

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan Acceptance and Approval Resolution

May 10, 2007

OVERVIEW: A Resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board to accept and approve the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan.

Whereas, the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan (Louisiana Speaks) is designed to guide our state and its citizens on a bold new course, through our recovery and into a safer, stronger, smarter future;

Whereas, over 25,000 Louisianans expressed their visions for recovery and rebuilding through the Louisiana Speaks process and those preferences constitute the foundation for the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan;

Whereas, local and regional officials, business leaders, economists, urban planners, and coastal planners participated in the planning process and provided guidance for strategies and actions included in the plan;

Whereas, Louisiana Speaks is the long-term community planning initiative that provides a flexible framework for Louisiana's recovery which embodies three Vision Goals: (1) Recover Sustainably; (2) Grow Smarter; and (3) Think Regionally;

Whereas, sustainable recovery requires that we reinvest in communities, build key protection systems, stem wetland loss, and meet the immediate needs of businesses and workers;

Whereas, strategies recommended to help the state achieve Vision Goal 1, Recover Sustainably include:

- Enabling Recovery
- Insuring Recovery
- Aligning Recovery and Growth Planning
- Reinvesting in Communities
- Bridging Immediate Needs of Businesses and Workers
- Expanding Recovery-Critical Industries
- Providing Reliable Social and Community Services;

Whereas, to grow smarter we must address complex challenges such as growing threats to our coastal environment, rising transportation and housing costs, traffic congestion, healthcare shortages, and competitive national and global economies;

Whereas, strategies recommended to help the state achieve Vision Goal 2, Grow Smarter include:

- Comprehensively Managing Future Risk
- Developing and Investing Smarter
- Moving Louisiana Forward
- Building a Robust and Resilient Economy
- Meeting Future Housing Needs
- Preserving Communities and Protecting Unique Cultures
- Providing Quality Social and Community Services;

Whereas, thinking regionally means working together to achieve sustainable recovery and smarter growth and involves decisions about how public dollars are invested;

Whereas, strategies recommended to help the state achieve Vision Goal 3, Think Regionally include:

- Extending the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan
- Achieving Effective Statewide Planning;

Whereas, the Louisiana Speaks process incorporated neighborhood and parish planning and coordinated with those local planning efforts as well as all other Louisiana Recovery Authority initiatives, reports, and studies; and

Whereas, approval of the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan will represent the first step in realizing a sustainable recovery and paving the way for a safer, stronger and smarter future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby accept and approve the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan.