Acknowledgement

Terrebonne Parish’s Comprehensive Plan Update
Vision 2030
has been made possible through a grant received from the Louisiana Recovery Authority, Office of Community Development-Disaster Recovery Unit, Comprehensive Resiliency Program with funds generously provided to Louisiana from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
WELCOME EVERYONE!

Terrebonne Parish
Planning Director
Patrick Gordon
Acknowledgement and Introduction of Elected Officials and Steering Committee Members Present
Purpose of Plan...

To prepare to respond to coming changes that will present both opportunities and challenges so that we can achieve the goals that will build resiliency and sustainability into our future.
Parish adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2004; committed to 5 year review cycle and update as necessary, based on change.

What has changed?

- Most recommendations from 2004 Plan completed
- 2005 and 2008 storms accelerated change
- Continued population shifts from South Terrebonne to North Terrebonne Parish
- Changing population dynamics; More “Seniors” next 20 yrs.
- Completion of Phases I and II of Plan Update November 2009
- 1st round of Community Meetings last summer
Getting Involved

Community Meetings:
- Parish-wide Kick-Off Meeting - May 2011
- Round 1 Community Input Sessions
  - JULY 7 – Dularge Gym
  - JULY 12 - Chauvin Gym
  - JULY 14 - Municipal Auditorium
  - JULY 19 - Bayou Black Gym
  - July 26 - Schriever Gym
  - July 28 - Montegut Gym
  - August 2 - East Houma Gym
  - August 4 - Grand Caillou Gym
- Round 2 Community Input Sessions Spring 2012
- Parish-wide Draft Plan Review

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
WHAT YOU SAID...

VISIONS..

✓ Terrebonne is...“a wonderful Parish with abundant seafood and clean water for fishing and scenic enjoyment; a Parish where the land and marshes have been restored to sustain agriculture and fishing.”

✓ “Terrebonne Parish has beautiful parks, and boating facilities allow residents and visitors to take advantage of scenic outdoors. The Parish is beautiful, free of litter. People are concerned about not “trashing” the outdoors.”
VISIONS... (continued)

✓ “(Priorities should be) preserving our culture and our heritage, saving our land, and protecting the bayou communities. Mitigation banks (should be) owned by the parish. The barrier islands (should be) restored, and (we should have) marsh restoration instead of mitigation dollars.”

✓ Terrebonne Parish is “…a work in progress”…and what is seen “…today is a mix of yesterday being restored and tomorrow being improved.”
VISIONS (more)...

- Terrebonne Parish is considered “...a ‘working coast.’ We have beautiful wetlands and barrier islands with great ecological importance, but we utilize the landscape through navigation, oil and gas production and commercial fisheries. [Our] culture, as well as the economics in Terrebonne Parish, is tied closely to the environment.”

- “Terrebonne Parish is not a place; it is a State of Mind.”

IT DEFINES WHO AND WHAT WE ARE.
SUMMARY OF YOUR IDEAS
PARISH SERVICES/INFRASTRUCTURE

• Parish needs a first class community sewer system. Some areas have been paying for it for many years, but still do not have it.

• Make sure developers put in water and sewer lines when the street is built.
• Much of the water and sewer infrastructure is old and inadequate.

• Chauvin and bayou communities need a Sheriff’s substation.

• Too difficult to get permits from the parish. Permitting process is too difficult and burdensome. Can this process be streamlined? Why is parish subbing out building inspection process?
PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT/LAND USE

• Some form of land use control needed in bayou communities to help avoid land use conflicts and better protect residential land uses.

• Special overlay zoning districts could help to handle certain types of land uses.

• Consider extraterritorial zoning application when development reaches 20% instead of 50% as it is now.

• Strengthen planning, zoning, and subdivision regulations.

• Make sure subdivision streets meet current standards before accepting them for perpetual public maintenance.
HOUSING

• Great need for affordable housing in the parish.

• Lower flood insurance rates would help to create affordable housing and make it easier for people to come back to the bayous.

