



The mission of St. Landry Parish Economic Development is to provide leadership in economic and community development that facilitates growth opportunities leading to enhanced prosperity for St. Landry Parish businesses, communities, its citizens and its youth.

Executive Directors Report

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I - Business Center/Small Business Update

We have successfully completed all tasks items as identified under the 2017-2018 LBIA Grant as it relates to facility upgrades. The first quarterly report has been submitted along with all invoices and proof of payment required to receive reimbursement. We have been notified that all documentation provided has been reviewed and we will receive the full reimbursement in the amount of \$22,518.67. As always, we work to set an example of "Owning It"; referring to owning the perception. We would value any ideas that you may have to help promote this concept.

The last LSBDC, ULL SBDC counseling sessions were scheduled at SLED on December 12, 2017. The next date for these counseling services will be January 9, 2018. These services are available to businesses at any level of growth, are confidential, and are free to our area businesses.

As identified within our SLED 2017 priorities to co-host bimonthly small business training, we recently hosted a 'Banking on Bankers' Forum in collaboration with Louisiana Economic Development/LED and Acadiana South Central Planning Commission/ASCPC on December 6, 2017. Bankers in attendance were from the following institutions: Iberia Bank, Tri-Parish Bank, Sunset Bank and Woodforest Bank.

Our new CAVE area is getting used frequently by area nonprofit and governmental partners for planning and presentation meetings. On average, the room is getting used by partners, as well as some of our boards at least several times per week. If you know of businesses in the area that may find value in using the room for small retreats, or breakout planning sessions please let us know so we can get them more information on its use.

We have begun additional upgrades to the rear portion of the building in preparation for our newest tenant, St. Landry-Evangeline United Way, which include the installation of new glass entry doors and the construction of a storage unit. Additional upgrades to be completed by December 2017 include sprucing up the foyer area with floor covering and repainting of office spaces. We are also looking at potential improvements with the core restrooms located in the middle of the business center.

We currently have 10 projected tenant's to active in the Business Center that include:

C&C Painting and Pressure Washing

Boone Speech and Learning Services

Miracle-Ear

Happy Housemaids

Magnolia Community Development Corporation

Victory Manufacturing

WIOA 40

Global Environmental Solutions (Storage Only)

Mind and Body Connections, LLC

St. Landry – Evangeline United Way (January 1, 2018)

II – Communications

Next month you can expect and all new format and layout for the ED Report, which currently goes out to a large number of parish and regional leaders as an update to progress in the parish and beyond. This new format will make it much easier for persons to pull information at a glance that they can then use in sharing positive progress.

We have started a process identifying the possibility of third party options regarding upgrades on www.opportunitystlandry.com, slpforward.com and stlandryparish.org as a combined portal with separate URL access points. We are further looking at developing this capacity in a manner that would allow different partners and communities to have a presence in this portal. We are currently working through a proposal process now with Golden Shovel as the strategy provider. Once complete, this would be a key part of the role by our communications coordinator.

As an update www.slpforward.com, currently, holds a total of ninety-four (94) articles shining the light on positive things happening throughout St. Landry Parish. One (1) article per week is typically uploaded onto the site on a consistent basis providing fresh and updated article content. The most recent Google analytics test revealed that SLPForward's number of sessions totaled 161 visited by roughly 141 users. Please take the time to review this site periodically and learn more about some of the great things happening in our area.

