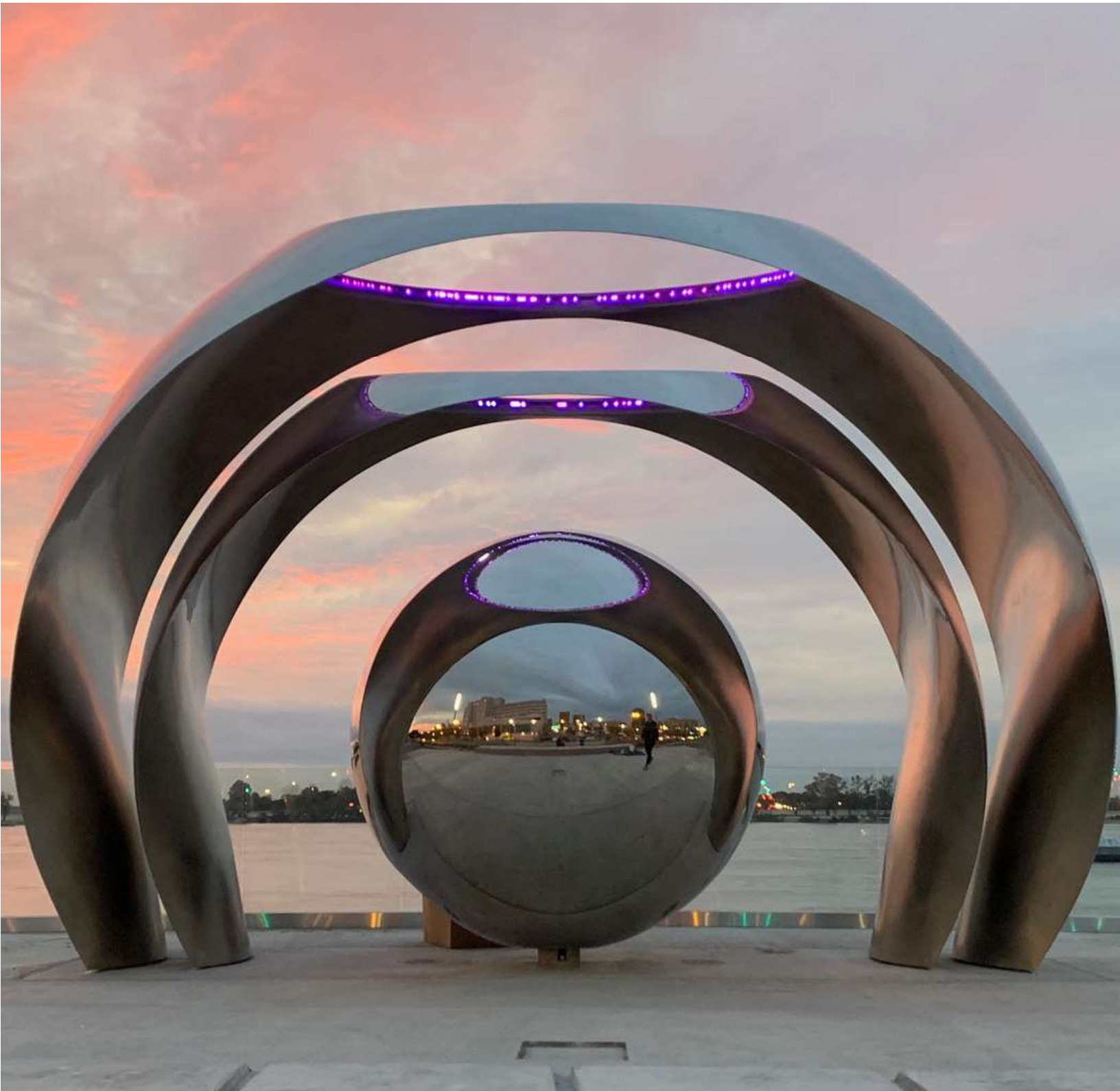


**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF BATON ROUGE / PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE**



**CITY OF BATON ROUGE**  
**PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**



*Photo Credit: Downtown Development District*

**CITY-PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**MAYOR-PRESIDENT**

Sharon Weston Broome

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

LaMont Cole, Mayor Pro Tempore

Denise Amoroso

Chauna Banks

Cleve Dunn Jr.

Jennifer Racca

Erika L. Green

Dwight Hudson

Rowdy Gaudet

Aaron Moak

Brandon Noel

Carolyn Coleman

Laurie Adams

**PLANNING COMMISSIONERS**

Rossie Washington, Jr., Chair

Clifford Grout, Vice-Chair

Ulysses Addison

Andy Allen

Chauna Banks

Jayne C. Ellender

Kelvin Hill

April Hawthorne

Todd Sterling



# Mission and Goals

The mission of the East Baton Rouge Parish Planning Commission is to be a driving force supporting the development and implementation of the comprehensive plan, providing guidance for growth, development, and restoration, while recognizing the importance of maintaining healthy, diversified neighborhoods, encouraging increased access to economic opportunity, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents of East Baton Rouge Parish.

## 2021 Goals

- Apply policies consistently through decision making and actions.
- Treat all applications and individuals fairly and objectively.
- Provide planning services that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Promote the education, awareness and involvement of the citizens in the planning process.
- Guide growth and development to encourage economic vitality and employment opportunities throughout the community without negatively impacting infrastructure, the environment or public services.
- Provide professional development and training for Planning Commission members and staff.



## Office of the Planning Commission

City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge  
Post Office Box 1471, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821  
or  
1100 Laurel Street, Suite 104, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Phone (225) 389-3144 Fax (225) 389-5342

Ryan L. Holcomb, AICP  
Planning Director

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, members of the Metropolitan Council, and residents of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish:

On behalf of the Planning Commission, I am pleased to provide you with this report on the activities of the Planning Commission during the 2021 calendar year. This has been a busy year for the Planning Commission as we have continued to grapple with issues affecting the quality of life in Baton Rouge.

One area critical to enhancing our quality of life is implementing our comprehensive plan, *FUTUREBR*. This document establishes the vision of Baton Rouge twenty years into the future, establishing the framework of our development regulations and guiding other policy decisions. *FUTUREBR* is an evolving document which requires periodic updating. While 2021 was a productive year, we realize work is still needed to achieve our goals. We will begin updating the plan in 2022 and hope to finalize the 5-year update of *FUTUREBR* in 2023.

The Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association recognized the City-Parish at its 2021 conference for the Government Street road project, incorporating complete street elements with an emphasis on improving safety. In addition, the League of American Bicyclists has recently honored the efforts of Baton Rouge to build better places for people to bike with a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community award. Baton Rouge joins a select group of communities across the country in the movement for safer streets and better bicycling for everyone. The award recognizes our commitment to creating transportation and recreational resources that benefit its residents of all ages and abilities while encouraging healthier and more sustainable transportation choices.

We continued work on updating and revising sections of the Unified Development Code. The most notable changes were the adoption of a series of new street cross-sections designed to further implement the Complete Streets Policy and incorporate green infrastructure. Changes were also made to Chapter 15 to strengthen the City-Parish's stormwater regulations and help reduce the risk of flooding.

While updating plans, revising ordinances and processing development applications is an important aspect of our work, we also engaged in several other initiatives designed to improve the quality of life in East Baton Rouge Parish. These notably included launching a Neighborhood Registry online mapping tool. We worked with the Department of Information Services and the Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Associations to create a neighborhood registry interface for improved public outreach. Staff coordinated a working group to draft regulations governing short-term rentals. The group met throughout the year and will be bringing recommendations to the Planning Commission and Metropolitan Council in 2022.

I want to thank my staff for working together as a team in 2021 to accomplish our goals. As Planning Director, I look forward to working collaboratively with the Planning Commission, the development community, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Holcomb".

Ryan Holcomb, AICP  
Planning Director

## Planning Commission



Rossie Washington, Jr.  
Chair



Clifford Grout  
Vice-Chair



Ulysses Addison

Baton Rouge created its City Planning Commission in 1941 under the provisions of State Act No. 204, written in 1926, and Section 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. In 1949, the City of Baton Rouge combined with the Parish of East Baton Rouge to become one of the United States' first consolidated city and parish governing units; hence the name City-Parish Planning Commission.



Andy Allen



Chauna Banks  
Metro Council  
Representative



Jayme C. Ellender

The legislated role of the Planning Commission is "to make and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the municipality and promote public interest in and understanding of a plan." With this charge, The Commission coordinates the implementation and update of the Comprehensive Plan and also develops zoning and subdivision regulations.



Kelvin Hill  
Mayor-President  
Representative



April Hawthorne



Todd L. Sterling

The Planning Commission makes recommendations to the Metropolitan Council regarding ordinances, regulations and land use requirements, applying its knowledge and experience to the planning and zoning matters they consider at monthly public hearings.



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Ryan L. Holcomb, AICP  
Planning Director

January 18, 2021

The Honorable Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome, members of the Metropolitan Council, and residents of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish:

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is a seven-member committee established to aid in the preservation and protection of buildings, sites, monuments, structures and areas of historic interest or importance through their designation as historic landmarks or districts. I am providing this annual report on our activities and accomplishments for the year 2021.

This year was the busiest year ever for Local Historic Landmarks, with three new designations. The HPC is proud to announce New Ark Baptist Church, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, and the Louisiana Old Governor's Mansion as Baton Rouge's newest Local Historic Landmarks. These are the parish's first churches and third residence to be designated. They also nearly double the number of designated Local Historic Landmarks in Baton Rouge, to a total of seven.

The Historic Preservation Commission continued to hold meetings while complying with health experts' safety recommendations. We continued to implement the Planning Commission's popular online public comment form, which was introduced in 2020. We moved the majority of our meetings to the Department of Public Works conference room, which had a larger capacity. This allowed the Historic Preservation Commission to become one of the first commissions to resume in-person meetings.

The HPC reviewed 18 Certificates of Appropriateness applications for alterations to the exterior of structures visible from the street in our Local Historic Districts. The HPC also reviewed two demolition applications, three Local Historic Landmark designations, and one Local Historic District application, for a total of 25 cases. This is the most cases the HPC has ever reviewed.

We continue to observe Historic Preservation Month, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, during the month of May.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve East Baton Rouge Parish. As members of the HPC, we will continue to promote historic preservation in 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Whitney Hoffman-Sayal".

Whitney Hoffman-Sayal AICP, Chair  
Historic Preservation Commission

## Committees

### Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was established by the Metropolitan Council in 2004. It is considered a part of the planning functions of City-Parish Government, and is administered by the staff of the Office of the Planning Commission.

In 2021, the HPC processed 27 applications which included Certificates of Appropriateness in Spanish Town and Drehr Place, demolitions within the downtown character area, a local historic district application, and three local historic landmark designations throughout the parish. This is the most applications the HPC has processed since its founding in 2004.

### Local Historic Landmarks

In 2021, Baton Rouge added three local historic landmarks: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, New Ark Baptist Church, and the Old Governor's Mansion. This nearly doubled the amount of local historic landmarks throughout the parish. Combined, these landmarks average about 90 years in age. These are also the first churches to be designated as local historic landmarks, as well as the third former residence to be designated. The Planning Commission is proud to advocate the importance of preservation in the parish, and the public will be able to enjoy these landmarks for many years to come.



*Immaculate Conception Catholic Church*



*New Ark Baptist Church*



*2021 HPC Members (from top): Vice Chair Byron Washington, Nedra Haines, Markeda Cottonham  
Front row: Uyuho Eduok, Chair Whitney Hoffman Sayal, Sara Brignac, and Amy Fransen*



*Louisiana Old Governor's Mansion*





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Ryan L. Holcomb, AICP  
Planning Director

December 1, 2021

The Honorable Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome, members of the Metropolitan Council, and citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish:

The Complete Streets Citizens' Advisory Committee (CSCAC) is a 17-member committee created by the Metropolitan Council to represent a variety of groups with an interest in accommodating all users of the transportation network in Baton Rouge. As outlined in our adopted ordinance, I am providing this annual report on our activities and accomplishments for the year 2021, most of which focused on implementation of the Parish's Pedestrian and Bicycle Masterplan.

At the start of 2021, the CSCAC created a subcommittee to review the progress of the priority projects outlined in the East Baton Rouge Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The subcommittee reported that progress has been made on more than half of the initial 30 plus projects, and two projects were completed. In order to facilitate small deviations from the plan, the committee worked with various agencies to create a streamlined process to accommodate minor changes in a route. These minor changes may be approved without modifying the entire plan.

In order to relay information to the Baton Rouge Community, several webpages dedicated to complete streets were added to the City-Parish website and at the request of the committee, includes a public comment form that can be submitted electronically. This form of community input will continue even as we hold in-person meetings again.

An application to the League of American Bicyclist to recognize Baton Rouge as a Bicycle Friendly Community has been submitted, with many of our committee members providing data and letters of support from their organizations.

