



Long Term Community Recovery Program

Please complete the following four questions. A copy of the Parish Council or Police Jury Ordinance or Resolution approving the Parish Recovery Plan must be attached. Failure to attach the ordinance or resolution will result in the application being upheld until a certified ordinance or resolution is received.

Parish: St. Charles Parish

Name of Submitting Official: V.J. St. Pierre, Jr., Parish President

Contact information: P.O. Box 302, Hahnville, LA 70057; (985) 783-5000 (Office); (985) 783-5005 (Fax)

Date: January 31, 2008

1. Please provide details on the following elements of your recovery plan.

a) How does this plan address long term community recovery and rebuilding in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes?

St. Charles Parish's Long Term Recovery Plan addresses the need to upgrade Water, Wastewater and Transportation infrastructure to handle increases in populations as well as increased protection from flooding. It also addresses Economic Development of the Parish and long term housing needs of our citizens.

b) If all essential services are not restored, what measures does the recovery plan outline to restore essential services and associated infrastructure damaged by the storms?

Essential services have been restored, however uninsured Post-Katrina damage to our Eastbank Water Intake is addressed in this plan due to the critical nature of this vital infrastructure.

c) How are future economic development and post-storm population changes addressed in this plan?

St. Charles Parish has experienced increased populations Post-Katrina which has strained our existing infrastructure and our ability to handle this continued growth. The plan first addresses repair of the Eastbank Water Intake and the expansion of our water production capabilities. The next priority is for the protection of the Westbank of the Parish from hurricane storm surge. Other vital infrastructure is also targeted for upgrades to enhance our ability to foster economic development.

d) What measures does this plan outline to increase emergency preparedness and responsiveness for future disasters?

The plan prioritizes the construction of a Westbank hurricane protection levee and associated pumps to provide protection to the parish for storm surge flooding. It also calls for the construction of a new Consolidated Emergency Operation Center to better coordinate the emergency response of the Parishes Emergency Operations Staff. Upgrades to the parish, local and state roads will facilitate improved evacuation processes.

e) Describe the risk mitigating aspects of this plan?

The construction of the planned Westbank Hurricane Protection Levee will provide the greatest risk mitigation aspect of the plan. The implementation of building codes and the update of the St. Charles Parish Comprehensive Land Use Plan will lessen the impacts felt by our community in future storms.

f) Describe how this plan addresses the following five principles for recovery and rebuilding adopted by the LRA:

- i) Create infrastructure that supports recovery by restoring confidence, enhancing quality of life, and withstanding future disasters;
- ii) Promotes economic growth that benefits everyone;
- iii) Provides public services that enhance quality of life for everyone;
- iv) Pursues policies that promote a healthy environment and healthy people;
- v) Planning and design of communities that advances livability.

i. The first 8 projects on the priority list address infrastructure to support recovery and sustain growth in St. Charles Parish.

ii. The upgrades to the water, sewer and road infrastructure of the parish addressed in the plan will positively impact economic growth throughout the parish. In addition the plan calls for a new Intermodal Dock which will support existing industry and allow for the growth of diversity in our economic base.

iii. Upgrading the parish's water and sewer will continue to bring needed public services to all citizens. The establishment of a regional transit system will bring mobility to those who may otherwise be denied access to their basic needs.

iv. Items 14, 15 & 16 allow for increased access to medical services for all citizens.

v. Item 9 is an update to St. Charles Parish's Comprehensive land Use Plan to ensure organized and well thought out growth.

2. From the issues addressed in your plan, please provide a ranked list of top priority projects for your Parish recovery. Include a description of each project (attach additional sheets if necessary). If your parish has familiarity with the traditional CDBG program administered by the Office of Community Development, please highlight the projects in the plan that you believe to be CDBG eligible.

Repair Damage to Eastbank Water Intake Structure
New Eastbank Water Treatment Plant
Upgrade Westbank Water Treatment Plant & Storage Tank (1)
Westbank Hurricane Protection Facility
New Westbank Sewer Transmission Lines
New Westbank Wastewater Treatment Plant
Mississippi Subaqueous Crossing (2)
Construct Consolidated Emergency Operation Center
Update St. Charles Parish Comprehensive Plan
Establish a Regional Transit Program
Relocate LA Hwy. 3060 (Barton Ave.)
LA Hwy. 50 (Almedia Rd.) Upgrade
New Westbank, East-West Road, Luling to Hahnville
Assess South-Eastern La. Medical Service Needs
Implement Community Health Dental Program
Enhance Community Behavioral Health Program
Westbank Intermodal Dock & Manufacturing Facility
Infrastructure (Roads & Utilities) for Development of James II Business Park, St. Rose
Infrastructure (Roads & Utilities) for Expansion of Plantation Business Campus, Destrehan
Implement I-49 South Connection

3. Are any of the projects contained in this plan currently on the State of Louisiana capital outlay list or in line for funding from other local, state, federal, or private sources?