• Elevated housing and other structures will greatly help to reduce future flood insurance claims. Elevate everything!

• What has happened to the residential/housing construction/development industry in Terrebonne Parish? Why is there so little new subdivision development?

• As we grow, we should very carefully convert agricultural land to residential uses.

• Lack of housing (of all types, particularly affordable); need to be more creative in subdivision development; include parks; accept a higher density of development in order to preserve as much agricultural land as possible.
TRAFFIC/TRANSPORTATION

- Improved roads/bridges/transportation network for congestion relief and hurricane evacuation.

- Need protected left-turn movements and other improvements at signalized intersections.

- Need proper traffic signage throughout the parish.

- Expanded rail service.

- Scheduled passenger air service.

- Need to think ahead and stop building 2-travel lanes in a 4-lane ROW.

- Another bridge over the tunnel.
TRAFFIC/TRANSPORTATION...(continued)

• Removal (and re-routing) of 18-wheelers from downtown area (Main/Park)

• Better transportation and traffic connectivity to avoid the traffic disaster that is MLKing Blvd; let’s build right the first time. What improvements/changes can be made in the short-term?

• How can we solve the traffic congestion problems in the northern part of the parish?

• Completion of Valhi Blvd to U.S.90/I-49; will pay for itself with the induced development and improved traffic flow (less loss time) in LA 311.

• Require service roads along ML King to create interconnectivity between developments, and keep traffic off ML King. (Now built into the local regulations)
TRAFFIC/TRANSPORTATION...(more)

• Finding ways to effectively relieve traffic congestion; many dedicated right turn lanes at numerous intersections in the parish have helped in this regard.

• Finding ways to plan and build transportation projects AHEAD of population growth; do it now before congestion becomes critical.

• Overcoming enormous time lags/delays from project conception to completion of construction and dealing with cost escalation due to these delays.

• Find a way to complete I-49 to Lafayette and the North-South roadway to connect to I-10.

• Transit service expansion/improvement to serve more people in the parish.
FLOODING/DRAINAGE/LEVEES

• Stop/prevent back water flooding in bayou communities.

• How to deal with routine flooding in the parish and fix the causes of this flooding.

• Solving the drainage problems in the northern part of the Parish.

• Keeping drainage ditches/laterals clean so that they will function better.

• Solve local drainage and flooding problems with regional lakes (reservoir banking), which will also create recreational opportunities.

• Stopping the storm-related flooding, or the bayou communities are lost.

• Levees are needed; must overcome lack of money to build them
COASTAL/MARSH RESTORATION-RELATED ISSUES

• Reclaiming the marsh is critical, but the loss of marsh must be stopped FIRST.

• Control the effects of HNC on the environment (stop bank erosion and widening of HNC which results).

• Construct cheap sources of sediment and fresh water conveyance/diversion to rebuild marsh.

• Stabilize, then reverse erosion (loss) of land.

• Using fresh water/sediment diversion to rebuild the land (and marshes)

• Land erosion (self-mitigating projects)
• Re-building barrier islands, coastal marshes and estuaries; there must be cost effective ways to accomplish these KEY objectives (Miss. and Atchaf. Rivers); these improvements undertaken in conjunction with levees and Morganza; Morganza is needed but not the only need.

• Get Corps of Engineers to understand crucial importance of barrier islands and how relatively easy to restore with rocks (but can’t get permits!!)
RECREATION/PARKS

• Promoting recreational sports (hunting and fishing) in the lower areas of the parish.

• Establishing more parks and recreational activities for kids (and adults); existing facilities are underutilized.

• Let’s build the “Sportsplex” and bring back our (semi) professional baseball and football teams; would help to build/re-build pride in our community.

• More recreational activities for kids and families throughout the parish, such as bike trails, sidewalks, and skateboarding parks.
QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES

• Find a way to clean-up debris and trash on private property; challenged by inability to use public $$ for this purpose.