The CSCAC has also received presentations from our transportation partners, including Capital Area Transit System on their job connection and economic impact on the community. The Department of Transportation and Drainage worked with us to show how MoveBR will integrate with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The committee worked with Council Member Laurie Adams and the Parish Attorney offering recommendations about multi-modal issues that became apparent during the COVID-19 shut down. The committee also worked with Council Member Carolyn Coleman to update the City-Parish ordinances related to bicycling.

Our focus moving forward will be to continue to educate, advocate and support all modes of transportation for all ages and abilities in our community and to follow the Complete Street Ordinance by reviewing and recommending City/Parish policy as it relates to transportation. Thank you for the opportunity to serve East Baton Rouge Parish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Whitney Hoffman Sayal".

Whitney Hoffman Sayal, AICP, Chair  
Complete Streets Citizens' Advisory Committee

## Committees Continued

### Complete Streets Citizen's Advisory Committee



*CSCAC Members: Back Row: Rex Cabaniss, Vice Chair Mark Martin, Center Row: Eric Dexter, Chair Whitney Hoffman Sayal, Ed Lagucki, Front Row: Candace Temple, Rachel Diresto, Jeanne George and Dennis Mitchell. Not Pictured: Vance Baldwin, Peter Breaux, Councilmember Carolyn Coleman, Stephen Kaufman, Jessica Kemp and Laurence Lambert.*

## Policy Implementation

Complete streets are designed for consideration for users of all ages and physical ability and they allow for multiple modes of transportation. Since 2014, the Parish has had a policy in place to begin implementing these concepts into the transportation network.

The League of American Bicyclists has recently honored the efforts of Baton Rouge to build better places for people to bike with a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) award. Baton Rouge joins a select group of communities across the country in the movement for safer streets and better bicycling for everyone. The award recognizes our commitment to creating transportation and recreational resources that benefit its residents of all ages and abilities while encouraging healthier and more sustainable transportation choices.

Progress has been made in these seven years to have elements of complete streets throughout the Parish. With massive infrastructure projects such as MovEBR, Bus Rapid Transit and the Baton Rouge Lakes plan taking hold in the next several years, having a solid complete streets policy in place will prove to be valuable. This is the third year that complete streets metrics have been collected and these are included on the next pages.

## Recognition

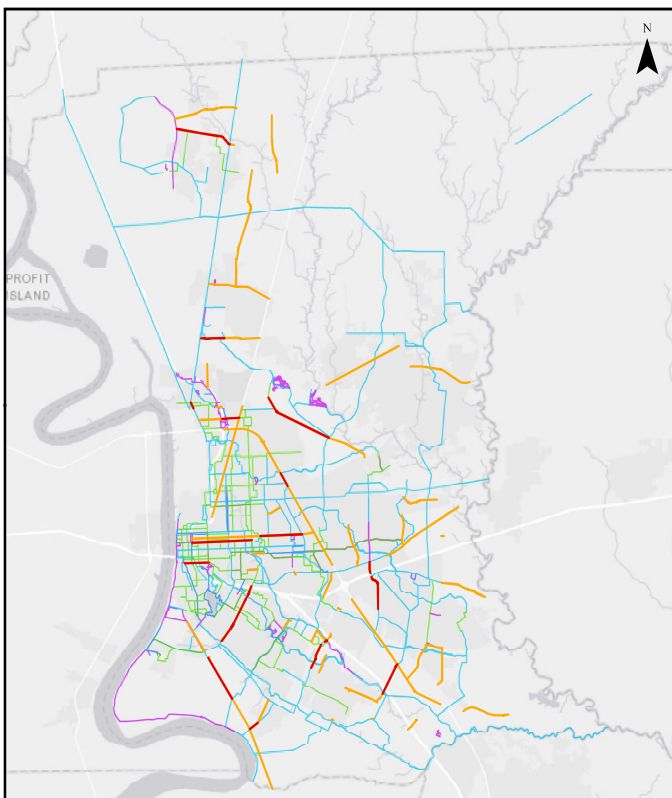
In 2021, planning staff submitted a "Great Streets" nomination to the State Planning awards ceremony. Government Street was selected by Louisiana Planning Association and will move on to the national planning award competition.



*Representatives of the Planning Commission, Mayor's Office, and Complete Streets Advisory Committee accept the "Great Streets" nomination.*

| Goal: Improve Mobility                                      | 2019  | 2020  | 2021 | Source        |
|---|-------|-------|------|---------------|
| Increase miles of bicycle lanes                             | 14.7  | 15.3  | 27.6 | IS, DTD, BREC |
| Increase miles of multi-use paths                           | 11.23 | 17.93 | 44.6 |               |
| Increase miles of sidewalks                                 | 998   | 1833  | 1904 |               |
| Goal: Safety  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021 | Source        |
| Decrease bicycle and pedestrian serious injuries            | 76    | 41    | 24   | IS            |
| Decrease bicycle and pedestrian fatalities                  | 39    | 23    | 23   | LSU           |
| Increase protected railroad crossings and preserve existing | 207   | 207   | 218  | IS            |

**BIKE & PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES**  
EBR Master Plan and MovEBR



**Legend**

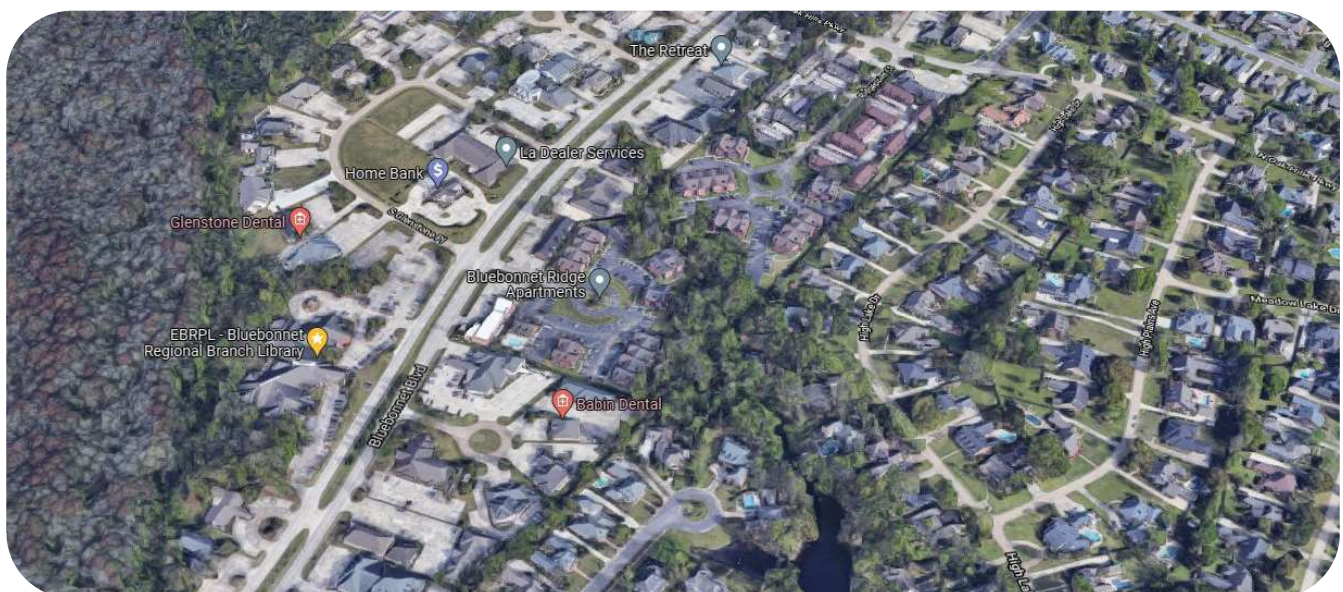
- Planned EBR Master Plan Facilities Addressed by MovEBR Projects
- MovEBR Projects
- Planned "On-Road" Facilities for EBR Master Plan
- Planned "Off-Road" Facilities for EBR Master Plan
- Existing Facilities



*Government Street Road improvements now accommodate bicyclists and make the road safer for all users*



| Goal: Access to Education and Employment  | 2019  | 2020                                | 2021                                | Source  |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Increase on-time transit performance  | 65% on time   | 69% on time                         | 79% on time                         | CATS    |
| Increase availability of first mile/last mile connections                       | Gotcha bike share launched; Uber/Lyft launched in 2014/2016 | Electronic scooter ordinance passed | CATS Microtransit Launched in Baker | CRPC/PC |
| Goal: Provide Safe Routes for Children  | 2019  | 2020                                | 2021                                | Source  |
| Increase percentage of pedestrian facilities within 1 mile of schools           | 73%   | 98%                                 | 98%                                 | IS      |
| Increase percentage of pedestrian facilities within 1 mile of community centers | 66%   | 66%                                 | 84%                                 |         |
| Increase percentage of bicycle facilities within 2 miles of schools             | 77%   | 93%                                 | 92%                                 |         |
| Increase percentage of bicycle facilities within 2 miles of community centers   | 66%   | 66%                                 | 66%                                 |         |



*Bluebonnet Library is near businesses, apartments, and housing, but there is no easy way to bike or walk there. This portion of Bluebonnet Boulevard lacks sidewalks, crosswalks, and safe bicycle infrastructure.*

# PLANNING

## Awards, Conferences, and Recognition

### Awards

In 2021, planning staff submitted a “Great Streets” nomination to the State Planning awards ceremony. Government Street was selected by Louisiana Planning Association and will move on to the national planning award competition.

Baton Rouge was also certified as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists at the bronze level. Only two communities in Louisiana have achieved this prestigious recognition.

### Planning Director’s Award

Every year, the Planning Director selects one member of staff whose contributions over the prior twelve months have contributed significantly to the success of the Planning Commission’s work.

In 2021, Long Range Planning Manager Maggie Gleason was selected as the Planning Commission Employee of the Year. Maggie’s primary responsibilities include the implementation of FUTUREBR, coordination of our economic development programs, including brownfields, working with the Complete Streets Citizens Advisory Committee, and Historic Preservation. She received her AICP certification in 2020 and is active with local and state American Planning Association (APA) organizations. She also is president of the Louisiana Brownfield Association. We are lucky to have her as a member of the team.



*Long Range Planning Manager Maggie Gleason accepts the Planning Director's Award from Planning Director Ryan Holcomb.*

### Interns

University students who are currently enrolled in programs such as architecture, landscape architecture, geography, urban planning and related fields can be considered for the intern program. The program provides an opportunity for students to apply their studies to advance the work plan of the Planning Commission and gain valuable experience. Camille is a third-year political science and economics student at LSU, where she is pursuing a minor in religious studies. Gabriel is a fourth-year political science, mathematics, and economics student at LSU. Camille and Gabriel worked in the Long Range Division, assisting with the Historic Preservation Commission, City-Parish Brownfield Program, and economic development work, along with other routine duties assigned to that division.

### Employee of the Month

Employee of the Month is a recognition given by the Planning Director and Assistant Director to recognize employees for their work.

- January -- Mashanka Taylor
- February -- Collin Lindrew
- March -- Blanca Tejera
- April -- Donnicha London
- May -- Meaghan Nguyen
- June -- Jasmine Thomas
- July -- Esbii Ogholoh
- August -- Glenn Hanna
- September -- Mashanka Taylor
- October -- Maggie Gleason
- November -- Annette Chambliss
- December -- Vance Baldwin

### Conferences

Staff participated in the following conferences in 2021:

- American Society of Landscape Architects (virtual)
- APA National Conference (virtual)
- National Forum on Historic Preservation Policy (virtual)
- Downtown Destination Conference (Starksville)
- APA Louisiana Conference (Lafayette)
- CPEX Smart Growth Summit

## *Project Specific Committees*

### **Short Term Rentals**

On October 23, 2019, the Metro Council passed Resolution #54552 requesting the Planning Commission work with the Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Associations and the Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors to study potential regulations governing short term rentals. The study group met in 2020 but stopped meeting because of the pandemic. A smaller group reconvened in early 2021 to continue its efforts. A timeline was created with the approximate expectation to send a draft ordinance to the Planning Commission and Metro Council in early 2022.

### **Bike and Pedestrian Safety Coalition**

The City of Baton Rouge has been deemed by the Federal Highway Administration as a focus city due to the high number of fatal bike and pedestrian crashes. Assistant Planning Director Gilles Morin continued to serve on the Bike and Pedestrian Safety Team in 2021. The team met to develop strategies to combat these statistics including improved infrastructure; marketing campaigns to educate all users on pedestrian and bicycle laws; improved crash data reporting; offering design and education on workshops; and using a Complete Streets approach to design.

### **Capital Region Pedestrian and Bicycle Steering Committee**

Assistant Planning Director Gilles Morin and Long Range Manager Maggie Gleason participated in the creation of the five-parish regional bike and pedestrian plan. The Capital Region Bike and Pedestrian Plan will include East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Ascension, Iberville and Livingston Parishes.