St. Charles Parish has submitted for the Westbank Water Treatment Plant Upgrade and Storage Tanks through the State Capital Outlay Program, and through the federal appropriations requests. The parish will continue to seek out alternative sources of funding in order to complete all of the projects listed.

4. Describe the process(es) that parish government utilized to garner community input and support in the creation of this plan. Please provide at a minimum 2-3 examples of community directed ideas and input that became part of the plan as submitted to the LRA. (Note: local governments must conform to the Office of Community Development's "Citizen Participation Requirements for Local Governments" for CDBG funding approval.)

St. Charles Parish in coordination with FEMA and Louisiana Long Term Recovery representatives, opened a storefront on Apple Street in Norco to solicit public input to St. Charles' recovery plan and direction. Residents were able to share information on short term and long term planning goals. These representatives also made presentations to community groups throughout St. Charles to gather additional comments from civic leaders. Public officials also met with the representatives to give their list of projects for inclusion in the final plan.

5. Describe the official process(es) that Parish government used to approve the plan as submitted (attach copy of Parish Council or Police Jury ordinance or resolution).

The St. Charles Parish Council adopted Resolution No. 5493 on December 17, 2007. Resolution is attached.

Please forward this form together with a certified copy of the Parish Council or Police Jury Resolution or Ordinance and the parish approved Recovery Plan to:

Louisiana Recovery Authority
Attn: LTCRP
150 Third Street, Suite 200
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

For more information or assistance contact Lynn Bankston at 225-342-1802.

2007-0390

INTRODUCED BY: ALBERT D. LAQUE, PARISH PRESIDENT

RESOLUTION NO. 5493

A resolution to approve and authorize submission of a prioritized list of projects for the St. Charles Parish Long Term Recovery Program.

WHEREAS, St. Charles Parish was severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005; and,

WHEREAS, a project list was developed through extensive public hearings conducted throughout St. Charles Parish and through other community input; and,

WHEREAS, based on Louisiana Recovery Authority estimates of housing and infrastructure damage, St. Charles Parish has been allocated \$305,968.00 in Community Development Block Grant funds for the Long Term Community Recovery Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Recovery Authority is requesting that the St. Charles Parish Council prioritize this list to be submitted for further possible funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL, do hereby authorize the submission by the St. Charles Parish Government of an application to the Louisiana Recovery Authority for the St. Charles Parish Long Term Recovery Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Parish President is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents for the completion of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Charles Parish Council does hereby approve and authorize submission of a prioritized listing of projects to be submitted to the Louisiana Recovery Authority for the St. Charles Parish Long Term Recovery Plan, which prioritized list is attached and made a part of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MARINO, FAUCHEUX, HILAIRE, RAMCHANDRAN, BLACK, DUHE,
MINNICH

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FABRE, WALLS

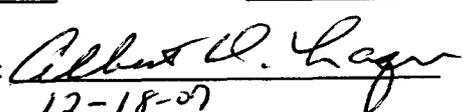
And the resolution was declared adopted this 17th day of December, 2007, to become effective five (5) days after publication in the Official Journal.

CHAIRMAN: 

SECRETARY: 

DLVD/PARISH PRESIDENT: _____

APPROVED: DISAPPROVED: _____

PARISH PRESIDENT: 

RETD/SECRETARY: 12-18-07

AT: 3:45 pm RECD BY: BGT

ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

Project Description	Estimated Cost	Priority
Repair Damage to East Bank Water Intake Structure	\$250,000	1
New East Bank Water Treatment Plant	\$19,000,000	2
Upgrade West Bank Water Treatment Plant & Storage Tank (1)	\$5,000,000	3
West Bank Hurricane Protection Facility	\$65,969,555	4
New West Bank Sewer Transmission Lines	\$2,700,000	5
New West Bank Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$5,500,000	6
Mississippi Subaqueous Crossing (2)	\$6,750,000	7
Construct Consolidated Emergency Operation Center	\$9,500,000	8
Update St. Charles Parish Comprehensive Plan	\$450,000	9
Establish a Regional Transit Program	\$1,200,000	10
Relocate LA Hwy. 3060 (Barton Ave.)	\$1,500,000	11
LA Hwy. 50 (Almedia Rd.) Upgrade	\$5,000,000	12
New West Bank, East-West Road, Luling to Hahnville	\$4,000,000	13
Assess South-Eastern La. Medical Service Needs	?	14
Implement Community Health Dental Program	\$375,000	15
Enhance Community Behavioral Health Program	\$9,800,000	16
West Bank Intermodal Dock & Manufacturing Facility	\$32,000,000	17
Infrastructure (Roads & Utilities) for Development of James II Business Park , St. Rose	\$6,000,000	18
Infrastructure (Roads & Utilities) for Expansion of Plantation Business Campus, Destrehan	\$2,000,000	19
Implement I-49 South Connection	\$?	20
TOTAL	\$176,994,555	

Implement LA I_I-49 South Connection

ST. CHARLES PARISH | SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGIC RECOVERY
GOAL:

By 2010 improve highway capacity to increase efficiency during normal operations and coastal evacuations, as well as improve safety and promote economic development in south Louisiana.

