

Chapter Five Implementation

The vision of the preferred growth scenario outlined in the Comprehensive Growth Plan for the City-Parish is defined in the Goals and Objectives of the Horizon Plan. These Goals and Objectives are supplied with Action Items - specific strategies designed for assessing the progress toward accomplishing the implementation of the Horizon Plan.

The Horizon Plan identifies two levels of Plan review including Plan Amendments and the major, comprehensive five-year updates of the Plan. The Plan Amendment process is designed to consider the frequent yet relatively minor revisions such as individual parcel land use changes that must be incorporated on a regular basis to ensure that the Plan is consistent with current zoning and land use designations as well as with the Plan of Government. The purpose of the five-year Plan Update is to propose responsive changes to the Plan in recognition of the changing and significant demographic, economic and social changes, and land development data upon which the Plan is based. This review is of a comprehensive nature, seeking a general understanding of the successes and weaknesses of progress toward the preferred growth scenario with specific attention to the role of the various Action Items in continuing to accomplish the Goals and Objectives.

Lead Agencies

Various departments within the City-Parish government have been assigned as Lead Agencies to oversee the progress in implementing specific Action Items. The Lead Agencies are the departments most closely identified with the mission and strategy involved in the realization of the Goals and Objectives of the Horizon Plan through the Action Items. During the Ten-Year Update of the Horizon Plan, several Action Items were reassigned to new Lead Agencies in order to better oversee the progress of implementation. The following list represents Lead Agencies which are assigned to implement the Action Items.

Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge

The Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge is a catalyst for the arts -- providing arts education, jobs, programs, and events in and around Baton Rouge.

Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) exists to increase visitation to and awareness of the Baton Rouge area. The CVB encourages groups and individuals to visit Baton Rouge for both business and leisure travel and points them to area accommodations,

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attractions, meeting spaces, restaurants and other hospitality related businesses and services to help them have a pleasurable experience in Baton Rouge and encourage them to return.

Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission

The Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission (BREC) operates public park and recreation facilities and programs throughout East Baton Rouge Parish. BREC maintains 184 neighborhood parks that feature a wide variety of quality facilities with family-oriented leisure activities for all ages and population groups. This is a non-profit agency.

Baton Rouge Water Works

The Baton Rouge Water Works is a private entity that is the primary source for water within the City of Baton Rouge.

CAN DO (no longer exists)

Capital Area Transportation Systems (CATS)

CATS is a quasi-public corporation providing transit service to East Baton Rouge Parish for the City-Parish Government. Fifteen routes provide scheduled services to Baton Rouge, Baker, and Zachary. Twenty-two of the buses used for this service are ADA accessible. CATS provides paratransit service through its LIFT program to persons unable to use the fixed route system. Persons must make application for LIFT service and if qualified request service 24 hours in advance.

Capital Area United Way

The purpose of the Capital Area United Way, as described in its bylaws, is to provide local employers, employees and other donors a cost-effective system to address community health and human service needs through charitable gifts of time money and goods. This is a non-profit organization.

Capital Region Planning Commission

The Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC) is a Council of Governments serving the eleven-parish Capital Region, which includes the following Parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana. A Council of Governments is a voluntary association of independent local governments who, through planning and communication, foster cooperation and coordination in resolving area-wide problems beyond any individual constituency's authority or competence. Individual governments are represented by locally elected officials who must constitute a majority of representation on the Council. At present there are 11 parish members and 32 municipal members.

City-Parish Attorney's Office

The mission of the Parish Attorney's Office is to provide sound legal advice to the Metropolitan Council, the Mayor-President, and all departments, offices, and agencies appointed by or under the jurisdiction of any of the above.

City-Parish Department of Human Development and Services

The Division of Human Development and Services serves as an advocate for the vulnerable population in East Baton Rouge Parish and provides access to a continuum of comprehensive programs and services that enhance the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency.

City-Parish Department of Human Resources

To provide leadership and partnership in creating and implementing innovative strategies in order to meet the current and emerging needs of the diverse workforce of the citizens we serve.

City-Parish Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works is responsible for a wide variety of activities within the Parish including maintenance of streets and roads, maintenance and operation of drainage facilities, sewer collection lines, maintenance and operation of sewer treatment facilities, coordination of environmental activities, building code enforcement, construction inspection and approval, maintenance of public buildings, operation of a central garage, engineering services for construction projects including design and supervision, traffic control device maintenance, and traffic control engineering.

Landscape and Forestry

The Office of Landscape and Forestry is a division of the City-Parish within the Department of Public Works. It is in charge of implementing the landscape and forestry regulations in the City-Parish.

