the large cities. The medium-sized cities have chosen Mayor Tim Waldrup of Ellisville and the small towns will be represented by Mayor Gerolene Rayborn of Sumrall. The mayors will serve the length of their terms on the SMPDD board.

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The District

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Today's social media usage is rapidly increasing in business networks to update associates on news, projects, potential projects, innovations, conferences, etc. One of the most popular social media websites is www.facebook.com and it is free to join. SMPDD's Planning and GIS Department has decided to follow this new trend by creating a Facebook Page. This Page will be used to update interested parties of the most current events happening at SMPDD and in the District's 15-county area. Once you have a Facebook account you can "Become a Fan" of the District's Page by searching on Facebook for Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District. A link to the Facebook Page will also be available on www.smpdd.com.

Grant Writing Assistance

SMPDD has a number of staff members with grant writing expertise. We are always available to assist our member governments in completing applications. However, with an increasingly heavy workload we do ask that you kindly give us at least 45 days notice. This will allow us to better serve you!

At Your Service

The Planning and GIS Department at Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District offers a large variety of services to its regional towns, cities, and counties. SMPDD aids its member governments by: Creating plans to develop their natural and human resources and improve their local economies; Helping communities assess and prioritize their needs, set their goals and implement a plan of action using the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) approach; Monitoring economic trends and disseminating this information to its regional members; Coordinating networking between multiple funding agencies by preparing grant applications and performing project administration; Serving as a liaison between local governments and the EDA by identifying development projects which meet their investment criteria and which have a high potential for success. Projects have included infrastructure improvements, upgrades in fire protection, construction of new public facilities, community development projects, land use surveys, comprehensive plans, zoning and subdivision regulations, capital improvement programs, housing assistance plans, annexation studies, recreational plans, downtown and waterfront redevelopment plans and various types of regional reports.

In addition, GIS personnel have collected, updated, and created a wide variety of geographical data sets and are able to provide mapping and data solutions for planning project support, local governments and client requests. Custom maps can be created on an appointment basis at an affordable cost.

For more information about the District and the services offered by the Planning and GIS Department, you may call 228-868-2311 or visit our website at www.smpdd.com. SMPDD is at your service.



**SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**

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