• Sidewalks needed on Grand Caillou Road to allow ease of pedestrian movement from Tunnel to Industrial Blvd.

• Remove blighted structures; fine owners of such properties; better code enforcement.

• Poor appearance of parish gateways (roads entering the parish).

• Keeping the bayous clean (Great job with removing derelict vessels!).

• Get large companies to contribute to recreational improvements and facilities.

• Given growth in Parish (to the north), let’s not forget the southern part of the parish although it has lost population. Could change in next 20 years.
QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES...(continued)

• Media blitz to attract people:

  “Saltwater Fishing Capital of the World.”

• Drawing people back to the bayou communities
SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

- Build new school facilities where needed and consolidate campuses where it makes sense.

- Need to get school kids involved in the spring meeting rounds.

- Promote education; (staying in and completing high school); leads to better jobs. Drop-out rate is too high.

- Education needs to be improved; more in tune with needs of 21st century.

- Tutoring to help students in need.
CULTURE/HERITAGE

• Plan for the worst as a way to avoid further depopulation in the bayou communities.

• Architecture of new structures should reflect our southern culture/heritage.

• Do more tourism advertising to capitalize on (promote) local culture and cultural attractions.

• Keeping our cultural uniqueness by creating jobs to match our heritage in rural/bayou areas.

• A unified parish: my problems are yours, too.
NATURAL RESOURCES/ECONOMY

• Natural resources available here are underutilized.

• Dulac is a “mini-Port Fourchon”

• Better trained workforce.

• Finding a way to advertise (preserve and enhance) the economic opportunities in the bayou communities. “If money can be made, people will come to take advantage of economic/investment opportunities.”

• Sport fishing (spin-off service companies); non-homestead exempt camps (additional tax $$)

• Promote/use HNC for commerce; as a way to access the opportunities available.

• Huge supply of waterfront property available for development; needs to be put into commerce (camps, businesses, etc.)
NATURAL RESOURCES/ECONOMY...(continued)

• Promote business opportunities in natural resources which are abundant in the area.

• Grow employment opportunities for youth, such as an “extreme challenge” recreational business operation; something unique to the bayou communities.

• Major oil center and industrial park located somewhere in the parish (LA 311/US 90 intersection).

• Keep money local; support local businesses which will create employment opportunities for locals. Money spent locally creates jobs locally.

• Make the internet accessible and affordable for everyone; will make local government more open and accessible.
NATURAL RESOURCES/ECONOMY...(more)
• Securing our energy future to keep jobs in Terrebonne Parish.

• Better “exploitation” of local oil and seafood industries to advertise the area and create jobs.

• Applying innovative ideas to create value-added products/services to our energy situation to keep jobs in the parish.

• Find a way to exploit the change in demographics in the parish to support and create jobs associated with aging in place.

• Find a way to take advantage of all the Environmental Sensitive land in the parish; maybe exploit for green energy production, etc.

• Need to find a way to attract more industry, and grow what we have to create jobs for locals and keep our kids in the parish.

• Need more outreach by TEDA
NATURAL RESOURCES/ECONOMY...(more still)

- Take advantage of tax credits, etc. to open new businesses (TEDA)
- In opening a new business, take full advantage of the benefits TEDA may offer.
- Finding ways to support/help our fishermen, the backbone of our community.
- Fair rules for fishermen; too burdened now.
- Balancing regulations with the need to grow business and jobs to keep the bayou areas growing; housing will be needed.
- Finding ways to help more locals with start-up businesses.
- Effective marketing of our local seafood products; will create demand and jobs locally.
- Using protected/enhanced natural resources to increase tourism and jobs.
NOT DONE YET...

• Grow the seafood industry locally.

• Utilizing vacant land in bayou communities to create jobs in crawfishing and aquaculture businesses.

• Work to attract non-oil patch-related business and industry to the parish; “green by 2050”

• Promote entrepreneurial opportunities aimed at preserving our culture.

• Create jobs through new businesses supporting recreational opportunities.