### **Street Renaming/Honorary Advisory Committee**

Planning Project Coordinator Vance Baldwin, began serving as an advisory member to the Street Renaming Committee in 2021. The committee was established as part of the Mayor's Commission on Racial Equity and Inclusion (COREI) in a community-wide effort to achieve racial equity in the City-Parish. The committee is tasked with identifying a list of existing streets that could be renamed; a list of proposed street names for honoring individuals; and a process to facilitate public feedback on the proposed changes.

### **Broadband**

Long Range Manager Maggie Gleason and Senior Planner Jasmine Thomas participated in a multi-stakeholder Technical Assistance Panel with the Urban Land Institute's Curtis Infrastructure Initiative. This panel addressed the digital divide that is apparent in Plank Road and brought specialized professionals to understand and make recommendations on bridging this gap.

### **Louisiana Community Forestry Advisory Committee**

Staff Planner Donnicha London, served on the review committee to review and fund projects for communities with urban forestry plans.

### **Flood Prevention**

Planning Director Ryan Holcomb serves on the Parish Stormwater Master Plan Committee. The committee identifies best practices and code changes that will decrease flood risk. The committee recommended changes that were adopted in June 2021. The changes consisted of new street cross sections to incorporate green infrastructure and complete streets. Changes to Chapter 15 were also adopted to provide greater protection from flooding. Planning staff also participated in a group created by Council Member Rowdy Gaudet to adopt heightened restrictions for proposed projects within the special flood hazard area.

## Public Outreach

Planning staff has been working with EBRGIS and the Federation to modernize the neighborhood registry so that it is web based. It was launched in 2021 with the purpose of promoting neighborhood preservation and community input. There are over 400 groups currently registered.

## Community Planning

Nationally, the importance of planning is recognized every October with National Community Planning Month.

Numerous community meetings were attended around the parish by planning staff in 2021 to discuss a variety of topics from master planning to neighborhood concerns regarding developments. These include:

Planning staff also presented before the following groups:

- Louisiana State University: Real Estate Class
- Beauregard Town : Local Historic District
- Louisiana Planning Association: Brownfields
- The Federation of Civic Association: Short Term Rentals, Neighborhood Registry



*Mayor-President Broome, with members of the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Complete Streets Citizen's Advisory Committee proclaim October as Community Planning Month*



*Director Ryan Holcomb and Assistant Director Gilles Morin present to LSU's Real Estate Finance Class.*

## Technology

### Enterprise GIS Team

Planning staff participates in the Parish's Enterprise GIS Team. The team is coordinated by Information Services and continues to develop improved methods to use EBRGIS to organize data and improve applications to better serve the public.

### Data Governance Committee

Planning Staff participates in the Parish's Enterprise Data Governance Committee. The committee focuses on inventorying and publishing data, working collectively to identify challenges or opportunities related to using shared data. Assistant Planning Director Gilles Morin is the staff representative from the Planning Office.

### Cybersecurity

As attempts increase by hackers to damage, destroy, or steal sensitive information from a computer network or system, the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and Department of Information Services are actively working to stay "Red Stick Ready" when it comes to protecting against potential cyber threats, and it's important that employees adopt the same mentality. Information Services continues to provide guidance to keep systems safe. Assistant Planning Director Gilles Morin is the staff representative from the Planning Office. He attended the 2021 Cyber Symposium hosted by the City of Baton Rouge. All City-Parish employees are required to continue annual training and education.

## ***Resource Center***

The Resource Center provides a planning professional who is available during all office hours to assist members of the public with the planning process, and to answer general questions about planning regulations and procedures. Requests are responded to by telephone, face to face, by mail, or by email. This helps to improve customer service by increasing accessibility to the planning staff, expediting the application process, providing numerous professional services, and disseminating information.

The Resource Center assisted 2958 people from the public through November 2021. The majority of the questions are centered on the Unified Development Code and specific requirements of development.

## ***Professional Development and Public Engagement***

### **Education**

The following staff hold professional certifications which require upkeep of continuing education units:

- Ryan Holcomb - American Institute of Certified Planners
- Gilles Morin - American Institute of Certified Planners, Certified Floodplain Manager
- Vance Baldwin - Professional Landscape Architect, Certified Floodplain Manager
- Maggie Trenary Gleason - American Institute of Certified Planners
- Blanca Azucena Tejera - Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council

Staff members were able to take advantage of several opportunities for professional development and education during regular webinars screened during lunch hours. Topics for these webinars included Understanding Heights and Vertical Datums, Introduction to LIDAR, Urban Land Institute, Short Term Rentals, Brownfield Redevelopment, Land Value Capture, Pedestrian Safety on Arterial Streets, Reducing Urban Heat, and FEMA Risk Rating

### **Boards and Organizations**

Assistant Planning Director Gilles Morin serves on the Board of Directors for the Mid City Redevelopment Alliance (MCRA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the growth and renewal of the Mid City region.

Planning Project Coordinator Vance Baldwin serves on the Complete Streets Citizen's Advisory Committee, which reviews and makes recommendations on policy concerning multi-mode transportation in the City-Parish.

Long Range Planner Collin Lindrew serves as Assistant Director to the Capital Section of American Planning Association's Louisiana Chapter. The Louisiana APA chapter's mission is to promote the practice of community and regional planning in Louisiana by enhancing the effectiveness of planners in impacting public policy.

Long Range Manager Maggie Gleason serves as Board President of the Louisiana Brownfields Association, whose mission is to promote brownfield redevelopment and revitalization through community outreach and education.

Assistant Planning Director Gilles Morin serves on the Baton Rouge Area Chamber's Quality of Place Committee, which focuses on the attractiveness of the built and natural environment, with unique features and destinations, which add value to life, work and play, and the economic opportunities those create. This work includes improving maintenance and code enforcement, sustainable development and blight elimination. The committee identified the Unified Development Code one of four priority areas considered essential to the enhancement of the City-Parish's quality of place and attractiveness for new businesses. The committee made this a priority in 2021.



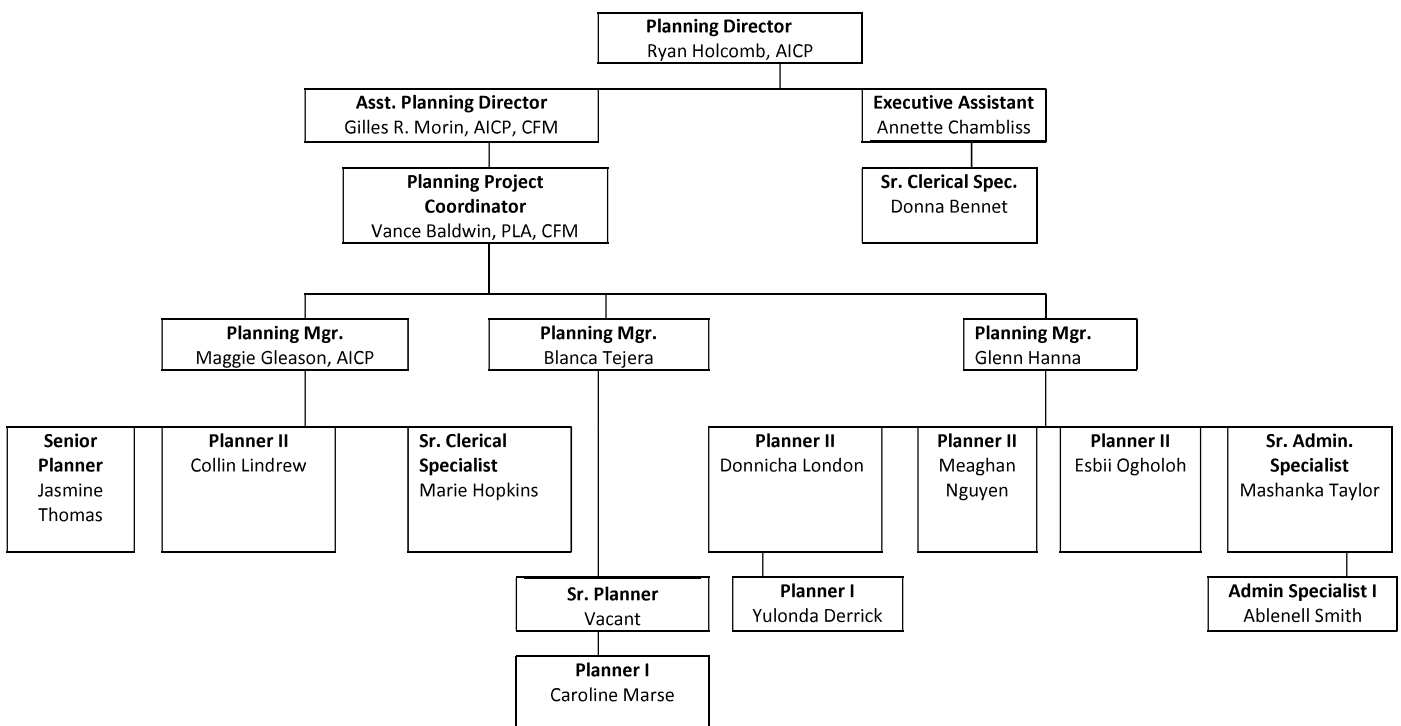
**Administration**

The Administration Division of the Planning Commission oversees the duties of the Planning Commission, including the day-to-day management of the department and all personnel. This division is responsible for developing the department budget, developing and coordinating work programs, processing all Unified Development Code amendments and processing payroll. This division also works closely with other City-Parish department heads, agencies, and organizations to develop and monitor projects, and represents the Planning Commission before the public at various meetings including Metropolitan Council. Additionally, the administration regularly provides informational updates on multiple projects to various groups, including the Greater Baton Rouge Federation of Civic Associations, neighborhood groups, the Board of Realtors and the Growth Coalition.



*From Left: Ryan Holcomb, Gilles Morin, Annette Chambliss, Donna Bennett and Vance Baldwin*

Planning Commission Organization-2021



## Amendments to the Unified Development Code

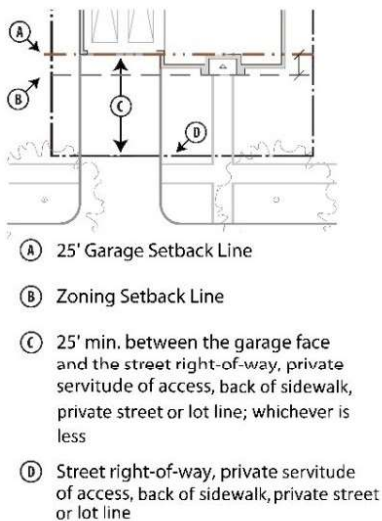
The following is a list of amendments to the Unified Development Code approved by the Metropolitan Council in 2021 on the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Chapter 16 (Signs) revises to clarify dimensional standards by adding graphics, establish time period for temporary signs, and address licensing issue.

Appendix J (Street Cross Sections) adds new street cross sections in an effort to incorporate green infrastructure and complete streets.

Chapter 15 (Floodways, Floodplains, Drainage and Water Quality) revises the floodplain ordinance to provide greater protection from flooding.

Chapter 11 (Dimensional Regulations), Chapter 17 (Parking and Loading), and Chapter 19 (Definitions) to create improved regulations for front loaded garages.



*Additional setback requirements for front loaded garages will assist in keeping sidewalks clear from parked vehicles.*

## Reasonable Accommodation

The Federal Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful for localities to make a dwelling unavailable to a person because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or disability. A violation of this federal law occurs by showing that a policy or practice of a local government has a disparate impact on a protected class. Prohibited discrimination includes failure to make reasonable accommodation in rules and policies when such is necessary to afford a protected person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling. The Fair Housing Act defines “handicap” (the Americans With Disabilities Act uses the term “disability”) to include recovering substance abuse patients, meaning that the City-Parish must allow homes serving the needs of people with disabilities in all zoning districts that permit single family homes through the granting of a Reasonable Accommodation.

In 2021, the Planning Commission processed 8 of these requests. Six were approved, and one was denied, because the request exceeded what could be considered reasonable. It was determined that another request was not a protected class.

## Long Range Planning Division

The Long Range Planning Division is responsible for the coordination and implementation of FUTUREBR, the 20-year comprehensive land use and development plan for the City and Parish. The primary function of this Division is to focus on long-range, comprehensive planning for the City-Parish. The Long Range Planning Division also administers the Brownfields Program, Enterprise Zone Program and Restoration Tax Abatement Program along with staffing the Historic Preservation Commission and the Complete Streets Committees.