ADDRESS: ; , LA AREA:

TARGET START DATE: 01/01/2010 DURATION: 48 Months

DESCRIPTION:

The US 90 corridor serves an important role by linking local and regional transportation networks. However, US 90 in the project area does not provide the geometry or infrastructure to adequately accommodate local and regional transportation demand in the safest manner possible, both now and in the future. This project would upgrade this highway segment to increase capacity, and to improve safety and efficiency during normal operations as well as during a regional coastal evacuation event. Regional economic potential will be greatly enhanced through better access to ports, airports, industrial sectors and tourist attractions.

The project's scope is to upgrade approximately thirty-five miles of the U.S 90 corridor to a full "Control of Access" highway meeting interstate standards to become a part of an extension of Interstate 49. The corridor from LA 1 to the Westbank Expressway is currently under an environmental impact study and has been divided into two Sections of Independent Utility or SIU 1 and SIU 2. Completion of these two segments would form an important linkage from New Orleans to I-310, providing an alternative evacuation and supply route to the metropolitan area of New Orleans. This would also serve as an important linkage between I-310 and LA 1 which is the main artery servicing Port Fourchon

This project is needed to improve safety, facilitate hurricane evacuation and meet projected national, state, regional and local travel demands through the year 2030. The project will also coordinate with coastal restorations efforts and support the ground transportation requirements of the regions ports, airports, industrial and agricultural economy and tourism.

The cost to Louisiana is twenty percent match on Federal funding. This will be funded through new legislation passed that will use money from the states unclaimed property fund to service the debt on roughly \$100 million to \$150 million in bonds, and divide the proceeds evenly between I-49 North and I-49 South.

COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT:

All of the parishes south of the I-49 corridor are susceptible storm surge inundation and freshwater flooding. The two roadway design elements that contribute most to a reliable hurricane evacuation route are: vertical elevation of the travel lanes above the predicted pre-storm elevation and capacity determined by number of lanes. Only a freeway with controlled access can be modified efficiently to allow a system that doubles the capacity of the roadway for evacuation.

[Print Page](#)

Establish a Regional Transit Program

ST. CHARLES PARISH | SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGIC RECOVERY
GOAL:

Provide regional transit program by December 2006 that would benefit both St Charles and St John the Baptist parishes.

ADDRESS: ; , LA AREA:

TARGET START DATE: 10/01/2006 DURATION: 12 Months

DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project is to develop a Curb to Curb, Demand Response Regional Transit Service serving the Parishes of St. Charles and St. John the Baptist.

There is no public transit system in either St. Charles or St. John Parishes. In recovery, public transit will help promote economic development by linking people to jobs and strengthening low and moderate-income communities especially as the parishes grow at a higher rate to accommodate new residents from neighboring parishes (especially Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard) attracted to the high, relatively flood-safe buildable lands of the St. Charles and St. John the Baptist Parishes. Moreover, a public transit system would provide the means and peace of mind for special needs populations and those without personal transportation to evacuate in time of disaster.

At a focus group of regional stakeholders held on January 31, 2006, several pressing unmet needs for displaced individuals in our service area were identified. The following issues were ranked among the highest: transportation; housing; health and mental health; infrastructure; funding; and lack of a skilled work-force.

Of all the issues ranked, transportation was the most cross-cutting issue for post-Katrina un-met needs. Many of those displaced by Katrina and Rita lost their sole means of transportation. Many more lost the secondary means of transportation for the family. One of the least understood impacts of the two hurricanes is the long term impact on movement of people throughout the region. Many people that could evacuate left in one family vehicle; others lost their own vehicle in the storm.

A regional public transit service opens opportunities for smart growth as the parishes grow to accommodate its new residents. Despite repeated storm impacts, as the region recovers, St Charles and St John Parishes are expected to grow at a much higher rate than parishes devastated by Katrina. St Charles and St John parishes are zoned for residential and commercial growth on the higher ground near the Mississippi River on its west bank. Moreover, this land is perceived to be some of the most desirable and safe places in the region to settle. An estimate on the population impacts as of January 2006 indicates a total increase of 17,123 for the two parishes. (Source: Claritis Inc., February 2006)

Many greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area residents have no personal vehicle and rely solely on public transportation. The most common problem faced today by those displaced by the storm is reconnecting with their jobs or seeking new job opportunities available in the region. Also, they have no way to go home to begin the process of rebuilding their homes, accessing health care, continuing their education or job training. Most commonly, those displaced from jobs and housing by the two storms find themselves in communities with no or significantly limited public transportation services such as in St Charles and St John.

This transit project is defined as a Curb-to-Curb, Demand-Response transit service for both St Charles and St John the Baptist Parishes. Ridership is estimated at 200 rides per day. Funding this request would provide the necessary supplemental local match that would implement the St Charles and St John Parishes portion of the regional transit system detailed in the River Parishes Transit Authority's (RPTA's) "Operations Plan for River Parishes Transit Authority."

Project components are:

- 1) PURCHASE 15 SMALL VANS/BUSSES: Initial requirement is 15 vehicles based on preliminary ridership estimates.
- 2) ESTABLISH COVERAGE ZONES: RPTA will establish the coverage zones for the small 15 passenger buses that will operate in St Charles and St John the Baptist parishes. The RPTA will propose a connection between its service and the Jefferson Parish and Kenner transit services. This will expand services to destinations in those

communities and provide further connections into the New Orleans downtown area.

3) **FUND A COORDINATOR:** A coordinator of the program, possibly funded by the St Charles United Way will collaborate and partner with St Charles Council on Aging, ARC of St Charles, RPTA and other stakeholder agencies to bring transit services to the River Parish region. The coordinator will develop a program which assures services are connected with those most in need. A communication plan will be created for educational outreach purposes. The coordinator will also collect data and track rider-ship as well as agency participation as a means of measuring program effectiveness.

4) **FUND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** It is anticipated that many of those in need of transportation do not have the ability to pay and will require financial assistance. The program coordinator will assist RPTA to identify CORPORATE SPONSORS who are interested in supporting a subsidized voucher program or other operational costs. The coordinator, together with RPTA, will negotiate agreements with special need providers such as Councils on Aging, and other agencies working with special needs clients who would disperse tokens or vouchers to their clients.

The mission is to devise and implement a transit system that would serve the greater River Region to provide direct assistance to victims for inter-parish travel.

The South Central Planning and Development Commission received partial funding through a grant from the Federal Highway Administration to develop a Transit Operation Plan (TOP) for the system. The TOP identified the need for reliable transportation. The focus group also identified transportation as one of our most glaring post-Katrina unmet needs for displaced individuals, as well as permanent residents in our service area. Without a mass transit system, many of these individuals are essentially "trapped" in the parish unable to get home or go back to their jobs, schools or access basic services within the parish.

COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT:

The regional transit plan will serve all residents of St. Charles and St. John parishes and will not require any pre-registration or special criteria for using the services (as does the present ARC and COA services).

[Print Page](#)

Improve St. Charles Wastewater Facility

ST. CHARLES PARISH | SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**STRATEGIC RECOVERY
GOAL:**

By 2011 complete infrastructure upgrades to provide wastewater collection and treatment facilities to accommodate increased demand from influx of evacuees, business/industrial growth and population growth.

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 705; Luling, LA 70070 **AREA:** Various

TARGET START DATE: 02/21/2006 **DURATION:** 60 Months

DESCRIPTION:

Prior to Hurricane Katrina the wastewater system in the parish was operating at or over its capacity at one of its facilities. The rapid increase in population due to influx of evacuees has dramatically exacerbated this problem. The Luling Oxidation Pond is not in compliance with permit criteria and is under an Environmental Protection Agency Administrative Order to correct the situation or face fines and is a very serious health issue within the parish.

The proposed projects will direct excess flows from the Luling Oxidation Pond to the Hahnville Wastewater Treatment facility in order to insure that wastewater is collected, treated and discharged in a manner that will meet and maintain current and future effluent discharge limits and meet environmental needs. The facility upgrades will insure that adequate treatment capacity will be available to meet current and anticipated domestic and business growth.

Time frame 1 to 3 years with improvements totaling an estimated \$5,610,000:

- Installation of new pump station at Highway 3127 for the Fashion Subdivision to intercept flows from the Booster I pump station and provide additional capacity for currently planned subdivisions east of I-310 and north of Highway 3127
- Transfer of flows from the Bourg Pump Station to the Luling Oxidation Pond through force main improvements and upgrade the existing Holder Pump Station
- Improvements to the Hahnville WWTP to increase its peak flow capacity by installation of a parallel ultraviolet treatment train and mechanical bar screen to accept flows from Luling Oxidation Pond. This improvement will bring the Luling Oxidation Pond back into State permit compliance
- Improvements to the Hackberry pump station and renovation to six lift stations in the old Luling area

3 to 5 year with improvements totaling an estimated \$4,685,000:

- Maintain the Luling Oxidation Pond through dredging and installation of mechanical screening
- Upgrade the Baupre pump station and force main
- Install new recreation facility pump station and new force main to the Luling oxidation Pond
- Install Levert pump station to service the Levert subdivision
- Install a force main from Highway 3127 to the Hahnville WWTP dedicated to the Killona/Correctional Facility Pump Stations
- Acquire servitude for power line corridor from Luling to Killona to accommodate future force main installations
- Maintain Luling Oxidation Pond by dredging and installation of mechanical screening
- Upgrade to the Baupre Pump station with pump station and new force mains

- Install Levert Pump Station to service Levert subdivision
- Acquire servitude along power line corridor from Luling to Killona for future force mains

COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT:

Proposed wastewater facility projects will insure that wastewater is collected and treated in a manner to maintain current and future health and environmental needs for the citizens of St. Charles parish. Capacity increase will insure that adequate treatment facilities will be available to meet current and future domestic and business growth.