Through our continued work with Parish Government on our existing GIS platform and the executive team from Fenstermaker & Associates to establish a roadmap towards getting our parish GIS to optimal levels, multiple layers have been identified to be incorporated into the current GIS platform to include cultural districts, EDD districts, municipal boundaries and school board districts to just list a few. We have actively begun reaching out to those entities where the respective data needed is held. Next steps will be to revisit with St. Landry Tax Assessor regarding up to date and current parcel boundary data prior to moving forward with layer creation. We will be working to model some of the innovative GIS work done in Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, and the Port of Lake Charles. The GIS platform is now accessible through HTML5 and can be viewed on all web browsers, including Google Chrome. To view the GIS platform in its new skin please visit <http://sled.totaland.com:81/>. The site currently includes updated mapping on SLP Smooth Ride Home improvements

III – Property/Site Development

There continues to be good progress with the actual and planned development on four of our major interchanges. We will be continuing our focus on building the infrastructure artery capacity in these areas. Of course, the expansion of the Central St Landry EDD is

a milestone step in being able to provide the infrastructure necessary for this growth in the I-49 area all the way through Opelousas and the same is in play in Grand Coteau. We are also actively looking at the potential to extend this planning consideration to a broader scope of the I-49 corridor. It is important that we put checks in place to ensure this growth is developed with a “smart growth” philosophy in mind as much as possible.

We continue to push site development with the team from LED, One Acadiana, as well as private realtors. We now have one site in the parish ready to be contracted. We are currently in negotiations on a cost proposal with an additional set of landowners on south I-49.

IV Projects Update Summary: 19 Active, 4 Pending Announcement, (Belt, Blacktop, Flow, Hippo), 2 Announced (Flash, Open Road) 1 Upgraded (League) 1 New (Project Cushion) Please note (*Latest Updates*)

Project Belt – This project came together because of local BRE efforts. It is a cooperative between a local area employer and SLED in trying to bring in a supplier into their existing manufacturing facility. The job creation figures if successful are now estimated up to 45 FTE’s. *Latest Update:* We continue to work through the details on a shared property with this project and Project Shell. We anticipate having clarity on this in a matter of weeks. It is very possible that this becomes a joint announcement project with project shell.

Project Boost – This is a very large potential expansion project in terms of capital expenditure. The project would produce less than 15 new employees at very high wage scales and well up to 170 temporary construction jobs for a year or more. *Latest Update:* A corporate merger has slowed the progress of this project. We are still in the process of determining a revised time frame for the expansion, but are told at this point that it is still an imminent consideration necessary to make the property more competitive.

Project Black Top – This is a location expansion project with a well-established area company. The company will be looking to consolidate central operation into a newly constructed central administration facility. *Latest Update:* This project is going vertical and we anticipate a formal announcement in the next month when keys corporate officials. In the absence of the communication position being filled. Jim Bradshaw is currently doing outreach to help get the story put together for this announcement article.

Project Clean – This is a manufacturing infill development project located in the center of the parish. If successful this project will create 40 new direct positions, with the ability to grow up to 70 FTE’s. *Latest Update:* The company has purchased the building, which is a big step forward. The next step is to get the building rezoned for suitable use, which is in play now. This will be formally considered in the second week of December. Once this is complete, or possibly while it is in process, this project will be available for the announcement.

Project Cleanse - This is a new recruitment project looking to expand operations into the parish at one of our rail site locations. Initial job creation figures are up to 50 FTE’s,

with a capex still to be determined by existing building, or greenfield selection of the site. *Latest Update:* We are early in this process and expect the site selection to progress to a site visit over the next 30 to 60 days.

Project Cushion - This project involves the expansion of an existing parish employer and the consolidation of other current operations in the region into this expansion project. The property has been purchased for the new site. Capex for this project is initially project at 3.9 million and we anticipate up to an additional 18 FTE's being created with project. *Latest update:* We expect the permitting process to begin in the first quarter of 2018 and construction to begin late in the second quarter.

Project Expo – Estimates on job creation are 30 FTE and a large number of temporary employment of up to 200 positions. The capital expenditure on this project is from a baseline of 25m, ranging to 40m *Latest Update:* The clock continues to tick on the on the land use of the property that this project would be located. We are working currently working with several area professionals to tie this discussion on expo into the larger picture of project fountain, which will lead to a master planned development. Once we finalize this concept, we will be sitting down with the property executive team to proceed forward with a public-private partnership towards this master-planned concept. We will be compiling a more detailed proposal with national consultant input for a presentation in late Jan, or Feb of 2018.