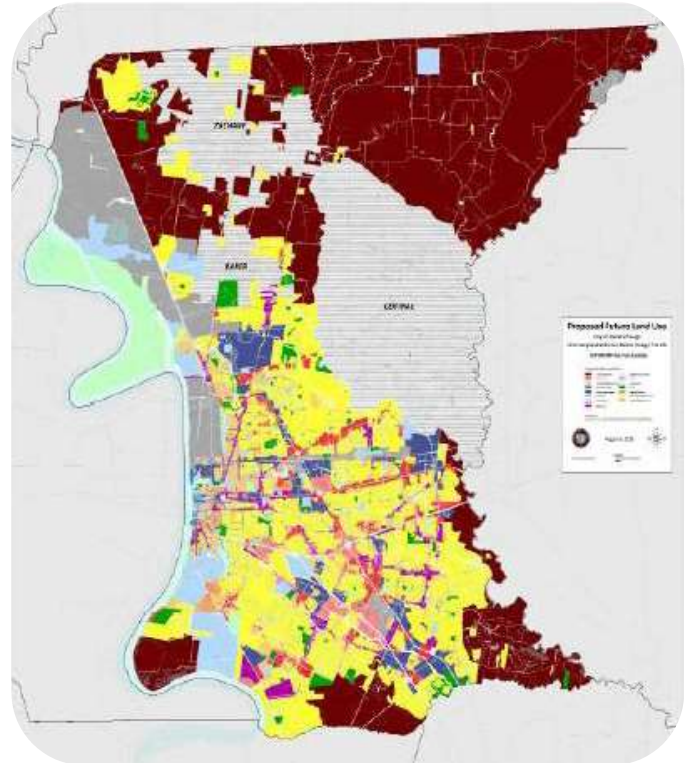
### FUTUREBR

FUTUREBR was adopted in 2011, and the first update was approved by the Planning Commission and Metropolitan Council in 2018. FUTUREBR serves as a guide for development within the Parish. Processes for amendments and updates to the plan were developed so alterations in growth patterns can be accommodated. Conditions change over time and require review at a greater detail for the plan to remain relevant. In 2021, staff processed 20 plan amendments.

### Enterprise Zone

The Baton Rouge Enterprise Zone (EZ) program encourages the creation of permanent new jobs in geographically targeted areas of the parish. The EZ program offers local sales tax rebate on construction materials and equipment purchases to new or expanding businesses.

In 2021, the Long Range Division received ten Advance Notifications from Louisiana Economic Development (LED). Currently, there are three active application undergoing review. In early 2021, the Metropolitan Council approved three projects, with a total of 5 million total estimated investment and 21 new jobs created.



*Louisiana Fish Fry, a local spice manufacturer, expanded their operations on Plank Road, created 5 new jobs and invested \$1.5 million in the local economy.*



*Back Row: Maggie Trenary Gleason and Marie Hopkins  
Front row: Jasmine Thomas and Collin Lindrew*

## Restoration Tax Abatement

The Restoration Tax Abatement (RTA) is a state incentive that provides up to a ten year abatement of local property taxes on renovations and improvements of existing commercial buildings and owner-occupied residences. This incentive is available to all businesses and homeowners in qualifying locations such as Economic Development Districts, Downtown Development District, Opportunity Zones, Historic Districts or those listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Long Range Planning Division processes RTA applications submitted to LED by preparing a summary of the project and estimate of the amount of property taxes that would be abated. The summary is sent to the affected taxing authorities and the Metropolitan Council for their evaluation and approval.

In 2021, the Long Range Planning Division processed three advances, three new applications and three renewals. Chase South Tower, a former 21-story office building in Downtown, was approved for the RTA to be renovated, redeveloped and rehabilitated into mixed-use commercial tenant office space and luxury high rise apartments, which will add up 150 units to the central business district. The project will create seven new jobs and make a capital investment of \$46.7 million into upgrades of the structure.

## Brownfield Program

The Planning Commission received a twenty thousand dollar grant from LDEQ to continue environmental investigations on the Plank Road Corridor to further the implementation of Imagine Plank Road. In addition to the grant, staff applied for Targeted Brownfield Funds through EPA and the state to do Phase I and Phase II investigations on three sites in our targeted areas of Plank Road, Scotlandville, and Mid-City. Hotel Lincoln is currently applying to our Revolving Loan Fund for clean up of asbestos containing material and lead based paint.



*Rendering of the Chase Towers in downtown Baton Rouge. Chase Towers applied for both RTA tax abatements and EZ job creation incentives.*



*1930's building on Plank Road was once a filling station and unregulated auto repair. This site is identified as the "Food Hub" in Imagine Plank Road small area plan.*



*Rendering of the "Food Hub" on Plank Road showing the old Roppoloville building being adapted for reuse.*

## Site Plan and Plat Division

The Site Plan and Plat Division processes applications regarding the division of land and site plan review of large (30,000+ sf) developments. Divisions of property may include large subdivisions, small divisions of family land, or exchanges of property between adjoining property owners.

Site Plan review may include developments requiring substantial alterations to an existing building footprints or the planning of a project which may impact the surrounding property owners due to infrastructure improvements or projects within an overlay district.

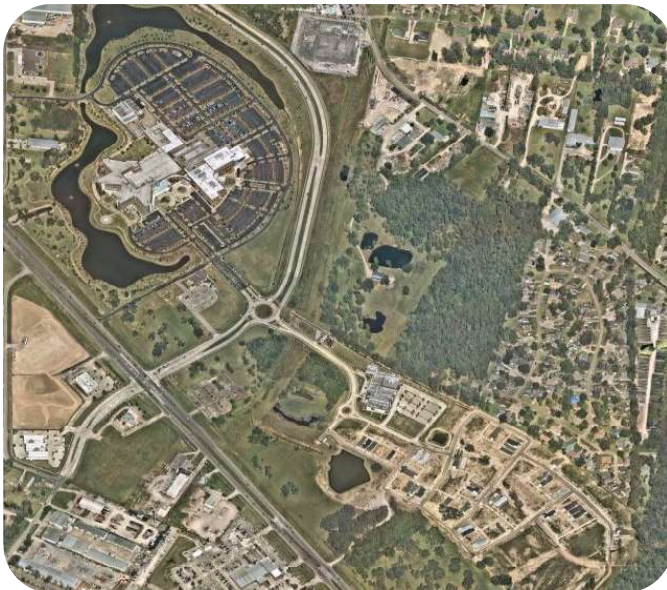
### Subdivisions

Subdivision activity includes the following:

- Division of a lot, tract, or parcel of land into two or more lots, plots, sites, or other units of land
- Dedication, granting, or construction of a road, highway, street, alley, or servitude through a tract of land regardless of area
- Exchange of property in which property lines are reconfigured, but no new lots are created
- Combination of smaller lots of record into larger tracts
- Development of a tract or site of five acres on which two or more multi-family buildings, office buildings, shops or store buildings, warehouses or other commercial or industrial buildings are to be developed
- Final plats for both zoning entitled and Planned Unit Developments



*Caroline Marse and Blanca Azucena Tejera*



*Materra, a new neighborhood under development near Women's Hospital, provides quality housing in close proximity to a major employment center. The development also includes a highly rated charter school within walking and biking distance.*

*In addition to the charter school, which is already open, and the single family housing being developed, Materra also has plans to build a commercial center and multifamily housing. All components of this mixed use neighborhood will be within walking and biking distance of one another.*



## Site Plan Review

The Site Plan Review process assures that all new major multi-family, commercial and industrial developments within the City-Parish have adequate drainage, parking facilities and space for vehicular circulation, as well as proper zoning. Staff. Site Plan Review applies to all high density projects such as:

- Multi-family projects of more than 75 units
- Commercial or industrial uses with a building(s) of more than 30,000 square feet, or an addition to an existing structure in which the increase in aggregate floor area is greater than twenty percent
- Any building that falls within an Urban Design Overlay District

Different procedures apply for projects with more than 100 multi-family units or offices, shops, stores or other commercial uses with a building or buildings containing more than 50,000 square feet. Projects of this magnitude are subject to Planning Commission approval. Additionally, expansions of multi-family structures that result in the cumulative number of units represents more than 20% of units previously approved may also require a public hearing approval.

Manufactured home parks and RV park site plans also go on to public hearings. Developers of properties that require Site Plan Review submit appropriate information to the Planning Commission and coordinating agencies for review.



*In 2021, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University began construction on the first building project in the university's history. The new St. Francis Hall will be a 75,000 square foot building containing modular spaces that can support educational activities and social events of varying size.*



*District 225 is a planned redevelopment of a blighted and vacant office building into a 150-unit apartment complex, with the addition of a new building containing 36 units. In total, the development will contain a fitness room, a co-working space, a game room, a dog park, and an outdoor pool.*

## Current Planning Division

The Current Planning Division regulates rezonings and reviews development proposals for consistency with the Unified Development Code. They are responsible for presenting the applications at public hearings before the Planning Commission and Metropolitan Council. They also provide professional assistance to the public for the development of land throughout East Baton Rouge Parish. The work includes processing the following:

- Rezonings
- Planned Unit Developments
- Traditional Neighborhood Developments
- Conditional Use Permits
- Letters of Interpretation



Back row: Glenn Hanna, Esbii Ogholoh, and Mashanka Taylor  
Front row: Meaghan Nguyen, Ablenell Smith, Donnicha London, and Yulonda Derrick

## Planned Developments

Planned developments (PUD) are a zoning with a site plan together that specify the uses and allow for the variation of conventional zoning requirements with regard to setbacks and lot dimensions. PUDs offer neighboring property owners details to the proposed development as well as the ability to comment at the public hearings. The Planning Commission Staff coordinates with various city departments such as Traffic and Drainage, Landscape, and Subdivision Engineering, in the review to ensure that each submittal complies with the Unified Development Code.

## Letters of Interpretation

Letters of interpretation and forms to provide verification of a property's current zoning are prepared by this division. These letters are often needed by the public for permitting, financial or insurance reasons. Every year, hundreds of these letters are issued.



Construction has begun on the Motor City Apartments, a 110-unit affordable housing development. The development will include a resident activity area, a fitness room, a community lounge, and a community kitchen.



The Lotus Village senior housing project will provide 116 aging in place units, along with a geriatric healthcare facility, an open-air market, a recreation therapy gym, and a walking path.

## 2021 Case Activity

| Application Type                   | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Administration</b>              |      |      |      |      |      |
| UDC Amendments                     | 18   | 13   | 22   | 8    | 4    |
| Reasonable Accommodations          | 9    | 22   | 9    | 15   | 8    |
|                                    |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Long Range Division</b>         |      |      |      |      |      |
| FUTUREBR Amendments                | 21   | 25   | 19   | 22   | 20   |
| Demolitions                        | 4    | 1    | 7    | 2    | 2    |
| COA - Public Hearing               | 9    | 5    | 7    | 3    | 11   |
| COA - Staff Level                  | 7    | 7    | 3    | 6    | 8    |
| National Landmark Designations     | 1    | 2    | 4    | 1    | 0    |
|                                    |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Current Division</b>            |      |      |      |      |      |
| Rezoning                           | 109  | 89   | 84   | 63   | 94   |
| Planned Unit Developments          | 73   | 80   | 76   | 58   | 62   |
| SPUDs                              | 5    | 13   | 6    | 11   | 7    |
| ISPUDs                             | 9    | 4    | 12   | 11   | 8    |
| TNDs                               | 0    | 6    | 18   | 19   | 13   |
| Conditional Use Permits            | 12   | 16   | 11   | 13   | 8    |
| Letters of Interpretation          | 257  | 209  | 198  | 244  | 313  |
|                                    |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>Site Plan and Plat Division</b> |      |      |      |      |      |
| Large Subdivisions                 | 11   | 12   | 14   | 12   | 15   |
| Small Subdivisions                 | 81   | 72   | 89   | 59   | 93   |
| Exchanges of Property              | 69   | 112  | 79   | 88   | 88   |
| Mobile Home Park                   | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| Revocations                        | 13   | 5    | 15   | 6    | 12   |
| Site Plans                         | 29   | 28   | 14   | 10   | 21   |
| Alternative Parking                | 0    | 0    | 0    | 4    | 2    |
| Sidewalk Waivers                   | 1    | 5    | 3    | 7    | 1    |
| Street Name Changes                | 4    | 2    | 1    | 4    | 1    |







# 2021 FUTUREBR PROGRESS REPORT

## ASSESSING OVERALL PROGRESS

**GREEN:** Moving forward - most activities are on track

**YELLOW:** Progress made - things are happening but some concerns

**RED:** Progress stopped - major issues or nothing happening



This report will also use the AARP Livability Index, a web-based tool developed by the AARP Public Policy Institute to measure community livability on an scale of 0-100, with higher scores representing greater livability. This score uses 40 metrics and 20 policies across seven categories: housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, civic engagement, and opportunity.