• More opportunities for sport-fishing; (will spin-off) supporting businesses.

• Entrepreneurial training.
DOWNTOWN HOUMA

• Continue with revitalization of downtown Houma.

• Extend Bayou Walk to Lafayette Street and beyond.

• Find a way to get downtown property and business owners more involved in revitalization.

• Better, more attractive building exteriors, more in keeping with guidelines for Historic District.

• Consider a Downtown Walking Mall: good for commercial development and for tourism (will necessitate street closures for at least part of the day.)
ENVIRONMENT

• Establish a “neighborhood watch” for recycling; promote better recycling.

• Find a way to effectively deal with the big environmental issues, such as sea level rise and climate change.

• Reconnecting Bayou Lafourche with Bayou Terrebonne to re-introduce freshwater.

• Keeping bayou areas green; planting trees; preserving the culture
SUSTAINABILITY/RESILIENCY

• Finding a way to co-exist with sustainability; without a balance in this area, jobs may not be created and the youth will not stay

• Passing on to our children something that is sustainable; recovering what we lost; restoring our marshes on the other side of the levee.
PLAN’S GUIDING PRINCIPLES...

1. Sense of Place and Connectedness

2. Safe and Efficient Transportation System

3. Efficient and Attractively Varied Land Uses

4. A Sustainable Community Through Avoidance of Hazards, Nuisances, and Environmental Degradation

5. High-Quality Infill Projects and Redevelopment

6. Effective Public Services and Facilities
SUMMARY OF PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS
Land Use “Drivers”

- Intra-parish population shifts
- Changes in population composition next 20 yrs:
  - 0-19 cohort: increasing by 4%; but steadily decreasing % of total pop. (29% to 27%)
  - Females 20-44 cohort: decreasing by 4%; decreasing as % of total pop. and as % of all females
  - 20-64 cohort: increasing by 2%; but steadily decreasing % of total pop. (60% to 56%)
  - 65+ cohort: increasing by 51%; and increasing % of total pop. (11% to 16%)
  - Total parish population expected to grow about 8% next 20 years (previous 20 yrs. @ 15+%). Fastest growing segment next 20 years: SENIORS
Additional Land Use Needs as per Model
NEXT 20 YEARS...

- **Residential:** 698 acres.
  - S/F: 640 ac.
  - M/F: 58 ac.
- Commercial/Retail: 435 ac.
- **Industrial:** 678 ac.
- Office/Government: 563 ac.
- Parks/Open Space/Trails/Pub. Facilities: 507 ac.
- Public/Private E&S Schools: 166 ac.
- Water/Wastewater Capacity: 38 ac.
- **TOTAL 2030 NEW L/U needs:** 3,085 ac. (+/-5.6% of land avail. for develop.)
Projected 20-yr Land Use Needs in Acres

3,085 TOTAL ACRES


7a. LAND USE
20-yr. Projected Parks/Open Space in Acres

- Total Acres: 507

- PS/Gov/Leisr
- Prks/OS/Golf
- Prvt Land-Ext
- Religious

7a. LAND USE
7a. LAND USE

Parks/Open Space Types in Acres

- Nghbrh - 28 acres
- Comuty - 35 acres
- Regnl - 78 acres
- Publ Glf - 219 acres

Total: 360 acres
LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Generally, extend land use regulations in the direction of growth when DZ reaches 25% development.
2. Extend land use regulations now from existing up to one mile beyond U.S. 90 ROW at LA 311 and LA 24 Couplet.
3. Extend land use regulations from US 90 north to parish boundary as additional development reaches 25% mark.
4. Amend zoning ordinance to permit one additional lot per net acre in s/f residential classifications.
5. Amend zoning ordinance to allow accessory dwellings in residential classifications.
6. Amend s/d regs. to require sidewalks and pedestrian/bicycle connectivity in new development.
TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In general and in conjunction with SCPDC, work to implement the recommendations in MTP 2035:
   - Roadway Preservation and Rehabilitation:
     - funding priority to preserve existing system
   - Transportation Demand Management:
     - Cost-effective ways to reduce number of vehicles on road; reducing traffic congestion; improving air quality
   - Traffic Operations Improvements:
     - Increasing efficiency of system: signalization; access management; turn lanes/prohibitions; truck routes
   - Public Transportation and other Non-Traditional Modes:
     - Transit; pedestrian and bicycle improvements; “Complete Streets”, connectivity
   - Intelligent Transportation System: incident management; emergency response; work zone management; travel and weather information
   - Roadway Capacity Improvements: addressing forecasted deficiencies; staged improvements and funding
TRANSPORTATION CONSTRAINTS