Project Fountain – This is a large scale commercial development project that discussions have been ongoing for some time. National tenants remain committed to this project and negotiations with landowners and real estate development partners are continuing. *Latest Update:* We continue active discussions on how this project can be combined with Project Expo planning efforts to create a destination location. We have had many recent meetings with commercial brokers and investors on a broad site master plan and made a preliminary presentation to the corporate executive team the week of December 11. We will be compiling a more detailed proposal with national consultant input for a presentation in late Jan, or Feb of 2018.

Project Flash – This is a project currently underway along one of the main parish corridors that is a sub-expansion of a long-time parish employer. While small in job creation, up to 5, this project could set a foundation for considerable transportation/distribution related growth around it. We are working with company leadership on a formal announcement/opening of this new facility. Jim Bradshaw is currently doing outreach to help get the story put together for this announcement article.

Project Flow – This is a retention and expansion project from a regional company. We have identified a location site and will be working with the leadership to further evaluate site feasibility. This new location would allow the company to potentially grow from its current level of 45 FTE's to as many as 100 FTE's within the next 30 months. Jim Bradshaw is currently doing outreach to help get the story put together for this announcement article..

Project Gateway – This is a large commercial retail development project in the central parish. Property sales are in process in accordance with a detailed master plan for close

to 100 acres of prime I-49 property. Crews are now working on initial infrastructure on the site. Jim Bradshaw is currently doing outreach to help get the story put together for this announcement article.

Project Green Leaf – This is a cooperative university project with an existing facility. Site visits with the project teams have been positive. This project would create up to 50 full-time positions once build-out is complete. *Latest Update:* We have been assisted the local investment group on multiple board presentations for this project. The local investment group was not awarded the project last month, but there are some inconsistencies in the selection process that are being formally challenged. We hope to have clarity on the finality of the RFP process used in this selection over the next 30 – 60 days.

Project Fresh – This is an expansion for the company in Louisiana, but a recruitment project for our parish. Initial job creation numbers are less than 6 with room for expansion. The project hinges to some degree on project vertical with land acquisition. *Latest Update:* although we have received a letter of interest to move forward with property negotiations; we are still having challenges in finalizing a detailed impact worksheet to move the property negotiations forward. As a reminder; this project also considers Project Vertical on finalizing site property layout. We will continue to keep this project active for the next couple while closely monitoring this worksheet progress.

Project HIPPO – This is a heavy industrial project that is very large in scope on its investment and job creation potential. Currently, we are finalizing with regional and state partners on identifying and meeting engineering requirements on the footprint site. *Latest Update:* We hoped to be able to announce this site and its website prior to now, but environmental permitting decision has continued to run this behind schedule. We are still holding out hope that this project will be announced by the end of the year.

Project League – This is a new recruitment project with major impact potential that would expand across the region and even the state. If successful this project would create up to 100 white collar high paying positions, collectively averaging close to 100k annually. *Latest Update:* This project has been parked for several months, but after some positive meetings over this past month with key stakeholders we have decided to bring it back to an active status to closely monitor progress over these next couple of months.

Project Link – This is a proposed expansion project with an existing parish company. If successful this project would create up to 25 new direct jobs and see more than 10 million dollars of investment into equipment and new facility construction. *Latest Update:* It appears that the financing for this project is in place. We are working with company officials to solidify incentives for the project. We anticipate actual construction to be in the late 1st quarter, early 2nd quarter of 2018.

Project Protect - This is an in-parish expansion project that has already made the land acquisition for their new site. The project could expand to up to 12 new manufacturing positions once the new location is operational. *Latest Update:* Latest discussions are

that the company still has the potential for beginning their new construction but that they have now moved their timeframe into the first quarter of 2018.

