



State of Louisiana

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In compliance with the parameters set forth in President-elect Barack Obama's December 3rd letter to Governor Bobby Jindal soliciting advice in identifying "ready to go" projects, the state has developed a list of infrastructure projects that can be implemented quickly. Louisiana has many priorities; however, in compliance with this request, our state agencies were tasked to identify those projects that can immediately create jobs, and draw down resources in 2009 to expedite economic recovery. These projects would be an extension of state efforts already in place to strengthen our long-term economic growth while also immediately putting more Louisianians to work. If Congress and the new administration expand or shorten this timeline beyond 180 days, Louisiana is prepared to immediately provide a list of additional priority projects to meet the specified criteria.

The Louisiana Department of Economic Development recommends the following "ready to go" projects for consideration in the event that federal economic stimulus funding becomes available. Each of these projects represents an opportunity to help create new jobs and stimulate near-term economic growth, while also contributing to a foundation for long-term economic competitiveness.

Federal City **New Orleans, LA** **\$77,020,000**

Federal City is the public/private partnership lease and redevelopment of approximately 150 acres of the Naval Support Activity, New Orleans into a mixed-use development, anchored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Headquarters, where all facilities for federal agency tenants (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard) are designed according to requisite force protection standards. The State of Louisiana has already committed \$150 million for Federal City. However, additional funding is needed for several critical planned infrastructure projects that will support federal agency tenants.

LA Center for Digital Innovation **Baton Rouge, LA** **\$55,000,000**

The proposed Louisiana Center for Digital Innovation would provide a 160,000 square foot "computational village" for digital media and high-performance computing at Louisiana State University (LSU), bringing together the offices and research laboratories of LSU's world-class Center for Computation and Technology, Departments of Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering, and the Arts, Visualization, Advanced Technologies and Research

businesses to drive economic development.

Delta Advanced Technology Center Monroe, LA \$17,000,000

The proposed Delta Advanced Technology Center (DATC) represents an expansion of the region's current community/technical college facilities to include consolidated workforce and economic development offices in one of the most economically-disadvantaged regions of the United States. Among other things, DATC will help catalyze the development of advanced manufacturing capabilities that will support the state and regional strategy to secure a major capital investment in automotive manufacturing and create thousands of high-wage jobs at one of the most attractive mega sites in the southern United States (i.e., Franklin Farm Mega Site).

Central Louisiana Intermodal Facility Central Louisiana \$16,000,000

The Central Louisiana Intermodal Facility (CLIF) is a proposed infrastructure investment that would position Central Louisiana as a major distribution center. An independent feasibility study determined that there is enough existing market demand in the region to justify an intermodal center, with over 450 identified manufacturers within 100 miles that are potential candidates for intermodal service. Furthermore, CLIF would support the region's economic development strategy, which targets industries such as distribution/logistics and niche manufacturing. The feasibility study indicated that CLIF would employ approximately 30 people with an average salary of \$75,000 without accounting for expansion of existing industries and the attraction of new distribution and logistics facilities.

Digital Media Initiative Northwest Louisiana \$15,500,000

The Digital Media Initiative is an effort to establish Northwest Louisiana as a center for the digital media industry, with a critical mass of companies that create their own products and provide critical support to the IT, Film, Energy, and Life Sciences sectors already in the region. An initial awareness/branding campaign designed to highlight the region's digital media assets and a recent "familiarization tour" have produced promising results: three viable prospects have begun discussions that may bring as many as 205 jobs and \$4 million in investment to the region. In addition, a digital media startup, headed by a recognized leader in the digital media industry, has begun operations in Shreveport due solely to the efforts of this initiative. However, significant additional funding is necessary for this initiative to reach its full potential.

LITE Digital Media Complex Lafayette, LA \$15,000,000

The Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE) is a 3-D immersive visualization and high-performance computing resource center hosting clients in commercial industry, government, and university sectors. LITE provides access to leading-edge virtual reality (VR) design and essential decision-making technologies, which represent powerful business and research tools. The proposed Multi-Industry Digital Media Complex would include 20,000 square feet

of leasable space connected to a digital media production environment and enhance the existing 170 seat theater to visualize 4K and 4K3D media. This project will drive economic development by creating the first U.S. venue capable of visualizing and producing 4K and 4K3D research and commercial content.

Zachary Taylor Mega Site **Hammond, LA** **\$15,000,000**

The Zachary Taylor site near Hammond, Louisiana in Tangipahoa Parish fulfills many of the requirements of a major manufacturing operation and, with targeted improvements, could become one of the most attractive mega sites in the southern United States. Among other things, funding is needed to acquire the property (either through purchase or purchase option) and to prepare the site (e.g., clearing, grubbing, leveling) for an industrial tenant. With the appropriate improvements, the site could attract a major capital investment that creates thousands of new jobs.

Monroe Regional Airport **Monroe, LA** **\$14,500,000**

The Monroe Regional Airport (MLU) has provided commercial passenger services for Northeast Louisiana for nearly 80 years. The State of Louisiana and regional economic development leaders are currently pursuing a project opportunity that would secure 300 new jobs in the area. However, the success of the project requires the construction of a new paint hangar at the airport. In addition to providing an immediate economic stimulus during the construction phase and securing the creation of new jobs, the project would catalyze the long-term development of the aviation industry in Northeast Louisiana.