[Print Page](#)

Upgrade St. Charles Water Facilities

ST. CHARLES PARISH | SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGIC RECOVERY

GOAL:

By 2008 complete infrastructure upgrades to water treatment and distribution facilities to accommodate increased demand for drinking water and fire protection resulting from influx of evacuees, population growth, and business/industrial growth.

ADDRESS: Department of Waterworks, 301 Third Street; St. Charles Parish Luling, LA 70070 **AREA:** New Sarpy

TARGET START DATE: 08/01/2006 **DURATION:** 24 Months

DESCRIPTION:

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the parish was faced with a myriad of water related problems including; increased growth, plant shut-downs for needed for maintenance, increased industrial use, drought conditions and unexpected spikes in water demand.

The current east bank water production capacity is 6.3 million gallons per day. Consumption in October 2005 averaged 5.6 million gallons per day compared to 5.0 million gallons per day in September 2005, leaving little reserve capacity should unforeseen problems develop for more than a few hours. This has forced the parish to place moratorium on new construction on the east bank. This increase in demand, on an already strained system, is directly related to population increases due to the influx of hurricane evacuees.

The power supply to parish water production and distribution facilities was lost during Katrina resulting in the interruption of water production for a number of hours leaving the parish vulnerable to loss of drinking water and fire protection. An adequate water supply will also insure affordable fire insurance will be available to parish home owners, businesses and industry. The parish's east bank water supply is near production capacity, which could result in supply shortages even with out loss of power.

The following projects are designed to increase production and storage capacities to ensure a safe drinking water supply and fire safety to meet current and future residential and industrial needs on east bank of the parish

Increasing production capacity on the east bank will require:

- The addition of; two 3 MGD clarifier/filter units, new clear well, clear well pumps, and new distribution pumps.
- A new chlorination facility/chemical feed building with a 2-ton crane and hoist system for chlorine cylinder loading.
- Relocation of electrical and instrumentation equipment to a newly constructed three story plant control building that will house a kitchen, offices, restrooms, showers, lockers and distribution pumps.
- Construction of new 2 million gallon water storage tank to increase storage capacity needed during periods when the treatment plant is shut down. This can be due to maintenance and repair or for periods when water in the river is unsafe due to contamination from chemical spills.
- Installation of a sub-aqueous river crossing consisting of 6500 L.F. of 12 inch diameter HDPE piping connecting east and west bank water treatment plants. This will link the two water systems regionalizing the water treatment, storage and distribution throughout the entire parish.

Timely implementation of the proposed water production, storage and distribution projects will minimize current and future water production shortages.

COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT:

Efficiently provide a sufficient supply of potable water and water for fire protection to the citizens of St. Charles parish

[Print Page](#)

Construct Consolidated Emergency Operations Center

ST. CHARLES PARISH | SECTOR: PUBLIC SAFETY

STRATEGIC RECOVERY
GOAL:

By 2010 construct consolidated Emergency Operation Center to improve communication and provide shelter and critical equipment for first responders during storm events.

ADDRESS: 15045 River Road; Hahnville, LA 70057 AREA: parish wide
TARGET START DATE: 06/01/2006 DURATION: 24 Months

DESCRIPTION:

The Emergency Operations Center for Hurricane Katrina was in the basement of the St. Charles Parish Courthouse. The storm blew the roof off of the structure, damaging the courthouse and endangering the emergency personnel in the EOC. The present EOC therefore proved to be inadequate.

This new structure will provide a consolidated office area for the Parish Emergency Operations, Sheriff, and Fire Department personnel. It will also function as the Emergency Operation Center in the event of a disaster. By having a consolidated Emergency Operation Center, the parish citizens feel assured that emergency responses will occur in a cohesive, efficient and timely manner.

The consolidated Emergency Operations Facility will be a new 5 story structure that includes two stories of above-ground parking with 3 stories of office above. The total office space will be approximately 15,000 square feet in size and will be large enough to house 80 first responders that include representatives from major industry, school district, parish staff, fire department and sheriff's office. The first finished floor elevation will be 25 feet, the current grade of the site is 8 feet. The facility will be constructed in accordance with FEMA protocols and will include redundant water, sanitary sewer and power systems. Emergency generation will consist of a dual system with each generator capable of providing 100% of the power requirements. The lower level will minimally be raised 5 feet above the existing grade and will be designed for emergency response vehicles.

The project could be broken into two phases.

Phase I would consist of building and site design, survey and geotechnical work. Phase II would consist of project construction.

COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT:

The parish as a whole will benefit from a more cohesive and consolidated emergency management facility. Major gas, oil, chemical and nuclear power business, could also be included in the physical EOC during a disaster event.