Office of Recycling

This department seeks to maintain or exceed the state-mandated goal of 25% reduction in land filled solid waste through design, implementation, management, and promotion of innovative waste reduction programs in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Citizens Service

The primary function of Citizens Service is to receive, record and channel the service request to the proper City Parish agency(ies). The requests are generally of a public maintenance nature. The City Parish charter does not allow public work forces to do work on private property.

Design and Planning Services Selection Board

The Design and Planning Service Selection Board is a Qualification Based Selection process to be utilized in the awarding of contracts to architects and designers for public works projects. The selection board consists of three architects selected by the American Institute of Architects; one landscape architect selected by the American Society of Landscape Architects; one licensed interior designer selected by the Baton Rouge Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers, a faculty member of Southern University School of Architecture; a faculty member of the Louisiana State University College of Design; the chief engineer of DPW; and a representative of the government agency using the service needed.

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City-Parish Downtown Development District

Downtown Development District (DDD) is the legislative designated agency responsible for setting the overall policy for the promotion and enhancement of Downtown Baton Rouge to benefit the entire community. Downtown Baton Rouge is comprised of five geographic districts: the Riverfront area, Beauregard and Spanish Towns, Governmental Complex District and the Central Business District.

City-Parish Emergency Medical Services

It is the responsibility of the Department of EMS to provide a progressive and comprehensive system of pre-hospital care, education, and public awareness to the residents of East Baton Rouge Parish. EMS is responsible for coordinating the dispatch, movement, and communications of all emergency medical vehicles within the parish.

City-Parish Finance Department

To foster and preserve public trust and confidence through innovative and responsible financial management systems that ensure delivery of efficient, effective services responsive to the needs of the citizens in accordance with the best-recognized principles of governmental finance.

City-Parish Fire Department

The Baton Rouge Fire Department maximizes the city's ability to protect life, reduce injury, and conserve property through continuous training, planning, and public education. It is a provider of professional public services through a CLASS 1 Fire Department.

City-Parish Office of Community Development

To provide decent housing opportunities, improved living environments, and expanded opportunities for person of low and moderate income.

City-Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

The East Baton Rouge Parish Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) is the coordinating agency for emergency and disaster activities. The authority for the direction of local government is specified in various state and federal laws. Additionally, Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness is responsible for developing programs and emergency operation capabilities to prevent disasters if possible; reducing the vulnerability of parish residents to any disaster that cannot be prevented; establishing capabilities for protecting citizens from the effects of disasters; responding effectively to the actual occurrence of disasters; and providing for recovery in the aftermath of any emergency involving extensive damage or other debilitating influence on the normal pattern of life within the community.

City-Parish Office of the Mayor-President

The Office of the Mayor-President builds an administration that will be a green light for solutions to traffic, safe neighborhoods, a quality education system and open government.

City-Parish Office of Public Information

Our mission is to nourish good citizenship by promoting and earning public trust and to provide leadership and high quality service by consistently communicating with citizens helping them with their needs and aspirations.

City-Parish Planning Commission

The mission of the Planning Commission is to develop, maintain and implement a master plan for the harmonious development and growth of the Parish of East Baton Rouge which best promotes the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the community.

City-Parish Police Department

The mission of the Baton Rouge Police Department is to serve with the Baton Rouge community to prevent crime and to promote the safety and well-being of all.

East Baton Rouge Parish School Board

The East Baton Rouge Parish School System serves the Greater Baton Rouge area. It is the largest district in the state and among the top 100 nationally in student enrollment. The school system is composed of 92 schools with an enrollment of approximately 43,400 students in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12.

Greater Baton Rouge Airport District

As part of Act No. 151, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport is an agency of the City-Parish Government; however, it operates as an enterprise fund and generates its own revenues. It does not receive money from the City-Parish general fund and therefore is self-supporting.

Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission

The Port of Greater Baton Rouge is strategically located on the Mississippi River in West Baton Rouge Parish, and is an integral part of the Louisiana maritime industry and overall economy. Handling a diverse range of cargo and accommodating special requests is a trademark of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. The Port of Greater Baton Rouge ranks among the top ten ports in total tonnage.

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Health Care Services Division

Mission-driven to care for the uninsured and provide training opportunities for future health professionals, LSU HCSD is a statewide safety net system in which everyone is eligible for care.

LSU hospitals, in providing the majority of care to the uninsured patients in the state, support other community facilities by protecting them from a greater share of uncompensated care.

Redevelopment Authority (New)

The redevelopment authority will serve as a central clearinghouse for redeveloping blighted areas. The authority will be able to purchase and sell land, issue bonds to redevelop areas and enter into contracts.

State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

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The Department's mission is to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect health, safety and welfare while considering sound policies regarding employment and economic development.