Project Ride – This project represents an expansion of a large area retail site in the center of the parish. This project could create up to 50 new positions. *Latest Update:* There has been a final selection of the ownership group, as well as the purchase of the property frontage that will be the footprint for this project.. We expect to be able to provide public information on the project in January and anticipate a construction start for this project in the second quarter of 2018.

Project Shell –The project is looking to refocus their feasibility back at the original building site, or a greenfield site in near proximity. If successful, this project could create up to 20 new positions. *Latest Update:* This was a previously parked project that now has been brought back into play. This project has apparently received preliminary USDA Grant approval, which would lead to a closing on the property very soon. We will continue to track this process closely

Project Vertical – This project is dealing with a light industrial manufacturer looking to put a new production facility in the Parish. If successful this project would create up to 30 direct full-time positions. *Latest Update:* We received a recent update from the location consultant they are coming to conclusion with funding from their overseas investment group. We will continue to monitor these funding updates as a go/no go step for this project moving forward.

Project Wrench – This project is a recruitment project dealing with an industrial service provider that would create up to 12 FTE's over the first 18 months of operation. Initial capex is projected at less than 500k. *Latest Update:* Company officials are working to finalize property acquisition for a site in the center of the parish. We anticipate this coming to a go/no-go within the next 30 days.

Project Open Road – This is an expansion project for a major employer in the parish. This will take main facility numbers from around 700 to close to 945, 245 FTE's, much of which has already taken place. In total, this will make the total employee base close to 1100 employees. *Latest Update:* Jim Bradshaw is currently doing outreach to help get the story put together for this announcement article.

Announced Projects

Project Open Road – Announced Expansion – Parish Economic Driver Company, create 245 FTE's, 25 Induced. Transportation Distribution.

Project Flash – Announced Expansion - Create 5 FTE, 3 Indirect. Cold Storage facility that brings badly needed capacity to the transportation distribution capacity.

Project Brace – Announced Retention – Expansion – Retain 65 FTE's create 25 FTE's. estimated 29 indirect, estimate 50 temp construction positions.

Project Incubate – Ongoing Business Center Incubation – Create 105 FTE/PT positions

Project Lot – Announced Expansion – Retain 25 FTE's, create 45 FTE's. estimated 85 temp construction positions.

Project Lid – Announced Regional Retention – Retain 100 FTE's, create up to 75 FTE's, estimated 45 indirect, estimated 120 temp construction.

Project Outpost (A) – Announced Recruitment – Create 35 FTE's. estimated 95 temp construction.

Project Bayou – Announced Recruitment - Create 100 FTE's, estimated 160 temp construction positions.

Project Slip – Announced Expansion – Create 14 FTE/Contract, estimated 18 indirect estimated 2100 Temp Construction positions.

Project Outpost – Announced Recruitment – Create 45 FTE's, estimated 100 Temp Construction positions.

Project Lynx – Announced Recruitment - Create 123 FTE's, estimated 135 indirect positions; Estimated 200 Temp Construction positions.

Project Spin – Announced Recruitment – Create 2 FTE's, estimated 8 Temporary Construction positions.

Project Lift – Announced Recruitment - Create 16 FTE's, estimated 20 indirect, Estimated 35 Temp Construction Positions.

Project Strip – Announced Expansion – Create 75 FTE's, estimated 90 temp Construction positions.

Project Essen - Announced Expansion – Create 20 FTE's, estimated 24 indirect positions, estimated 70 construction positions.

Project Rip – Announced Recruitment – Create 12 FTE's, estimated 19 temporary construction positions.

Project Roto – Announced Expansion – Create 15 FTE's, estimated 19 indirect positions, estimate 22 temporary construction.

Project Alon – Announced Expansion – Create 12 FTE's, estimated 14 indirect, estimated 48 temporary construction.

Project Runway – Announced Recruitment: Create 25 FTE's, estimated 16 indirect, estimated 55 temp construction.

Project Martin – Announced Expansion: Create 29 FTE's, estimated 35 temp construction.

V – Area and Regional Development Items:

1A (One Acadiana)

The search process for the new leader of One Acadiana is progressing forward. The overarching goal is to have this person in place by the end of this calendar year. This new person will have the important task of helping to determine and subsequently leading the regional priorities that will make the Acadiana one of the most competitive mid market areas in the US.

One Acadiana and its partner hosted a Building the Region Conference in November, which included St Landry and Evangeline Parishes. This one day event was attended by an audience of more than 60 persons from around the region. The primary stops on the tour in St Landry Parish were LSU-E, the Walmart Distribution Center, a tour and discussions of EDD's and a dinner discussing the cultural economy in Arnaudville. The tour received very high marks in its feedback.

Other priorities that have made progress over the past couple of months with One Acadiana are:

- Continuing to convene super-regional partners to discuss potential transportation infrastructure funding solutions with legislative leadership. A recent meeting with Speaker Barras, as well as representatives from Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) and SWLA Chamber Economic Development Alliance, focused on looking ahead to innovative financing strategies in 2018 and aligning on next steps.
- Partnering with LHC Group and Acadian Companies to support a series of "industry chats" on healthcare careers via the Acadiana Career Awareness Platform, powered by Nepris. Acadian Companies' chat featured a tour of an ambulance, with 516 students participating. LHC Group hosted three chats on careers in home health care, with 463 students participating.
- Leading effort in site development to have four options signed in three different parishes (Acadia, Iberia, St. Landry) representing approximately 122 acres, and due diligence has begun on the 18-acre Bratton Family Farms Site in Acadia Parish.
- Actively promoting SouthLouisiana.org in business recruitment outreach efforts. Various marketing materials are being updated utilizing the new "South Louisiana, Real Cajun" external brand, including regional economic profile; target and key industry one pagers; print and digital advertisements; talent recruitment materials; business cards; and promotional items
- Establishing a regional infrastructure steering committee that will be meeting for the first time later this week. Early work in this area included an update last week by all the Port Directors in the region on opportunities and challenges at their locations.
- Policy discussions centered around the future of the TOPS Program in the next regular legislative session.

The regional business accelerator effort, Accelerate Acadiana continues to make solid progress. This accelerator project is the result of a partnership with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Winrock International, Chase Bank, One Acadiana, the Acadiana Economic Development Council and INNOV8 Acadiana. The first 10 company cohort recently graduated in a well attended ceremony. INNOV8 is now in the

process of identifying their 2nd cohort class to participate in this project. This second class will have a healthcare focus and will look to begin their formal process in March of 2018.

We continue outreach to employers throughout our parish. Our first goal is to determine any challenges, or opportunities for these employers. An additional goal is to improve the quality of relationships with these leaders so that they can provide input on key challenges and decisions we are actively engaged in around the parish, the region, and the state. The following is a list of employers visited this year, many of which we are in regular conversation with on items affecting their growth in the parish. We are working now on a BRE contract plan for 2018 that will dramatically increase our outreach presence throughout the year.

- Stage Retail
- Giles Automotive Group
- St Landry Homestead
- Alon USA Energy INC
- Tony Chachere's
- Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino
- Wal-Mart Distribution Center
- LHC Group
- C & G Containers
- Riceland Crawfish, INC
- Opelousas General Health Systems
- Noble Plastics
- Ortego Oil & Supply Company
- Savoie's Food Products
- Sterling Automotive Group
- Progressive Tractor
- American Bank
- Quirks Welding

We continue our work with Patrick Jenkins, St Landry Parish Schools Superintendent through our support of a strategic plan and efficiency analysis for St. Landry Parish Schools. Gibson Consulting, the firm identified to provide the services for the strategic plan, has run into some scheduling conflicts, but is keeping us updated on a weekly basis on when they will be ready to dive into their planning and cost efficiency analysis. These planning efforts are not a part of the school board consideration of a property tax mileage and will not likely be complete by the time this decision goes to the voters. The intent is to have two formal documents that the school system will be able to have as a working tool that will guide efforts leading to improvements over the next 3 – 5 years.