[Print Page](#)

Assess South-Eastern La. Medical Service Needs

ST. CHARLES PARISH | SECTOR: PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

STRATEGIC RECOVERY
GOAL:

Provide health care services, facilities and workforce training in order to support a health care system that meets the changed needs resulting from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, by 2012.

ADDRESS: ; , LA AREA:

TARGET START DATE: 06/15/2005 DURATION: 9 Months

DESCRIPTION:

The Needs Assessment shall be comprised of three separate related studies:

- Primary and Trauma Care,
- Mental Health and Non-Primary Health Care, and
- Hospital Funding Risk Crisis.

This study will address issues and needs concerning strategy, operations, and the physical plant in a post-Hurricane Katrina/Rita environment. Many Parishes proposed Hospital expansion related recovery projects. Prior approving and implementing these projects it is critical to look at the regional needs and ensure that the proposed projects result in a cost effective regional solution.

This assessment will build on work already underway by the Louisiana Recovery Authority Public Health & Health Care task force and is expected to take six to twelve months to complete. The assessment will provide the region with a proposed strategy for providing the community with state-of-the-art medical care. This direction might outline building new facilities, adding on to the current structures, or renovating the present buildings. The study might also address different services the hospitals and other needed medical capabilities (Radiology - including Mammography and Digital MRI, Day Surgery, Laboratory, etc.).

Medical facilities are critical to the health and safety of all residents during essential times such as natural disasters/emergencies. They play a significant role in addressing vital health status challenges – both acute in nature (hurricanes) as well as chronic. Furthermore, Hospitals may provide training, education, and disaster preparedness opportunities for all public service individuals.

The assessment will evaluate both the community's requirements for top quality health care, and the capability of regional medical facilities to meet these standards. Many hospitals in the region have previously developed growth plans and modified versions of these have been advanced in a number of Parishes as potential recovery projects. Due to new community and facility issues that surfaced as a result of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, there is a need to fully assess the community's needs and their strategy of attaining these requirements to ensure that changes in regional medical requirements are achieved in a cost-effective manner.

Specific issues to be addressed by the study could include but are not limited to:

- Population redistribution due to the disaster.
 - Challenges to the existing medical facilities' ability to meet the community's health care needs.
 - The ratio change of "non-insured" patients after the disaster.
- The Mental Health capabilities provided and the benefit to the State's Mental Health Program.
- Possible partnership or collaborative opportunities.

The Assessment will make recommendations on modifications that may be needed in the proposed draft recovery projects such as those included in the attachments for some parishes.

COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT:

This assessment will evaluate the region's need for quality health care and the capability or regional medical facilities to meet these standards.

[Print Page](#)

Implement Community Health Dental Program

ST. CHARLES PARISH | SECTOR: PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

**STRATEGIC RECOVERY
GOAL:**

Provide low income dental care to St Charles Parish and surrounding region by mid-2006 to meet additional demand due to an increased need directly related to storm impacts.

ADDRESS: 843 Milling Avenue; Luling, LA 70070 **AREA:**

TARGET START DATE: 06/01/2006 **DURATION:** 24 Months

DESCRIPTION:

Three (3) operatories for the on-site clinic (\$75,000 each) and One (1) mobile unit equipped with one (1) operatory (\$150,000). Gap in funding is \$375,000.

This project will provide comprehensive dental care on-site at the facilities of the St. Charles Community Health Center (STCCHC) and on a mobile dental unit.

The mobile dental unit is an essential component to the project. It is important to note the additional barrier to access dental care posed by the physical and cultural geography of the region. St. Charles Parish is divided by the Mississippi River. Lack of public transportation causes those on the east bank difficulty in accessing west bank facilities. The mobile dental unit (to augment the mobile medical unit) will fill the gap in service to those who lack personal transportation.

COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT:

This project has a community-wide impact. It helps provide accessible, high-quality health care through collaborative community efforts, to promote prevention and coordinate treatment, and to improve the health care status of the community. Emphasis is on the under served and vulnerable populations.

[Print Page](#)

Enhance Community Behavioral Health Program

ST. CHARLES PARISH | SECTOR: PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

STRATEGIC RECOVERY

GOAL:

By June 2006 provide behavioral health services to victims of recent hurricanes by increasing crisis case management and outreach capacity by 300%.

ADDRESS: ; Public Health Region III, LA AREA:

TARGET START DATE: 06/15/2006 **DURATION:** 9 Months

DESCRIPTION:

St. Charles Community Health Center will recruit, hire and train temporary crisis counselors, outreach workers, stress counselors and support staff, as well as contract with regional and local agencies to provide the outlined services. To ensure that all demographics receive these services, St. Charles Community Health Center will utilize the Center for Mental Health data management software to collect and analyze the service data, and report to the Office of Mental Health and FEMA as required.