State of Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

The mission of the Department of Health and Hospitals is to protect and promote health and to ensure access to medical, preventive, and rehabilitative services for all citizens of the State of Louisiana. The Department of Health and Hospitals is dedicated to fulfilling its mission through direct provision of quality services, the development and stimulation of services of others, and the utilization of available resources in the most effective manner.

State of Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to preserve and enhance the nonrenewable natural resources of the state, consisting of land, water, oil, gas, and other minerals, through conservation, regulation, and management/exploitation, to ensure that the state of Louisiana realizes appropriate economic benefit from its asset base.

State of Louisiana Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is building a stronger Louisiana by helping individuals, children and families to achieve safer and more independent lives. They effectively and efficiently guide individuals, children and families toward independence and safety through integrated quality services and partnerships in an environment of opportunity and accountability.

State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs

The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs serves as a focal point for Louisiana's senior citizens and administers a broad range of home and community based services through a network of 37 Area Agencies on Aging. This office serves as the focal point for the development, implementation, and administration of the public policy for the state of Louisiana, and address the needs of the state's elderly citizens

YMCA

The YMCA is an association of people united in a common effort to enhance the quality of life, spiritually, mentally, physically and socially, for all, in the communities we serve, through the ecumenical application of Christian principles. YMCA is a non-profit organization.

A Mid-Year and Year-End Evaluation and Review (EAR) are conducted to review the progress toward achievement of the various Action Items, and to assist the Lead Agencies in annual budget preparation and work programs. The EAR also updates the Planning Commission and Metropolitan Council on the status of the Horizon Plan implementation while serving as an assessment to determine the effectiveness of the Plan and for improving the implementation process. In the EAR process, the Lead Agencies responsible for coordinating or overseeing the implementation of their assigned Action Items review accomplishments and forward their comments to the Planning Commission Staff. This information is provided as a means to track implementation of the Horizon Plan.

Special Studies

The Planning Commission continues to implement Urban Design Districts (UDD) and Urban Design Overlay Districts (UDOD). Since the previous Horizon Plan Update, two additional UDDs have been created. Urban Design District 2 covers the southerly side of Highland Road and Lee Drive; and Urban Design District 3 runs along Oak Villa Boulevard. In addition, four UDODs have been implemented. These UDODs include Oak Villa Boulevard, Bluebonnet Boulevard, Drehr Place, and Government Street.

Special studies projects underscore a need to develop urban design guidelines for areas throughout the City-Parish. To supplement the Urban Design process, Growth Centers have been established. Growth Centers are places where the City-Parish seeks to address development by encouraging a mix of land uses, improving community aesthetics, and creating a sense of place. There are two (2) levels of Growth Center intensities: Regional growth centers contain mixed use developments which support the regional area for retail and service needs and Community Growth Centers are mixed-use centers that support smaller areas. The Planning Commission completed analysis of twenty-eight (28) Growth Centers including eighteen (18) Community Growth Centers, eight (8) Regional Growth Centers and one (1) Major Regional Growth Center.

The Planning Commission also continues to revise and update the Unified Development Code as needed. During the last five years several amendments, additions, and proposals have been made to the Unified Development Code. The amendments include portions of the subdivision regulations, landscape and screening regulations, street sections, parking waivers, requirements to sidewalk improvement, and open space requirements. In addition, a two-family residential zoning district was added to the Unified Development Code along with the Lighting Ordinance and the Cluster Subdivision. Also, during the last five years, a new Signage Ordinance was drafted and proposed.

A lack of adequate funding for community-wide infrastructure improvements has limited the accomplishment of Horizon Plan Goals and Objectives and continues to be a critical issue in their implementation. These infrastructure improvements include, but are not limited to, new or expanded transportation, water and power facilities, parks and recreational areas, schools, fire station, and police stations. Some common methods for financing infrastructure improvements are planning and development impact fees. These are tools that have been used in other parts of the country with great success. This alternative approach is receiving attention locally as a means of anticipating and preparing for the impacts of new development. In addition to Impact Fees, the five-year update has provided a goal which encourages compliance of City-Parish policies, codes, regulations, and ordinances, along with the Parish wide Capital Improvement Plan with the Horizon Plan. These changes will ensure that Horizon Plan Goals and Objectives can be met through better funding coordination.

The Horizon Plan Goals and Objectives have identified the need for Planning Commission Staff to investigate ways to ensure the City-Parish is growing in a sustainable manner. Specifically, the intent of this five-year update is to enable development to grow in

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these ways: 1) encourage infill development where existing development and services already exist; 2) encourage mixed-uses; 3) encourage the development of a multi-modal transportation system including vehicles, mass transit, walking, and biking; and 4) protect environmentally sensitive areas. To accomplish the above goals, this five-year update has added and reworded goals and objectives to enable the City-Parish to enact “Smart Growth” techniques, which will allow land use development to coexist with adequate infrastructure, public service, and market forces.