### **AARP Livability Score**

*Baton Rouge, LA*

**53**

## FUTUREBR CORE VALUES FROM THE VISION

This vision was developed by a diverse group of residents and stakeholders that provided input through workshops, open houses, interviews, focus groups and survey discussions. Respondents consistently cited the following core values and aspirations they believed should be the foundation for building a vision for East Baton Rouge Parish.

**Prosperity:** All residents have access to a thriving economy with job opportunities in growing diverse businesses.

**Equity:** All residents have access to a good education, public services, housing and job opportunities.

**Diversity:** The City is known for embracing diversity and acceptance of other cultures, ethnicities and groups.

**Safety:** People feel safe where they live, work and play.

**Strong Neighborhoods and Communities:** Neighborhoods in all areas of the City-Parish are desirable places to live and have a range of housing types and nearby amenities to serve residents.

**Convenient Transportation:** There is a variety of choices for moving both people and goods, as well as improving existing ways to move throughout the parish.

**Healthy Environment:** Natural resources are protected and conserved to provide active and passive recreational opportunities for current and future residents.

**Sustainability:** The future reflects the creativity and resiliency of East Baton Rouge Parish's residents and offers a sustainable place for citizens to thrive- with a focus on building a future based on fiscal, physical, environmental economic and equitable sustainability.

# 2021 REVIEW: ELEMENT BY ELEMENT

FUTUREBR proposes an ambitious blueprint for the future of Baton Rouge – how the Parish will look, function, and feel in the coming decades. This report can provide an early warning if goals are not being met. It also can provide information about successes, and achieving the goals of the plan.

The Progress Report provides an analysis of action items used to implement the plan, considers any changed priorities, and outlines successes and lessons learned from preceding activities. Using parish-wide and local indicators such as annual building permits issued, miles of trails completed, and rent burden, the Progress Report measures implementation of the plan toward achieving the Vision.

This report can be used by the administration to define budgetary priorities, Capital Improvements Planning and overall work programs for the City-Parish Departments and the Lead Agencies that assist in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

FUTUREBR completed its first update in 2018, and this progress report reflects those changes.



*Citizens from around the parish participate in an open house roundtable*

**LAND USE GOALS**

1. Use the adopted Comprehensive Plan to guide development decisions.
2. Make land use decisions that contribute to the Vision and East Baton Rouge Parish’s economic vitality.
3. Build a community fabric of distinctive neighborhoods and diverse districts where Parish residents have access to local commercial areas, schools, libraries, parks and open space areas.
4. Maintain, stabilize and strengthen existing neighborhoods, making them places where new residents are attracted to live.
5. Promote development patterns that encourage connectivity and walkability.
6. Put procedures, processes and tools in place to effectively and equitably implement FUTUREBR.
7. Ensure that areas where new growth is occurring benefit from high quality sustainable development
8. Preserve and enhance environmental assets.
9. Establish a mechanism and process to monitor movement towards realizing the Vision.
10. Enhance community design character by upgrading components of the built environment.
11. Support a distinctive urban identity, enriched sense-of-place, and high quality of life.

Total Element Objectives – 28  
 Total Element Action Items – 50

**Principal Lead Agencies**  
**Planning Commission**  
**Office of the Mayor-President**

**Land Use**

The purpose of this element is to guide the physical growth of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, and provide the framework for the creation of land development regulations and policies.

**Indicators**

**Proportion of infill construction**

FUTUREBR anticipates the addition of roughly 48,000 new households and 135,000 new jobs in the Parish by 2030, and calls for ten percent of new growth to be infill and redevelopment. By analyzing new construction permits based on their location in the four character areas, the proportion of new growth that is infill can be determined by adding the percentages located in downtown and urban/walkable.

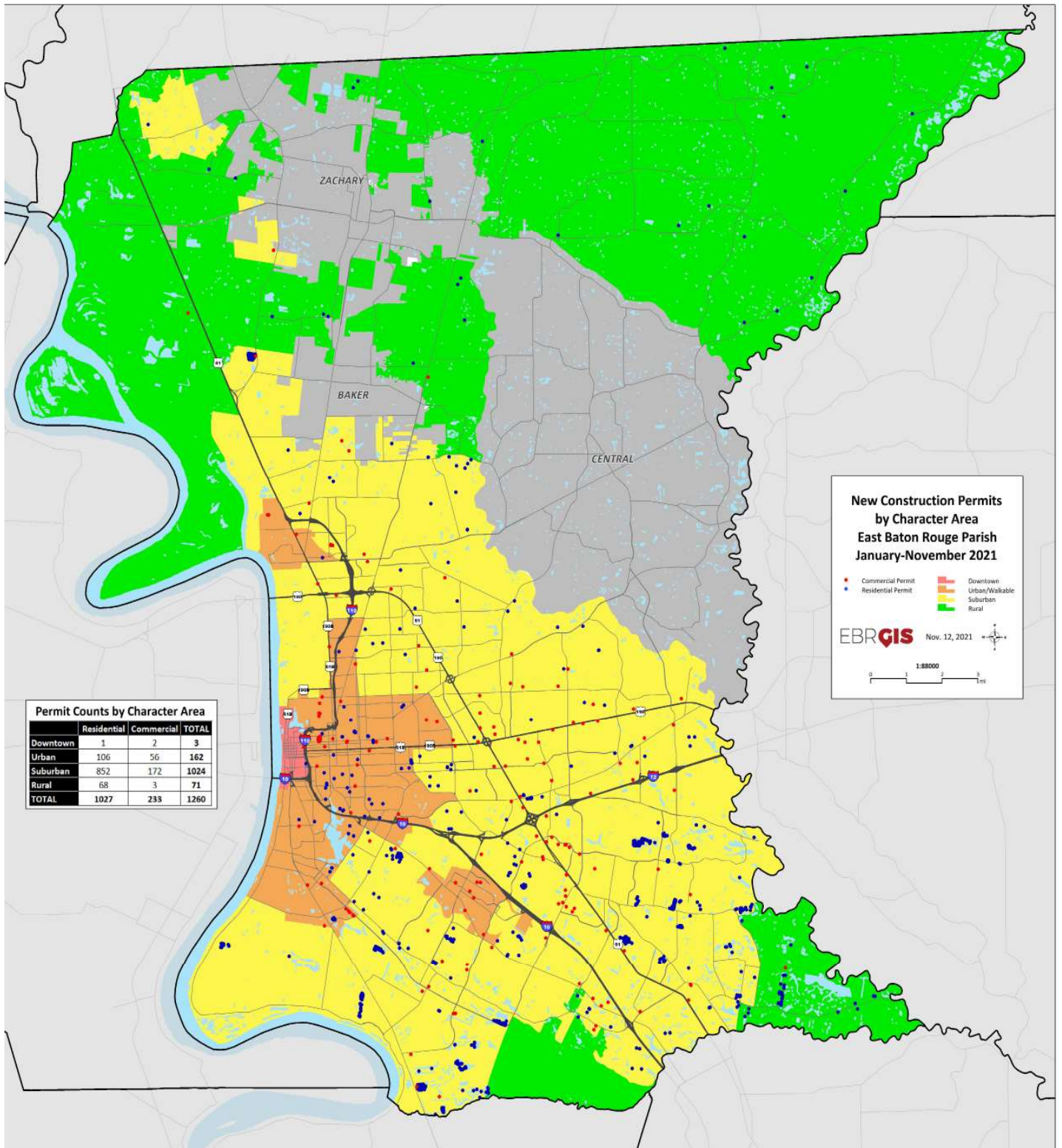
| <b>Infill New Development (Downtown + Urban Walkable)</b> |            |           |            |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|
|   | 2019       | 2020      | 2021       |
| Commercial permits  | 26%        | 34.5%     | 25%        |
| Residential permits                                       | 5.5%       | 6.1%      | 10.4%      |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>11%</b> | <b>9%</b> | <b>13%</b> |

In 2021, thirteen percent of new development occurred in the Downtown and Urban/Walkable character areas, which exceeds the FUTUREBR infill goal and is the highest level since this data has been tracked, beginning in 2014. The map on the next page shows the breakdown of new developments based on their location in the character areas. The majority of new residential and commercial construction occurred in the Suburban areas.



BUILDING 'A' & 'C' - FRONT & REAR SIDE ELEVATION  
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

*Rendering of a new, infill multifamily community called Capstone at Scotlandville in North Baton Rouge*



|              | Residential | Commercial | TOTAL       |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Downtown     | 1           | 2          | 3           |
| Urban        | 106         | 56         | 162         |
| Suburban     | 852         | 172        | 1024        |
| Rural        | 68          | 3          | 71          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>1027</b> | <b>233</b> | <b>1260</b> |

**New Construction Permits  
by Character Area  
East Baton Rouge Parish  
January-November 2021**

- Commercial Permit
- Residential Permit
- Downtown
- Urban/Walkable
- Suburban
- Rural

**EBR GIS** Nov. 12, 2021

1:88000

**LAND USE GOALS**

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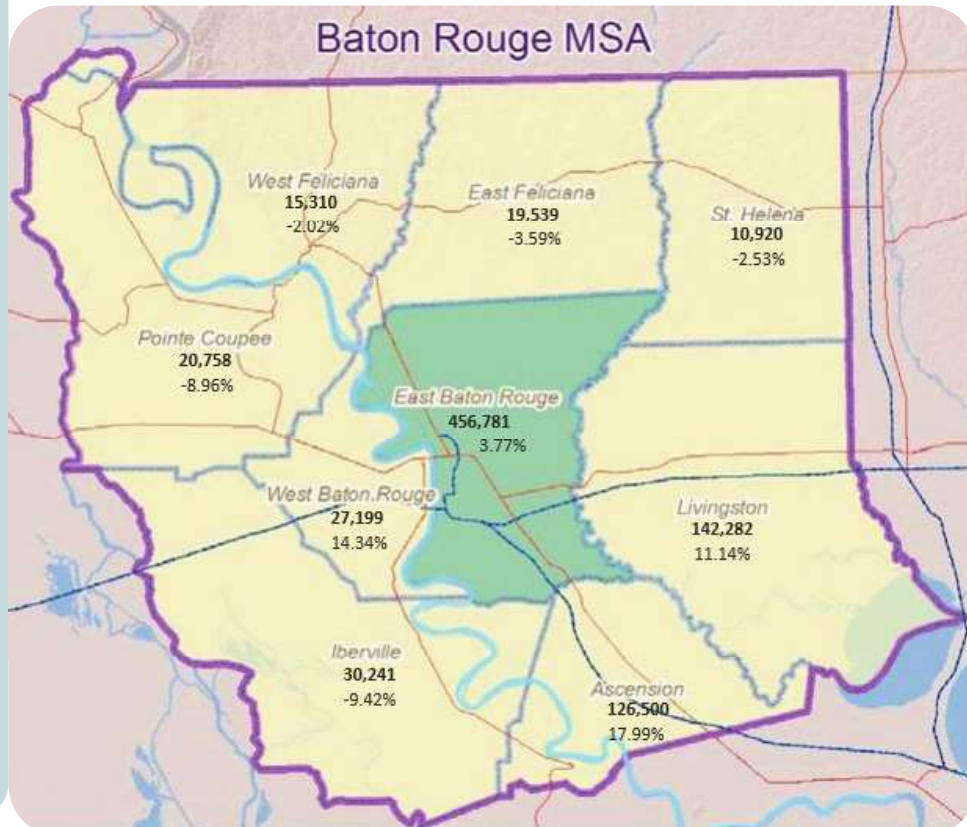
**Principal Lead Agencies**  
**Planning Commission**  
**Office of the Mayor-President**

**Greater Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area**

The general concept of a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is that of a core area, in this case the City of Baton Rouge, containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. The metropolitan statistical area (MSA) includes eight other parishes: Ascension, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Point Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

When FUTUREBR was adopted in 2011, East Baton Rouge's share of region-wide population was 55 percent. FUTUREBR projects the Parish will retain its proportional share of the region's population. After several years of slight declines, 2020 census data shows East Baton Rouge Parish with a population of 456,781 and the region's population at 849,530. Even though the population share decreased from 55% to 53.7%, East Baton Rouge is still the most populated parish. The Baton Rouge MSA map below has the 2020 census populations and their percent changes from the 2010 census. Ascension Parish saw the largest population gain of 19,285, followed by East Baton Rouge with 16,610. All of the rural parishes in the MSA (West and East Feliciana, St Helena, Point Coupee and Iberville) saw their populations decline.

Source: US Census



## Accomplishments

### Transportation and Land Use

Beginning in 2021, Planning Commission staff reports will analyze and link transportation initiatives with development applications. Every application, from a rezoning to a large scale subdivision will be overlaid with the transportation map to include:

- The major street plan
- MovEBR
- CATS bus routes and bus stops
- Existing and proposed bicycle routes
- EBR Ped/Bike Master Plan initiatives

### Small Area Plans

Small Area Planning is a partnership between the City-Parish and the area's stakeholders – residents, businesses, institutions, and other government entities. The advantage of the Small Area Plan is that it engages community involvement to produce focused recommendations, ideas, and desires for one area with a goal of making the process more predictable and efficient.