We have established a new schedule and now meet on a regular basis with leaders from SLCC and the TH Harris Campus, both at the parish level, as well as at the regional level. Locally, the TH Harris enrollment figures were been up for the fall semester, which is a strong sign with all the uncertainty around TOPS. Last month, we

participated in announcements at the TH Harris Campus for the new LPN/RN Program, as well as the announcement of SLCC being the new service provider for the workforce investment area that spans Acadiana. We also continue to support a SLED scholarship for a St Landry Parish resident attending SLCC through funding provided through GOEIDC.

LSU-E showed one of the highest percentage increases in enrollment of any state university for the fall semester at close to a 22 percent overall increase. There have been a number of capital improvement projects completed over the course of this year that have really enhanced the student experience on the campus. The campus is also seeing some exciting dual enrollment program initiation with students from multiple parishes, including St Landry. Last week, we provided a dress for success course to these students that was a lot of fun for all. The Board of Advisor for LSUE has made great progress through this year with the leadership of Dwight Jodan. It has an entirely different feel than it did last year at this time. We also continue to support a SLED scholarship for a St Landry Parish resident attending LSU-E next year through proceeds provided through GOEIDC.

We continue to make progress with the CEO Roundtable Board, Vision St Landry on strategically identifying priorities that will have significant impacts for SLP over the next 5 – 20 years. The group continues to make significant strides with its work with its respective focus groups on *education*, *redevelopment of downtowns* and *growing the I-49 Corridor*. The group recently identified another key area of *facilitating more visionary leadership in the parish and in local elected positions*. The progress of these initiatives in a matrix dashboard that is reported on to the entire board in quarterly meetings.

VI – Community Development in St Landry Parish

The facility and the finances for the St Luc Hospital are now in motion. A Phase I Environmental Assessment of the building is now underway. Once complete, that will lead to the need for an updated assessment of the building and a consideration by the parish to consider the next action, which will put the building back into commerce. Recently, a LSU partnership was brought in a university effort to help identify potential future uses and layouts for the building. The result has been an announcement of 16 different floor plan layout options for the building. There are also efforts underway to update the business plan for the facility, as well as the building appraisal for the facility.

An update on the new Central St Landry Economic Development District will be provided as a part of the regular meeting agenda. This new district will be a landmark in the future growth throughout the core of St Landry Parish along the I-49.

During the month of November, we have received appointments for the Opelousas DDA from the following: Senate, House, Parish President, SLED and Vision St. Landry. As a reminder, the appointing authorities for the DDA are: Senate, House, Parish President, Mayor of Opelousas, Opelousas City Council, SLED, and Vision St Landry. We providing an update on the DDA as part of the regular meeting agenda.

We continue to work towards regaining progress with the leadership of Eunice on how we can best help them to identify and progress priorities for their community over this past year:

Sending the Mayor of Eunice to an ED 101 Basic Course.
Paving the Eunice Industrial Park Road under Smooth Ride Home
Meeting with Eunice Chamber leaders about best practices in other areas.
Actively engaging the Eunice Rotary Club with a recurring attendance by Brandy.

The Mayor has done a tremendous job of bringing a new group of young leaders together as part of a Eunice Economic Development Committee. Some of their discussions have initially been centered around the following:

- Addressing the high crime rate
- Formulating an economic development plan
- Developing a business retention plan
- Establishing more industrial park capacity
- Getting better at stakeholder partnerships.

Grand Coteau planning and infrastructure efforts along their business corridor continue and include:

Engineering phase zero for a traffic solution at the frontage road cross over intersection is now at eighty percent completion

A pedestrian transportation plan (TAP Grant), which has officially been announced.