Empire Fisheries Complex **Empire, LA** **\$12,500,000**

In the aftermath of significant hurricane-related losses in 2005 and 2008, Louisiana's commercial fishing industry needs significant investments in infrastructure in order to recover, including Louisiana's only remaining menhaden fishing/processing operation (Daybrook Fisheries). However, due to losses stemming from Hurricane Katrina, a transloading port facility on the Mississippi River at Empire in Plaquemines Parish is needed for Daybrook Fisheries to continue supporting existing and future jobs at the largest fishing port (by tonnage) in the continental United States. The project is twofold: (1) a dock and tanks for storing/loading fish oil and meal and for receiving/storing diesel oil and (2) the construction of an industrial park focused on seafood processing. Such a port facility will generate substantial interest from other companies transporting bulk commodities and refrigerated containers. The overall economic and fiscal impact is significant, including retaining and expanding the menhaden fishing industry (2,500 retained jobs) and adding a shrimp processing facility (800 new jobs).

Franklin Farm Mega Site **Richland Parish, LA** **\$10,000,000**

The Franklin Farm Mega Site is one of the most attractive mega sites in the southern United States and provides a major economic development opportunity in one of the country's most economically-disadvantaged areas. However,

additional infrastructure improvements are needed to facilitate investment and accelerate the development timeline. Securing a major investment at the site (e.g., automotive manufacturing) could generate billions in capital expenditures and create thousands of new jobs.

Chennault International Airport Lake Charles, LA \$10,000,000

Chennault International Airport (CWF) is a key asset for a regional economic development strategy that includes cultivating the aviation sector. A 20,000 square foot assembly building is needed to support the anticipated award of military contract. This project will create 80 or more jobs at top aviation wages of at least \$60,000 per year each. This project will enable Chennault to attract additional component projects, which will increase employment and stabilize the facility in Southwest Louisiana. Without additional funds, this project would not be able to be constructed and loss of jobs would occur.

Coughlin Industrial Park Pineville, LA \$8,500,000

The Coughlin Industrial Park in Central Louisiana employs 1,400 people and contains several active manufacturing facilities including Procter & Gamble, Plastipak Packaging, and Crest Industries (Distran). Given a rapid expansion of jobs (56 percent over the last 5 years), the current transportation infrastructure is overloaded, and future expansions and the viability of existing industry are severely restricted. Funding is needed to complete Phase II (\$1.4MM already committed) and Phase III of a multi-phase plan to improve access to the Park and alleviate potential traffic congestion, which will provide immediate relief to Park tenants while spreading the total cost of a full interchange over time. Current and future plans to expand the Park, including Crest Industries and Procter and Gamble, will be severely limited and/or jeopardized without funding for these significant proposed transportation improvements.

Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development Center Lake Charles, LA \$6,600,000

The Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development (SEED) Center is a proposed new construction development to generate and support entrepreneurial activity in the five parishes of Southwest Louisiana. The SEED Center would centralize all regional economic development functions in one convenient and visible location tied to McNeese State University, including the region's first full-size business incubator; offices of the regional economic development organization; the regional planning commission, IMCAL; a small business development center; and university classrooms. This project was the number one rated project for recovery following Hurricane Rita by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. Local and regional entities have pledged \$9 million to assist in building the center. A minimum of 108 direct jobs would be created by companies in the incubator facility, and many others would be served within the region as an "incubator without walls." In addition, this project will serve as a catalyst through research and support of university faculty to encourage new ventures and technology transfer.

Mega Site Infrastructure **St. Landry Parish, LA** **\$5,000,000**

Two industrial sites in St. Landry Parish represent major economic development opportunities but require connector road infrastructure to ensure the sites are ready and available for prospect attraction and industry development. The St. Landry Economic and Industrial Development District (SLEIDD) owns Industrial Site 1, which is 420 acres located outside of Opelousas. While this site is in close proximity to Interstate 49, there is a need to build a connector road to increase accessibility to this mega site. Industrial Site 2 is a 100+ acre property in the Wal-Mart Industrial Park. This property is also in close proximity to Interstate 49; however, there is a shell road leading into the park that needs to be replaced with a hard surface to allow easier access to the park. With funding in place for infrastructure improvements, there would be significant potential for expansion, attraction, and job creation.

Central Louisiana Industrial Park **Rapides Parish, LA** **\$4,178,000**

The Central Louisiana Industrial Park (CLIP) is an ideally-situated, 111-acre greenfield site located 2 miles south of Alexandria, Louisiana. The park was purchased by the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce in order to advance economic development efforts in a part of the region where there is a general shortage of available, qualified industrial sites. The Chamber is in the process of readying the land for development (e.g., soil survey, Phase I EIS). The urgency of this request is based on a significant industrial prospect that has expressed considerable interest in locating at the park, with an estimated initial capital investment of \$40 million and creation of 60 jobs with an average annual salary ranging from \$37,000 to \$40,000. However, without the timely installation of the proper infrastructure, the project will not materialize.