### Digital City Award

Each year, the Center for Digital Government—a national research and advisory institute on IT policies and best practices in government—conducts the Digital Cities Survey to highlight digital city rankings. In 2021, Baton Rouge once again placed in the top tier of digital cities. Thanks to our Information Services department, Baton Rouge is designated seventh out of 266 cities with a special recognition on data gathering for:

- Stormwater
- Transportation
- COVID 19
- Open Data for budget

*Source: The Center for Digital Government*



### MOVING FORWARD

#### Key Accomplishments

**Small Area Plans**

**Transportation and Land Use linkage**

**Digital City Award**



### COMMUNITY DESIGN AND NEIGHBORHOODS GOALS

- 1. Enhance community character by upgrading components of the built environment.
- 2. Support a distinctive community identity; enriched sense of place, and high quality of life.
- 3. Promote development patterns that encourage connectivity and pedestrian orientation.

Total Element Objectives – 13

Total Element Action Items – 39

#### Principal Lead Agencies

Office of the Mayor-President  
 Planning Commission  
 Build Baton Rouge  
 Department of Development



New Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge headquarters



### Community Design and Neighborhoods

The purpose of this element is to guide new development and encourage reinvestment in existing neighborhoods so that strong interconnected neighborhoods and districts are created and enhanced which are healthy, walkable and comfortable. It includes descriptions that Baton Rouge can use to increase connectivity and walkability and includes policy goals which should be implemented through zoning. The Urban Design and Neighborhood Element supplements the Land Use and the Transportation elements with recommendations for form, character, and functionality.

### Indicator

#### Walk Score

One metric used to measure the walkability of a city is the proprietary Walk Score indicator produced by [walkscore.com](http://walkscore.com). The Walk Score measures walkability on a scale of 0 - 100, based on walking routes to destinations such as grocery stores, schools, parks, restaurants and retail. In 2021, Baton Rouge was given a Walk Score of 41, unchanged from 2020. Businesses in Baton Rouge did take steps in late 2020 and 2021 that could improve the city’s walk score for 2022. One of the biggest changes was the large increase in sidewalk and outdoor dining. This livens up the streetscape, and when paired with other traffic-calming measures, could make a real difference in Baton Rouge’s walkability.

Source: [www.walkscore.com](http://www.walkscore.com)

### Accomplishments

#### Public Art

The Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge opened their new headquarters to the public in September 2021 in the historic Triangle Building. The refurbished 12,000 square foot building contains an arts education center, an open art gallery, a recording studio, a black box theatre, and a rooftop terrace. Additional work outside of the building aims to realign the sightline from St. Ferdinand Street and make the surrounding area more pedestrian friendly. Work is also being done to make the building and sidewalk more ADA-accessible.

**Walls Project**

Launched in 2012, the Walls Project has transformed 128 building facades into works of art to be enjoyed by the public. The nonprofit has also generated over \$3 million in income for local creative professionals. The Walls Project also started the Baton Roots community farm in 2019. Now spanning multiple farms throughout the parish, the initiative yields hundreds of thousands of pounds of fresh food for food deserts in Baton Rouge. Both the Walls Project and the Baton Roots initiative offer opportunities for students to learn skills in art, coding, and agriculture.



*"Planting Seeds for Economic Equality" by the Walls Project*

**Operation Fresh Start**

In February 2018, Mayor Broome kicked off Operation Fresh Start, a parish-wide cleanup effort. On specified Saturday mornings, volunteers pick up litter and beautify targeted areas. Following cleanup on Saturday, DPW workers concentrate their efforts for the week to clean up litter and causes of blight in the area. In 2021, Operation Fresh Start has cleaned up areas in Baker, Downtown, Eden Park, Gardere, Mid City, Scotlandville, and O’Neal Lane. Since its start in 2018, Operation Fresh Start has resulted in the following:

- Disposal of over 1,065 tons of garbage and debris
- Removal of 9,376 illegally dumped tires
- Removal of nearly 3,800 bags of litter
- 125 street signs replaced
- Over 275 potholes filled
- Removal of over 34,000 pounds of broken concrete
- Removal of over 3,100 illegally placed signs
- Removal of over 2,687 illegally placed signs



**MOVING FORWARD**

**Key Accomplishments**

- Arts Council Headquarters
- Baton Roots
- Operation Fresh Start



*One of the Baton Roots community gardens*



*Residents clean up litter in Eden Park  
Source: The Advocate*

**TRANSPORTATION GOALS**

1. Establish a road network with improved and acceptable local and regional traffic congestion levels.
2. Establish and support the development of connectivity throughout the transportation system.
3. Implement complete street policies and design concepts.
4. Develop a modern, choice-rider transit system.
5. Enhance the bicycle and pedestrian network throughout the Parish.
6. Improve coordination between agencies to improve communication and transportation results.
7. Reduce vehicular emissions.

Total Element Objectives – 17

Total Element Action Items – 48

**Principal Lead Agencies**

**Department of Transportation and Drainage  
Mayor’s Office**

**Transportation**

This purpose of this element is to ensure a sustainable transportation network through connectivity, efficiency and flexibility which supports Baton Rouge’s livability, sustainability, and overall economic growth. Transportation must be directly tied to land use.

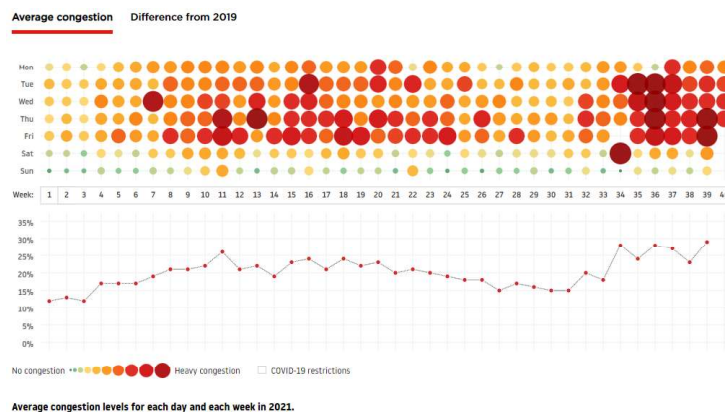
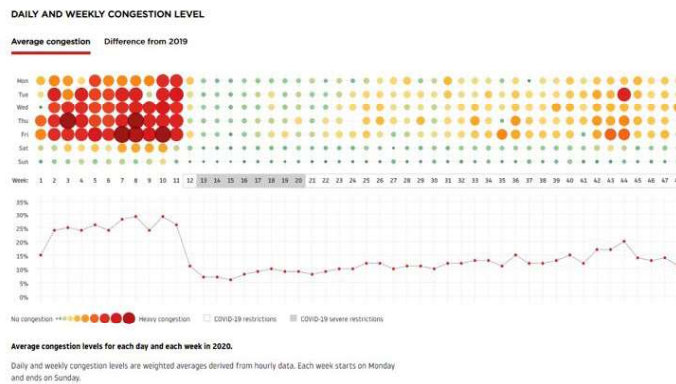
**Indicators**

**Mean Travel Time to Work**

This indicator measures the average time the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish spend traveling to work. At 27.2 minutes, workers in East Baton Rouge Parish have a slightly longer average commute time than the state (26.9 minutes) and similar to the national average (27.1 minutes).

**Congestion**

Baton Rouge street congestion is another indicator of transportation conditions. The charts below compare the average congestion levels in Baton Rouge by weeks with the top chart showing 2020 light congestion levels beginning in week 12 due to Covid-19 shutdowns with many people working from home and students doing virtual learning. The bottom chart shows 2021 congestion levels picking up as more places begin to open up and students return to in-person learning.



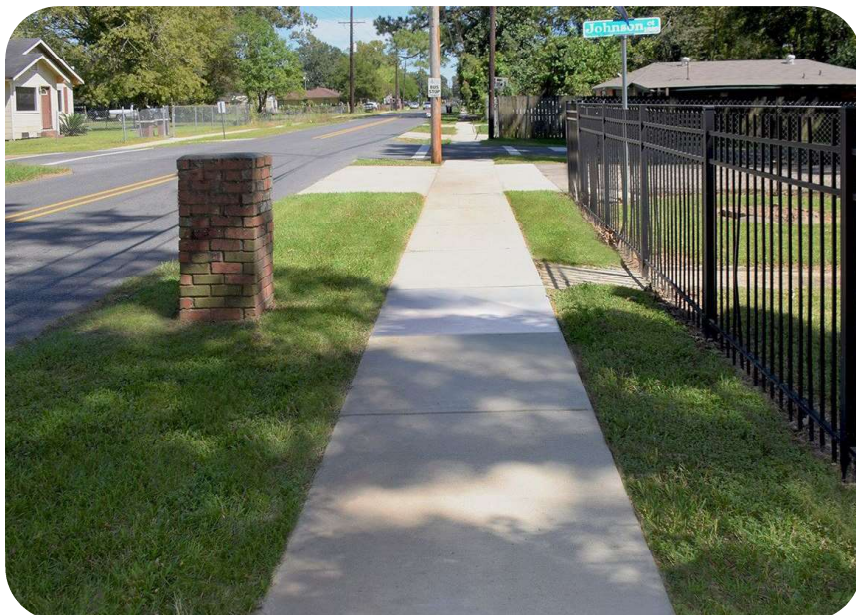
## Accomplishments

### Completion of Government Street Road Diet

After several years of construction, the Government Street Road Diet was completed this year. A redesign of the street now accommodates bicyclists on road. Other amenities include landscaped medians, street trees, ADA compliant sidewalks and a reduction of car lanes from four to three which include a turning lane. A new roundabout replaces the signalized intersection at Government Street, Lobdell Avenue and Independence Park Boulevard.

### Designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community

In 2021, Baton Rouge was awarded the Bronze Level from The League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly America program, a national, non-profit dedicated to advocacy. The League sets standard for how communities build and benchmark progress toward making biking better. While the award process considers very visible elements such as bike infrastructure, other essential elements include efforts around adult and youth bike education, encouragement through events like Bike to Work Day, evaluation mechanisms, and enforcement all through the lens of equity. The rigorous application process is an educational tool in itself, and includes an opportunity for local bicyclists and active transportation advocates to provide input on their experiences and perceptions of bicycling in their community.



Source: MovEBR New sidewalks on 72 Street connect Scenic Highway to I110



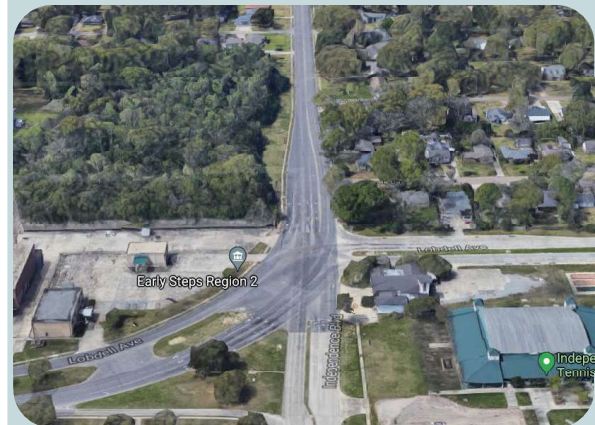
### MOVING FORWARD

#### Key Accomplishments

Government Street Road Diet

MovEBR Sidewalks

Bicycle Friendly Community Bronze Award



Before and after aerial photos of Government Street at Lobdell.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

1. Develop, cultivate and retain talent.
2. Support private sector business development.
3. Support employers in key geographic areas.
4. Connect education and training institutions with private and public sectors.

Total Element Objectives – 23

Total Element Action Items – 59

**Principal Lead Agencies**

- BRAC
- Downtown Development District
- Baton Rouge Area Chamber
- Health District



*Rendering of Amazon Fulfillment Center*

**Economic Development Element**

The purpose of this element is to provide an analysis of Baton Rouge’s economy, including long-term socioeconomic trends, an assessment of key industry clusters and an action plan that will guide Baton Rouge’s economic development efforts for future decades. Also included is a set of goals, setting the bar for the City-Parish economic development efforts. Much of the data and benchmarks which are included in this Progress Report come from the indicators and data gathered in the Economic Development Element.