Overpass and drainage improvements

Overhead lighting engineering at the interchange

We continue work with the leadership in Sunset on a traffic solution for Highway 93 and 182, as well as the potential for an economic development district that could be used to fund the match needed for these infrastructure improvements.

There was the second meeting this month of the newly restructured sales and use tax collection board. All new members are now in place and the efforts now turn towards improving efficiencies in our parish sales tax collection processes. The next meeting of the board is scheduled in January at SLED.

The Placemaking Task Force comprised of businesses from the Sunset, Grand Coteau, and Arnaudville area is making excellent progress on project priorities identified that will result in business growth as they become successful. We hosted our quarterly meeting on December 18, 2017 For example, the former St. Luc Hospital is currently under going a Phase I Environmental to determine what identification programs the building

may have to conduct a Phase II. The old arena in Sunset has been recently put back in commerce through usage of local wrestling matches, however alternative uses are still being considered which may include a Tee Tiny House compound for local and traveling artists.

In December, TheSLP opened up its board member applications for the 2018 calendar year. The number of applications received, although small in number, did provide a strong group of candidates to select from. Our newest board member will begin her term starting January 1, 2018.

TheSLP will host a Christmas Social on December 21, 2017 in partnership with the Art Box Studio and Gallery entitled "Wine Down for the Holidays!" The networking social is free to attend for members and guests and is a way to partner with small businesses throughout the parish increasing the visibility of the business as well as the organization through social media marketing on both fronts.

Grants Update:

We have successfully completed all tasks items as identified under the 2017-2018 LBIA Grant as it relates to facility upgrades. The first quarterly report has been submitted along with all invoices and proof of payment required to receive reimbursement. We have been notified that all documentation provided has been reviewed and we will receive the full reimbursement in the amount of \$22,518.67. As always, we work to set an example of "Owning It"; referring to owning the perception. We would value any ideas that you may have to help promote this concept.

We have received notice through the Acadiana Planning Commission, that a DOTD TAP Grant designed to address the accessibility and safety of pedestrian transportation in the business district area of Grand Coteau has been approved. The town made a final allocation of an additional 200k. We anticipate work beginning on this project in early 2018.

We continue discussion with a local engineering firm along with Opelousas Downtown Leaders about a TAP Grant for sidewalk improvements in the downtown area around the Courthouse.

We are currently working on planning and engineering efforts within the Harry Guilbeau EDD with funds received through the capital outlay process last fall that will be used as the basis for a heavy infrastructure plan for the south side of Opelousas along I-49. We have the CEA's by property owners complete and will look to begin planning work as soon as we get the final approval by facilities and planning. .

VII – Training Opportunities

The Louisiana Industry Development Executive Association (LIDEA) Basic Economic Development Course

January 22-25, 2018

This course will be held at GNO Inc., 1100 Poydras Ave, New Orleans.

Course Overview: The Basic Economic Development Course is an introductory look at economic development in North America. Students are given an overview of the tools and techniques of modern economic development, including the professional specialties that have formed in the last 20 years. A brief overview of economic development will be given in the following areas:

Managing the Economic Development Organization

Ethics in Economic Development

Incentives

Transportation and Logistics

Real Estate Development and Reuse

Community Development

Understanding Retail

Workforce Development

Marketing and Attraction

Finance

Strategic Planning

Small Business & Entrepreneurship

VIII – Conclusion

Time sure does fly. Here we are again at the end of the year looking forward with great potential. There are many reasons have high expectations for our growth next year. The back bone of our parish is literally transforming right in front of our eyes, Our education systems sits and a critical crossroads for growth, and our central downtown prepares to embark on an unprecedented journey of funding its growth. This just scratches the surface with the good things to come. We have so much to be grateful for in our lives, our parish, and in our region. We here at SLED have something else to be grateful for and that is all of you. We thank you for your support and look forward to being able to serve you and our parish through a dynamic 2018 that moves St Landry Parish Forward to previously unconsidered new levels.