• Air quality: marginal ozone non-attainment (potential)

• Funding: not all improvements can be funded; “fiscally constrained; unfunded, but needed improvements remain (actual)

Plan Update Emphasizes...

1. Transit system improvements: movement toward capturing the “choice” rider to get more vehicles off street: high reliability; shorter wait times

2. “Complete Streets” implementation: streets designed to safely accommodate ALL users (drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit vehicles/users)

3. Connectivity improvements: facilitating pedestrian/bicycle travel safely and seamlessly (can reduce need for some roadway capacity projects; money can be spent on other related needs.)

4. Land use policy adjustments: less sprawl; in-fill development; connectivity between developments; development regulations to de-emphasize reliance on auto for trip-making needs.
Westside Bike Trail Route

51 Miles of Shared Use Roads and Shoulder Biking
HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

• Housing policies (and market response) should begin to reflect demographic shifts over next 10 to 15 years:
  o Aging population – changing lifestyles (more convenience; ease and walkability; ok with higher densities; suburban subdivisions not first choice for seniors)
  o Gen Y – less auto dependent by choice; ok with higher density; more urban; less interested in “traditional” homeowner chores)
  o Aggressive CRS program to reduce flood insurance premiums
  o Elevate, Elevate, Elevate!

• Get creative in meeting affordable housing needs:
  o Public/private/non-profit partnerships for afford. housing developments.
  o Remove policy barriers to HUD-Code manufactured housing
  o Promote infill development at higher densities in urbanized area
  o Reduce minimum lot size to yield one additional lot per net acre
  o Allow accessory dwelling units in residential areas
• Preserve the Natural Environment
  • Protect environmentally sensitive areas
  • Improve and protect water quality
  • Protect and enhance wildlife habitat
  • Provide interpretation

• Strengthen the Parish’s Identity and Brand
  • Create identity gateways into the Parish
  • Make Bayou Terrebonne an attraction
  • Protect historical assets throughout the Parish
  • Feature cultural assets
  • Develop a wayfinding system throughout the Parish
  • Clean up blighted properties

• Enhance Recreational Opportunities
  • Provide more recreational opportunities in rural areas
  • Develop ecotourism and educational tourism
  • Provide ecological opportunities for visitors
  • Share sports facilities between communities and schools
  • Expand planned pedestrian and bicycle trail system
Vision 2030

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND HAZARD MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Areas of Concern:

• Air quality issues
• Water quality issues
• Coastal erosion; land loss issues
• Coastal development issues relative to storm surge, sea level rise
• **Sustainability** (less reliance on federal disaster funds; environmentally sound) and **resiliency** (recovering more quickly after disasters/storms) issues. “Sustainable development is resilient development.”
• On-going hazard mitigation (structural and non-structural)
• Protection of environmentally sensitive areas; greenways
ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTINUED

• **Air Quality:**
  - Establish/publicize Ozone Action Days; brochure
  - Public education; potential costs of non-attainment
  - Emphasize transit; work with employers
  - Look for ways to reduce VMTs in community

• **Water Quality:**
  - Support BTNEP’s efforts reduce sewage pollution, reduce agricultural pollution; best practices in storm water management in the region
  - Support efforts to accomplish these objectives in Terrebonne Parish