**Indicators**

**Unemployment Rate:**

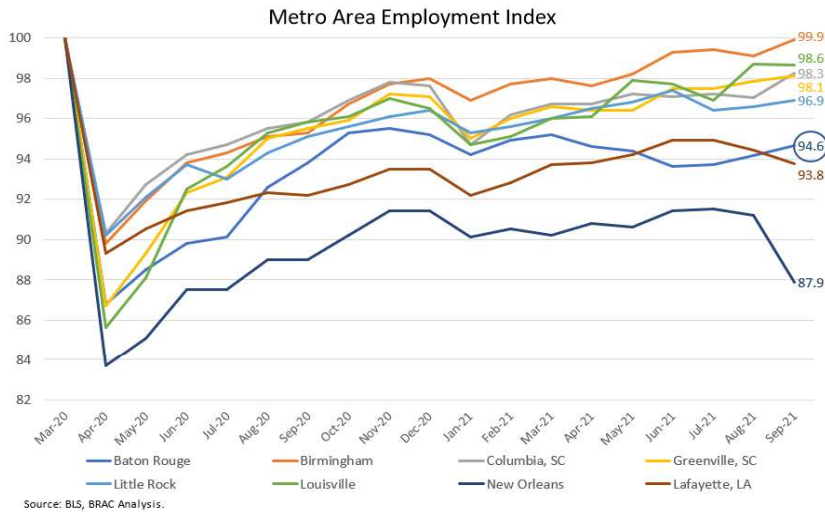
East Baton Rouge Parish’s unemployment rate follows national trends but has been higher than the national and state rate. The table below shows the unemployment rate for the U.S., state and parish from 2018-2020. 2020 was an unprecedented year with unusually high unemployment rates both locally and nationally. Since 2020, the state and the parish has seen a steady decrease in the unemployment rate. The Baton Rouge metropolitan statistical area (MSA) unemployment rate fell to 4.2% in September 2021 compared to 5 percent in August 2021. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of civilian labor force increased by about 3,000 people.

|                                | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>East Baton Rouge Parish</b> | 4.3% | 4.3% | 7.8% |
| <b>Baton Rouge MSA</b>         | 4.3% | 4.3% | 7.4% |
| <b>Louisiana</b>               | 4.8% | 4.7% | 8.3% |
| <b>U.S.</b>                    | 3.9% | 3.7% | 8.1% |

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics*

**Employment Index**

Below is a chart of Louisiana’s metro regions employment index. None of the eight metro areas tracked has exceeded pre-pandemic job levels at any point over the past 18 months. Although Louisiana’s largest metros lag in job recovery compared to out-of-state peer metros. Compared to peer regions, Baton Rouge saw the third highest percentage growth in its employment index during September 2021.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, BRAC Analysis

## Accomplishments

### Amazon

Amazon will open its second robotics fulfillment center in Louisiana at the Cortana Mall site in Baton Rouge. The 3.8 million square-foot fulfillment center will help revitalize the former Cortana Mall site and the surrounding area. The fulfillment center will bring \$200 million capital investment to the city of Baton Rouge and contribute 1,000 full time and 1,100 indirect jobs, bringing over 2,100 permanent jobs to Louisiana’s capital area. Louisiana Economic Development estimates that the project will generate nearly \$26 million in tax revenue and funnel \$2.9 billion back into the economy over the next 20 years. The fulfillment center is scheduled to open in December 2022.

### Rural Sourcing

Rural Sourcing will open a new development center in Downtown Baton Rouge. Rural Sourcing is a software development firm that provides a variety of digital engineering services and specializes in establishing operations and employing residents in middle-American cities. The company will create 150 direct new jobs with average salaries of \$75,000 plus benefits. These jobs will provide solutions to its technology-centric and Fortune 1000 clients. The Louisiana Economic Development estimates that the project will result in 166 new indirect jobs, totaling 316 new jobs in Louisiana’s Capital Region. Work is underway to begin hiring immediately.

**AARP Livability Score**  
**Opportunity Category**  
*Inclusion and possibilities*

**50**



## PROGRESS MADE

### Key Accomplishments

- Amazon coming to Cortana Mall
- Rural Sourcing coming to Downtown



New transit hub located at the Cortana Amazon

## HOUSING GOALS

1. Create a balanced housing supply.
2. Coordinate housing planning with the region.
3. Ensure that East Baton Rouge Parish’s existing neighborhoods are stable and strong.
4. Coordinate housing and economic development efforts.
5. Promote sustainable, energy-efficient housing in transportation-efficient neighborhoods.

Total Element Objectives – 10

Total Element Action Items – 45

### Principal Lead Agencies

Office of the Mayor-President  
Office of the Planning Commission  
Build Baton Rouge  
EBR Housing Authority



*Lotus Village senior housing development*

## Housing Element

The purpose of this element is to determine which housing types should be targeted to meet the needs of the City-Parish’s population. If East Baton Rouge Parish cultivates a balanced housing mix that builds on emerging market dynamics, it will have a major competitive economic advantage over its peer cities.

### Indicators

#### Mix of Housing Types

A goal of FUTUREBR is to encourage a balanced housing supply by supporting higher density in specified areas. The numbers below show an increasing percentage of dense development, such as condos and apartments, as well as a smaller percentage of single family housing.

|               | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| Single Family | 87%  | 54%  | 43%  |
| Townhouse     | 11%  | 7%   | 9%   |
| Condo/Apt     | 2%   | 39%  | 48%  |

#### Affordability of Housing

An increasing problematic trend in the United States is the percentage of “rent-burdened” or “rent-stressed” people. Someone who is rent-stressed devotes more than 30-35% of their annual income to rent. The percentage of rent-stressed renters in Louisiana is higher than the percentage nationally. In Louisiana, 44.6% of renters devote more than 35% of their income to rent. The average rate in the U.S. is 42%.

The percentage of rent-stressed households in Baton Rouge is 42%, and the percentage of households who are extremely rent-stressed (over 50% of income devoted to rent) is over 27%. The majority of extremely rent-stressed households in Baton Rouge are located in North Baton Rouge and Gardere. On average, Baton Rouge residents have to work 15 eight-hour days just to pay off their rent for the month.

### Transportation Burden

Housing costs have long been strongly associated with density, meaning the closer someone moves to the city center, the higher their housing costs will be. This means that people with lower incomes will typically only be able to buy or rent further outside of the city center. As planners, we must also consider how this dynamic affects transportation costs. Nationally, researchers have found that for every dollar a working family saves on housing, it spends 77 cents more on transportation (reconnectingamerica.org). This dynamic has become known as "transportation burden," and suggests a strong policy connection between housing and transportation. To help reduce the effects of transportation burden, more affordable units must be built in transportation-efficient locations and near employment centers.

### Accomplishment

#### Location of New Housing

An action item in FUTUREBR is to "encourage development in downtown Baton Rouge, the City's inner neighborhoods, and in transportation efficient locations across the City-Parish." The marker we set was for 10 percent of new housing each year to be located within the Urban/Walkable character area. In 2021, just over 10 percent of new housing was located within the Urban/Walkable character area. While this means we are meeting expectations in this metric, the overall results are mixed. Almost all other residential development in the Parish was located within the Suburban character area. We can work to even that disparity as FUTUREBR matures.



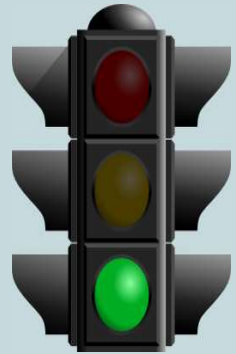
*New housing in Downtown promotes efficient living*

**AARP Livability Score**

**Housing Category**

*Affordability and access*

**54**



### MOVING FORWARD

#### Key Accomplishments

**Residential development Downtown**  
**Meeting housing goal in Urban/Walkable**  
**character area**



*200 Water Street provides quality apartments within walking distance of offices at the Water Campus*



## PARKS AND RECREATION GOALS

1. Increase quality of existing parks, access to parks and recreation facilities, and diversity of programs.
2. Improve and expand pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails to promote active recreation and to provide better connections to parks.
3. Expand the City-Parish’s nature parks while providing educational and recreational opportunities to Parish residents.

Total Element Objectives - 7

Total Element Action Items - 27

### Principal Lead Agencies

Office of the Mayor-President

## Parks and Recreation Element

The purpose of this element is to establish programs for land and natural resource conservation and management, to promote BREC’s priority actions. A high quality system of parks and recreation resources provides a multitude of community benefits: protecting our environment, preserving wildlife habitat, strengthening local economies, attracting new businesses, contributing to the local tax base, increasing property values, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

### Indicator

#### Park Amenities and Walkability to Parks

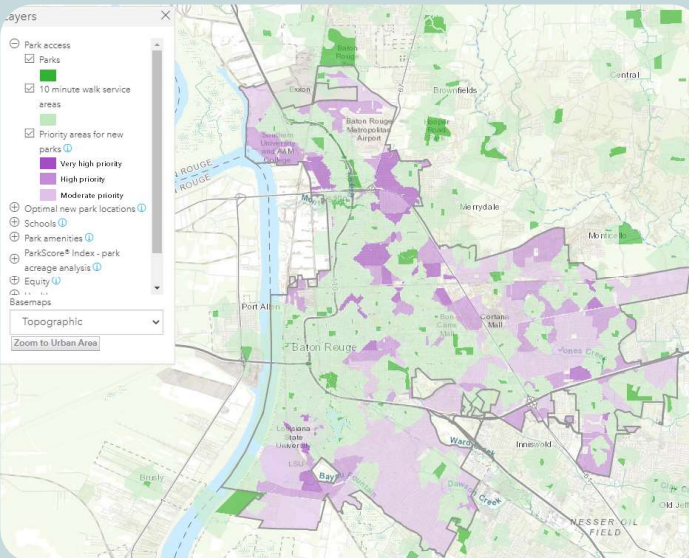
The City of Baton Rouge is ranked in the 91st percentile for the number of basketball hoops and ranked in the 100th percentile for the number of recreation and senior centers. Since last year, the city increased from 53% to 55% of residents who live within a 10 minute walk of a park, which is the same as the national average. Residents in neighborhoods of color have access to 26% more park space per person compared to the city median and 45% more compared to those in white neighborhoods. Fifty-nine percent of low income residents and 58 percent of children ages 0-19 live within ten minutes of a park.

Source: *The Trust for Public Land Park Score Index*

### Accomplishments

#### BREC Awarded the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LSPC) Energy Efficiency Project Award

BREC was recently awarded the Energy Efficiency Project Award from the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LSPC). The Energy Efficiency program funding will allow BREC to receive new ball field lighting that will provide enhanced lighting, contribute to energy savings, reduce maintenance and labor costs, and improve patrons experiences. Seven parks, including the Oak Villa Sports Park, have already been approved for new ball field lighting, totaling \$1.2 million. BREC and the LPSC estimates energy savings of about \$70,000 per year.



Map of Park Access

Source: *The Trust for Public Land Park Serve*



Oak Villa Sports Park

Source: BREC

**Litter Catcher in Bayou Fountain**

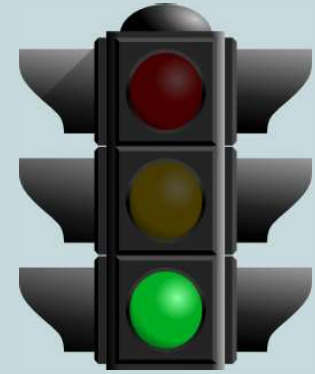
BREC, Louisiana Stormwater Coalition (LSC), Paddle BR and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF) have partnered up to install a boom to clean up litter that washes down the waterway when it rains. The 75-foot boom was donated by LSC and is designed as a litter catching tool to create a litter-free waterway for kayakers and canoers. A Bayou clean-up was held earlier this year to free up existing liter before the boom was installed. Maintenance of the boom will be conducted by the Osprey Initiative and on-going maintenance funds will be raised by the community.

**BREC Park Improvement- Airline Highway Park**

The Airline Highway Park Master plan was approved by BREC’s Commission on February 2021. Airline Highway Park, also known as the Baton Rouge Fairgrounds, is a 133.36 acre park along U.S. Highway 61 at the southern edge of the Parish. The planning process began in June 2020 and the park master plan includes a boathouse/nature center, an outdoor classroom, ball field concessions and a FEMA recreation center. The park master plan was initiated by BREC to upgrade Airline Highway Park to a Community Park, adding to BREC’s list of 12. Adding Airline Highway Park as a Community Park fills the gap of outdoor recreation service to residents on the southeast corner of the parish. Phase 1 of the plan is set to begin in April 2022.



*Airline Highway Community Park Master Plan  
Source: BREC*



**MOVING FORWARD**

**Key Accomplishments**

**BREC Awarded the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LSPC) Energy Efficiency Project Award**

**New litter boom in Bayou Fountain  
Airline Highway Master Plan approved**



*Volunteers pose in front of litter boom catcher  
Source: BREC*



*Rendering of recreation center and safe room  
Source: BREC*

## ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION GOALS

1. Preserve and enhance environmental assets.
2. Protect watersheds, wetlands, and floodplains.
3. Improve and protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater.
4. Preserve and restore the tree canopy.
5. Improve air quality to meet or exceed national ambient air quality standards.
6. Protect, preserve and enhance land resources and natural features.

