

Infrastructure Element

The Horizon Plan was adopted by the Metropolitan Council in 1992 as the comprehensive land use and development plan for East Baton Rouge Parish. The plan includes numerous Goals, Objectives and Policies within seven different areas of emphasis, called “elements.”

The Horizon Plan includes the following seven elements: Land Use; Transportation; Wastewater, Solid Waste and Drainage; Conservation and Environmental Resources; Recreation and Open Space; Housing; and Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health and Human Services. This Information Bulletin examines the Infrastructure Element of the Horizon Plan.

The Horizon Plan’s Infrastructure Element provides a recommended framework for the development of efficient wastewater, solid waste and drainage systems through the year 2010. The recommended systems are compatible with land use patterns and development within the City of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish.

The primary focus of this element is to economically collect, transport and dispose of wastewater and solid waste generated in the Parish without adversely affecting the environment. The drainage section focuses on reducing flood damage through stormwater management.

Concurrent with other Horizon Plan Elements, development of the Infrastructure Element involved extensive public participation with both the public and staff of appropriate organizations and groups. A Wastewater, Solid Waste and Drainage Resource Committee was formed and served as a technical advisory body for the development of this element. Members of the committee included local, state and federal agencies.

As part of the 2007 Five-Year Horizon Plan Update Process, extensive revisions were made to the Goals, Objectives, and Action Items of the Infrastructure Element to keep that aspect of the Plan relevant and current.

Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goals are broad and general statements of desired future



conditions that aid and guide the decision-making process. Objectives are specific statements about future conditions or results that should be achieved in order to attain the Goals that have been set. Objectives are worded so that their achievement can be measured. Action Items are specific recommendations, plans and standards that are used in making decisions about future actions and programs. Policies become the specific guidelines for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

The Infrastructure Element has six general goals in four categories: Wastewater, Solid Waste, Drainage, and Infrastructure.

Goal WW1: Collect wastewater and provide effective treatment in an efficient, reliable, sustainable, and environmentally sound manner.

Goal SW1: Provide for the collection and disposal of solid waste in an efficient, reliable, sustainable and environmentally sound manner.

Goal SW2: Provide for the collection and disposal of recyclable materials in an efficient, reliable, sustainable and environmentally sound manner.

Goal D1: Minimize the risk of flooding of existing and future structures without placing undue burden on or damaging the function or quality of existing natural and man-made drainage systems.

Goal D2: Improve the drainage system to improve water quality.

Goal II: Promote the development and maintenance of a healthy, safe, enjoyable, and economically secure community.

Action Items

Action Items serve as strategies for implementation of the comprehensive plan. They are assigned to various City-Parish Lead Agencies that use them as a method for addressing the

Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Horizon Plan.

There are 40 Action Items within the Infrastructure Element. To give an illustration, an example from each category has been provided along with the number of Action Items within each category and the Lead Agencies responsible for them.

Wastewater

- Lead Agency: Department of Public Works
- *WW1.A* Develop a Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan to guide investment in wastewater infrastructure. The Plan should include, but not be limited to, regional collection systems and treatment facilities, major pump stations in areas adjacent to the trunk system, extension of existing collection systems, designated funding sources, improvements for infill development, and other projects not specified by the EPA Consent Decree.

Solid Waste

- Lead Agencies: Department of Public Works
- *S.1* Continue to manage the Parish-wide recycling program to maximize diversion for the landfills.

Drainage

- Lead Agency: Department of Public Works
- *D1.A* The Department of Public Works shall develop, publish and maintain a Master Plan for Drainage for East Baton Rouge Parish. Major elements of the Master Plan for Drainage should address the following: delineation of individual watersheds; existing flows; projected ultimate flow; planned type of ultimate channel improvements and size; future drainage structures; ultimate right-of-way requirements; details of both existing and future hydraulic grade lines; and frequency and procedures for updating revisions.

Annual Year-End Evaluation and Appraisal Report

The Horizon Plan is a dynamic process, requiring an ongoing systematic review and amendment process. There are two types of reviews including Plan amendments and major, five-year updates of the Horizon Plan. The purpose of the Plan amendments is to consider relatively minor revisions such as land use changes on a regular basis and to ensure that the Plan is consistent with the Plan of Government. Plan updates are conducted to respond to updated information regarding future population growth and land development patterns.

Two types of Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EAR) are produced on an annual basis. The Annual Mid-Year EAR includes an implementation program update and identifies Action Items for the current year, assisting in the budget preparation process for Lead Agencies. The Annual Year-End EAR updates the Planning Commission and Metropolitan Council at the end of the year regarding Plan implementation progress and accomplishments and outlines the work program for the following year.

The Annual Year-End Evaluation and Appraisal Report determines the status of current Action Items and monitors the ongoing Action Items from previous years. Ten Action Items have not been initiated due to lack of funding and budget constraints. Thirty Action Items are ongoing. The following examples represent Action Item evaluations by Goal.

Wastewater

WW1 Comprehensive Master Plan

The Department of Public Works is the Lead Agency for the Action Items under this Goal. The Sewer Administration Office will oversee the development of a master plan once the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Report is complete.

Solid Waste

SW1 Solid Waste Disposal

The Lead Agency is the Department of Public Works. Most Action Items under this Goal are ongoing,

SW2 Recycling Program

The Lead Agency is the Department of Public Works, Director of Recycling. Since 1994, East Baton Rouge Parish achieved the state mandated goal of recycling landfilled solid waste by 25%. This was done through a multifaceted waste reduction program that includes curbside recycling; beneficial reuse of yard waste, sewage sludge, and construction and demolition waste material; commercial recycling; special collections; and numerous drop-off and buy back programs. The program has excellent participation with approximately 70% of the homes setting out material for collection at least once a month. In 2002, the curbside and drop-off programs yielded 18,000 tons of recyclable material.

Drainage

D1 Parish Drainage Engineer and Master Plan for Drainage

The Department of Public Works is the Lead Agency for Goal D.1. The status of the Action Items under this Goal is "ongoing". Partial implementation was established as part of the development of the EPA stormwater permit.

D2 Water Quality

The Department of Public Works is the Lead Agency for Goal D.2. Most Action Items under this Goal are "ongoing".

Infrastructure

I1 Infrastructure and Quality of Life

The Lead Agencies for this Goal are the Planning Commission and the Mayor-President's Office. Action Items under this Goal were added in the 2007 Update and have not yet been initiated.

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