• **Coastal Issues:**
  - Support integration of coastal restoration/protection, land development, state, local/regional infrastructure investments. Must be on same page to support each other; effective planning
  - Greater safety from storms; comprehensive approach to restoration and protection.
Downtown Houma Revitalization Plan Update
- New truck circulation
- New vehicular circulation
- New pedestrian and cyclist circulation
View looking east down Main Street
Vision 2030

Gateway Signage

- Key intersections
- Arrival into the downtown area
Vision 2030

• Entry signage
• Culturally significant
• Critically placed
• Unique to Houma

Gateway Signage

Houma Bayou Walk
- Lack of streetscape
- Lack of separation between pedestrians and vehicular traffic
- Lacking of wayfinding signage
Streetscape enhancements looking south down Church Street
- No pedestrian zone
- Unsightly parking
- Barren walkways
- No shade
Streetscape enhancements looking north on Barrow Street
PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Police and Fire Departments**
  - Ensure adequate funding to meet changing needs over the planning horizon

- **Sheriff’s Department**
  - Jail/Detention facility expansion; adequately flood-proof location or relocate
  - Consider substations in other areas of the parish

- **Public Library**
  - High quality facilities and services; well positioned for future

- **Recreation**
  - More parks; connected greenway system; trails

- **Drinking Water**
  - Future appears to be with BLFWD membership for reasonably priced reliable source

- **Wastewater Treatment**
  - Excess capacity to handle growth, but future additional improvements could be mandated by DEQ; key element of environmental safety and quality
REGIONAL COORDINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Work regionally to address and solve these issues:

1. **Solid waste disposal** (united for better deal at River Birch facility; or go it individually? OR, regional landfill?)
2. **Potable water:** BLFWD (in or out? If out, securing good water at reasonable cost)
3. **Transportation:** I-49 South; LA 1; North-South Corridor Route
4. **Drainage issues**
5. **Regional transit system** (opportunity to connect Terrebonne, Lafourche, River Parishes with Metro New Orleans area)
6. **Regional economy/workforce**
7. **Air/water quality**
8. **Hurricane evacuation**

**PLAYERS:** All parishes in region; Chambers of Commerce; SCIA; TEDA; coordinated through SCPDC
NOW, IT’S YOUR TURN
Group Discussion of Plan’s Goals and Policies
(see handout)

1. Review the Goals and Policies
2. Circle Goals and Policies most important to you
3. Break into small groups and discuss and try to reach consensus.
4. Take no more than 20 minutes; appointed Group Discussion Leader will share your important goals and policies
## Vision 2030 Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parish-wide Kickoff</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round 1 Community Sessions</td>
<td>Summer 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round 2 Community Sessions</td>
<td>Spring 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish-wide Draft Plan Review</td>
<td>Summer/Fall 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Commission Adoption</td>
<td>Late Fall 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Council Acceptance</td>
<td>Winter 2012</td>
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4. PLANNING EFFORT
2nd Round of Community Meetings

- Bayou Black Gym – Tonight
- Montegut Gym – March 1
- Dularge Gym – March 6
- Schriever Gym – March 8
- Municipal Auditorium – March 13
- East Houma Gym – March 15
- Chauvin Gym – March 20
- Grand Caillou Gym – March 22

All Meetings begin at 6:00pm.
Staying Informed

- Steering Committee Meetings
  - Next meeting is April 10, 2012
- Planning Commission Meetings
- Parish Council Meetings
- Parish Website [www.tpcg.org/vision2030](http://www.tpcg.org/vision2030)
- Email Updates
- Facebook
- Media:
  - HTV’s Bayou Time Program (viewer call-in)
  - Letters to Editor in response to newspaper coverage
- Phone Reminders
Questions
THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.
PLEASE STAY INVOLVED TO MOVE TERREBONNE FORWARD!

masterplan@tpcg.org

www.tpcg.org/vision2030

Vision 2030: Terrebonne Parish

7. WAYS TO STAY INFORMED/INVOLVED