Program Implementation Plan

1. Establish operations headquarters location (Already identified and available)
 - a. Establish telephone service
 - b. Set up accounting, data collection and support staff offices
2. Contact and contract with collaborative partners, including affiliates, consultants and sub-contractors (establish MOU)
3. Prepare for program implementation
 - a. Recruit, Hire and Train counselors, liaisons, and support staff
 - b. Implement Center for Mental Health data management software for data collection
 - c. Procure necessary equipment and supplies
 - d. Implement media program as approved by the Office of Mental Health CCP Project Director, utilizing donated advertising space where possible. Public Service Announcements will be developed for TV, Radio and Print media.
4. Implementation of Crisis Counseling Program consistent with state and Federal plan guidelines.

\$5.1 million of funding for this project has been committed, leaving a gap of \$9.8 million.

COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT:

[Print Page](#)

Update St. Charles Parish Comprehensive Plan

ST. CHARLES PARISH | SECTOR: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**STRATEGIC RECOVERY
GOAL:**

By December 2006 initiate an update to the Comprehensive Plan to appropriately direct future growth, assess housing needs and consolidate capital facilities and infrastructure plans.

ADDRESS: not applicable; , **LA AREA:**

TARGET START DATE: 12/01/2006 **DURATION:** 12 Months

DESCRIPTION:

Prepare a Request for Proposal and provide funding for a consultant to update to the Parish's existing Comprehensive Plan. Adopt the updated comprehensive plan and implement the policies contained within. Provide a timely and predictable schedule for regular updates.

The existing St Charles Comprehensive Land Use Plan was completed in 1990 and approved by the Parish Council. The Council has an expressed goal to adopt a land use plan that facilitates long-term growth and development and to present an updated land-use plan for approval.

Functional comprehensive plans:

- (1) protect property rights against negative uses
- (2) create predictable and safe land use patterns
- (3) establish economic development areas for job growth
- (4) ensure cost effective public services to citizens
- (5) protect against negative environmental impacts
- (6) set minimum aesthetic and functional standards
- (7) preserve what is important to the people of the parish

The master plan should include the following components:

- (1) Vision
- (2) Citizen engagement process
- (3) Land Use
- (4) Transportation
- (5) Public infrastructure
- (6) Public facilities
- (7) Conservation/environmental component

The Comprehensive Plan would ideally address issues particular to the post-disaster reality of southern Louisiana, including mitigation, insurance issues, scope and location of rebuilding efforts, drainage issues, utilities, roads and infrastructure, compromised water and sewerage systems, and flood mitigation. It should derive from thorough and salient research, analysis of growth patterns, and public input.

Land use planning can proactively direct each aspect of the parish's growth, rebuilding and economic development. It is related to each of the nine recovery areas identified by the LRA as vital to the rebuilding of Louisiana. Due to the relationship between development and planning, this project provides support to every other recovery project identified by this process.

Comprehensive Planning is valued by the state and region, especially as relates to economic development, as evidenced by the planning documents generated by the South Central Planning and Development Commission. Included among these documents are:

- (1) The 2005 Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); and
- (2) The 2002 St Charles Overall Planning Effort: A Strategic Plan for Economic Development (SCOPE)

The comprehensive plan will be the "blueprint" for future development of the parish. It will represent the community's view of its future; a constitution made up of the goals and policies upon which the City Council, Police Jury, and Planning Commissions will base their land use decisions. The comprehensive plan and its diagrams have a long-term outlook, identifying the types of development that should be encouraged, the spatial relationships among land uses, and the general pattern of future development.

Implementation of a comprehensive community plan ensures consistency in the development "playing field" and establishes an atmosphere of fairness. This fairness serves as a catalyst for economic diversification and growth, attracting investment and generating higher income jobs. The result is an overall improvement in the quality of life.

COMMUNITY WIDE IMPACT:

An updated St. Charles Parish Comprehensive Plan will benefit the community by presenting a plan to direct future growth areas in the parish, including ways to deal with issues of low-income segments of the housing market. The process itself will be inclusive and aim to generate participation of the broader community.

[Print Page](#)

St. Charles Parish - Community Involvement

Executive Summary

Community involvement began in earnest after the December, 2005, Governmental Workshop, which introduced the Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) team to some of the key people in the community and their most evident issues. Some of those issues were quite clear (such as levee protection), while others required more in-depth consideration of both the issue and who would be the key contacts.

Community involvement is at the core of the LTCR work. The initial Governmental Workshop was a valuable tool for introducing the team to some of the issues the parish is facing as well as the attitudes and culture that serve as the framework for planning in the community. Since that workshop, the team has reached out to governmental departments, community organizations and individuals with special expertise or knowledge of the parish history, culture and ways of living. The Louisiana Recovery Planning Day rounded out the details in conversations with the general public. Overall, it is the public outreach effort that has determined the priorities for recovery and helped the team identify the capacity and needs to carry out the recovery plans that may evolve from this process.

Stakeholders

The following list contains most of the organizations and agencies the LTCR team has contacted throughout the planning process:

Local government elected officials

- Parish chief administrative officer, parish president, parish council, sheriff and State Rep. Gary Smith

Local government staff

- Departments of Planning and Zoning, Coastal Zone Management, Public Works, Water Works, Waste Water and Community Services; Emergency Operations Center, St. Charles Parish Housing Authority, St. Charles Department of Parks and Recreation, Sunset Drainage District, Pontchartrain Levee District, Lafourche Basin Levee Board, Barrataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, River Parish Transit Authority, and Orleans School District

Regional Planning Agencies

- South Central Planning and Development Commission

Local planning groups and recovery groups

- St Charles Economic Development Council, St Charles Parish Hospital Board, River Region Arts and Humanities Center

Non-profits and community groups

- Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Leadership 18 Gulf Coast Initiative, Humane Society, St. Charles Historical Foundation, Mississippi River Road Commission, Partnership of Care, American Red Cross, United Way of America, YMCA, Child Advocacy Services, VIA LINK, Cancer Association, Epilepsy Foundation, Catholic Charities, River Parishes Mental Health and the Norco Community Economic Development Foundation

Civic associations

- Norco Civic Association, Killona Civic Association, St. Charles Rotary

Business Associations

- River Parishes Chamber of Commerce, St. Charles Business Association, St. Charles Chamber of Commerce

Leaders of local businesses that help drive the economy

- Dow, Valero, Port of South Louisiana, Cytec, Shell/Motiva, First American Bank

Lead providers of education, and health and human services

- St. Charles School Board, St. Charles Parish Hospital, Community Health Clinic, St. Charles United Way and member agencies, Metropolitan Battered Woman's Program, St. Charles Parish Public Schools (adult learning center), ARC of St. Charles, Family Resources of New Orleans (located in St. Charles), Norco Adult Day Care), Kidz Academy (early learning center), The Center for Family & Youth Services Inc.
- several small local businesses and the general public.

Local Committee / Task Force

The St. Charles team's community outreach strategy did not actively seek to form any local task force. Instead, the LTRC staff made contacts by attending already established focus groups, forums and committees. LTRC staff then began meeting key individuals, building relationships and setting up regular meetings when appropriate. In many cases, through the efforts of the LTRC staff, agencies already involved in some sort of recovery project became better connected with each other in order to widen the resources and information available to them. This was especially true of recovery projects and programs that involve various layers of government.

For example, as a result of LTRC outreach efforts in the areas of health, housing and human services, a local committee formed in order to continue building a local strategy for recovery. This committee was formed following a focus group facilitated by the LTRC team and St. Charles United Way. This committee's task is to complete a strategic planning process focused on building capacity to respond to disasters and direct public policy within the parish and regionally. The group, representing about 10 agencies, meets monthly or as needed.

Input Events

Three events were held to identify issues of priority to St. Charles Parish's recovery. These events were as follows:

- **Governmental Workshop** (December 2006) Twelve attendees from parish departments and elected officials identified priority recovery issues from the perspective of local government: levee protection, wetland mitigation, water storage, distribution and treatment capacity, and maintaining quality of life.
- **Louisiana Recovery Planning Day** (January 2006) Fifty attendees from the general public and local officials provided input that broadened the issues requiring investigation. They also identified cultural treasures and the desire to maintain rural character as recovery issues.
- **Human Services Focus Group** (January 2006) Forty-five attendees from health, education, housing and other human service agencies identified their priority issues as mental health care, public transit, and housing.

Day-to-day interaction with local decision-makers, general public

The parish team made a determined effort to discover what recovery plans already exist in the community. Each team member was assigned a recovery issue area and meetings were delegated according to issue; team members also attended community-wide meetings such as parish council meetings. As the team became more familiar with community stakeholders, they were regularly invited to participate in smaller group meetings, including weekly meetings with the parish chief administrative officer and the director of the regional planning commission.

Since the most local FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) closed in Boutte, several visitors from the public were seeking individual assistance. Team members were able to refer them to other DRCs and were fortunate to have return visits offering thanks for the assistance.

Many residents who were unable to attend Louisiana Recovery Planning Day visited the storefront office or contacted the team by phone or email to share their ideas.

Local leadership of implementation

The following individuals and/or entities have been identified as principal points of contact for implementation:

- United Way executive director
- Lafourche District levees boards and districts
- parish president and parish council members
- planning and zoning director
- director of public works
- wastewater director
- transportation director
- Coastal Zone Management administrator

Grant Writing, Project Development and Public Transit

- Office of Economic and Community Development and Tourism
- parish hospital executive director
- public schools assistant superintendent
- Port of South Louisiana executive director/CEO
- St. Charles Parish Parks and Recreation director

When the storefront closes, offices and stakeholders have been identified to receive LTCR documentation depending on their area of interest. Overall, it is the team's plan to forward a complete set of documentation to the parish president, council and regional planning commission.

[View the Parish Summary Page from Louisiana Planning Day \(PDF\)](#)