Total Element Objectives - 16

Total Element Action Items - 63

### Principal Lead Agencies

Office of the Mayor-President

BREC

Baton Rouge Green



A male Indigo Bunting, which can be found in rural, wooded areas of East Baton Rouge Parish. Photo by Julie Torkomian, courtesy of audubon.org

## Environment and Conservation Element

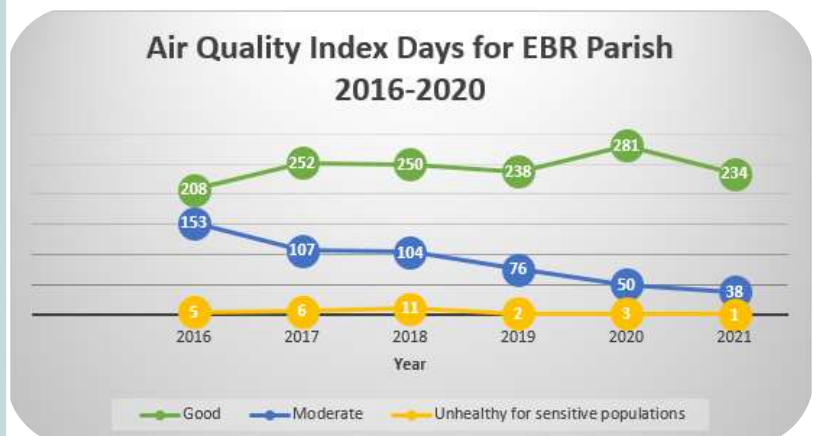
The purpose of this element is to provide recommendations that will protect and conserve the environmental assets of the City-Parish and to foster a green, active, ecologically diverse and economically sound community.

### Indicator

#### Air Quality Index

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) compiles an annual summary of Air Quality Index (AQI) values for geographic areas that center on an urban place and adjacent areas that are socioeconomically tied to it by commuting. AQI takes into account all of the air pollutants measured within. As stakeholders in Baton Rouge minimize air pollutant emissions from mobile and stationary sources, the AQI for the parish is steadily improving. The EPA has established five categories for daily AQI: *Good*, *Moderate*, *Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups*, *Unhealthy* and *Very Unhealthy*. The number of *Good* days steadily increased from 208 days in 2016 to 234 in 2021 and within the last five years, there were only three *Unhealthy* days for the Parish. The chart below shows the data for the parish. The number of *Good* days has decreased from 281 in 2020 to 234 in 2021. This could be due to the improvement in pandemic conditions, as activity began to return to normal. The number of *Good* days from this year is consistent with the number from 2019

Source: Environmental Protection Agency



Source: Environmental Protection Agency

## Accomplishments

### Urban Forestry

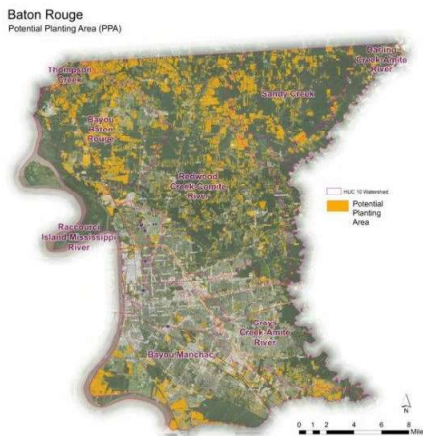
In 2016, the UDC was amended to allow credits to parking, landscaping, paving requirements and sidewalk locations for tree preservation. The result has been preservation of some very large, mature live oak trees in areas of the parish. Tree preservation, when done properly with best management practices, adds value to urban areas by:

- mitigating urban heat effects
- capturing and slowing stormwater
- shading and cooling up to 20 degrees
- requiring a superior level of design
- offering habitats for other species such as birds
- maintaining a high quality of life

### EBR Stormwater Calculator Tool

A stormwater calculator tool geared towards trees was developed for East Baton Rouge and released this year. Estimates for the amount of water a typical tree can intercept in its crown, range from 760 gallons to 4000 gallons per tree per year, depending on species and age.

Louisiana Community Forests (LCF) funded the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC) to map the land cover of Baton Rouge Parish and use the data in a watershed-scale calculator tool that can quantify the stormwater benefits of trees on the landscape. The map below was also created by GIC showing the large areas (in yellow) of the Parish that are available for planting trees.



### Potential Planting Areas (PPA)

Priority Areas

Available places to plant trees.

Some incompatible land uses excluded using available GIS data.

Agricultural land was not excluded.

Total PPA = 49,600 acres

AARP Livability Score  
Environment Category  
Clean air and water

56



MOVING FORWARD

**Key Accomplishments**  
Improved Air Quality  
Tree Canopy Research



*A live oak tree was properly preserved during construction*

## INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS

1. Collect wastewater and provide effective treatment in an efficient, reliable, sustainable and environmentally sound manner.
2. Reduce the impact of flooding.
3. Improve the drainage system to improve water quality.
4. Public buildings should be sustainably constructed, strategically located and comprehensively planned.

Total Element Objectives - 16

Total Element Action Items - 42

### Principal Lead Agencies

Mayor's Office

Building and Grounds

Environmental Services



*Planning and Public Works Building*



*Bike riding on the Downtown Greenway*

## Infrastructure

The purpose of this element is to provide an overview and assessment of the current City-Parish wastewater, drainage, drinking water and public buildings. The core values and aspirations of the Vision developed for FUTUREBR were used as the framework for developing recommendations for the City-Parish Infrastructure Element.

## Indicator

### Community Rating System

A goal of the Infrastructure Element is to “reduce the risk of flooding to existing and future structures.” A proxy for measuring the progress on this goal is the Parish’s score on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a voluntary program for National Flood Insurance Program participating communities; the score is based on the measures the community has implemented to provide protection from flooding with the lower number reflecting more activities implemented to reduce the risk of flooding. Communities with a 1 rating have the strongest floodplain management initiatives. In 2019, East Baton Rouge Parish was classified as a 7, among the best in Louisiana.

| Parish           | CRS Score |
|------------------|-----------|
| East Baton Rouge | 7         |
| Terrebonne       | 7         |
| Orleans          | 8         |
| Lafayette        | 8         |
| Ascension        | 8         |
| Livingston       | 10        |

## Accomplishments

### Sustainable Public Buildings

Public buildings are one component of the infrastructure element in FUTUREBR. A goal for public buildings is that they should be sustainably constructed. The City-Parish operates two buildings that are LEED Certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. The Main Library at Independence Park was certified LEED Silver in 2014. The Planning and Public Works building was awarded LEED Gold certification in 2016.

**Stormwater and Drainage Funding**

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome has secured \$20 million in funding to address drainage issues identified in the Stormwater Master Plan. The proposed improvements include storm drain clean-outs, channel clearing and grubbing, roadside ditch cleaning, lined canal panel repairs, and engineering/project management. The project follows the environment and conservation goal to protect watersheds, wetlands and floodplains. The widespread flooding event of 2016 has made drainage a top priority for the Mayor-President.



*City-Parish workers clean a storm drain on Jefferson Highway*

**Bayou Manchac Coordination**

In September 2021, East Baton Rouge City-Parish and Ascension Parish announced a proposal to work together to fix flooding around Bayou Manchac. The agreement included clearing the Bayou of obstructions, including trees that have fallen or are overhanging. The cooperation agreement is just one way the City-Parish is focusing on every possible avenue to improve drainage and remediate flooding.



*Bayou Manchac  
Source: The Advocate*



**MOVING FORWARD**

**Key Accomplishments**

- Two LEED-certified public buildings**
- \$20 million in drainage clearing**
- Fixing flooding around Bayou Manchac**



*Mississippi River at the levee*



*City-Parish workers clear a section of a canal  
Source: WAFB*

## PUBLIC SERVICES GOALS

1. Provide efficient, effective, and coordinated services to the public.
2. Enable persons to have healthy and satisfying lives in a comfortable and safe natural environment.
3. Support an educational system which consists of academically and financially strong and stable schools.
4. Increase the sustainability of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and enhance the long term viability of the Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Total Element Objectives - 18

Total Element Action Items - 62

### Principal Lead Agencies

*Office of the Mayor-President*

*MOHSEP*

*East Baton Rouge Parish School Board*

*East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office*



*The crisis observation unit at the Bridge Center for Hope*

## Public Services Element

The purpose of this element is to address long term coordination with local, state and federal agencies. Coordinating policies, procedures, and information between agencies prevents duplication of services and efforts thereby ensuring efficiency of customer service and improving citizen access to these services.

## Accomplishments

### Nextdoor

In recent years, more City-Parish departments and agencies have joined the popular neighborhood social media app Nextdoor to better communicate with residents. In 2021, the City-Parish Planning Commission created its own Nextdoor account. Staff have used the account to notify the public about surveys, post reminders about public meetings, and engage residents about other useful topics. Nextdoor has been an effective and helpful tool for staff to communicate to neighborhoods and residents they otherwise would not have been able to reach. We look forward to broadening our outreach and increasing our engagement in 2022.

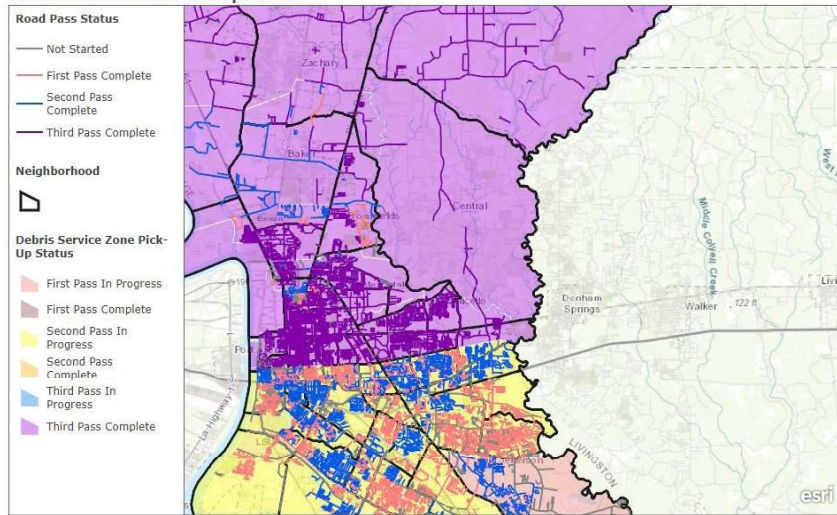
### Bridge Center

Since opening in February 2021, the Bridge Center for Hope has been a game-changer in how first responders deal with mental health crises and substance use calls in the parish. As of the most recent quarterly report, the Bridge Center has admitted 1,551 guests with a readmission rate of 10 percent. Approximately 594 guests sought mental health services, and 727 guests received treatment for substance use challenges. Notably, the average response time for first responder drop-offs was 3.57 minutes. This remains far lower than the projected average handle time of 5-7 minutes. The Bridge Center provides targeted care for mental health and substance use patients and frees up first responders to respond quickly in other parts of the parish.

### Hurricane Debris Pick-Up

Hurricane Ida affected most of southeast Louisiana, downing powerlines and leaving woody debris scattered throughout. The City-Parish has been working tirelessly to clean up woody debris, and much progress has been made. In keeping with a commitment to transparency, the City-Parish also launched an interactive map where residents can see how much progress has been made and where it's been made. Residents can see where first, second, and third passes have been made by cleanup crews.

Hurricane Ida Debris Pick-Up Status



### Real Time Crime Center

Opened in 2020, the Baton Rouge Police Department's Real Time Crime Center is a high-tech multimedia center within BRPD headquarters. The center provides real time data to police officers to help them pinpoint where crime is occurring as it is occurring. It also helps officers who are responding to crimes with background information as they are responding. This information can be crucial with catching criminals and preventing violence. Business owners and residents can register their security cameras with the department. This can give officers and analysts a quick understanding of where security cameras are in the area of a crime and whether they can help solve a crime.

**AARP Livability Score**  
**Engagement Category**  
 Civic and social engagement

# 81



### MOVING FORWARD

#### Key Accomplishments

- Nextdoor implementation
- Bridge Center
- Hurricane debris cleanup
- Real Time Crime Center

#### SEPARATING YOUR DEBRIS

Debris should be placed curbside, without blocking the roadway or storm drains. Separate into the categories shown below.

**NO PICKUP ZONE**  
Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up.

**DO NOT STACK OR LEAN**  
Piling debris near or on trees, poles, or other structures makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meters.

**UNSURE WHERE TO PLACE DEBRIS?**  
If you don't have a sidewalk, ditch, or utility line in front of your house, place debris at the edge of your property before the curb.

**HOUSEHOLD TRASH**  
Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will not be picked up with disaster debris. You should continue to follow your normal garbage removal schedule.

**VEGETATIVE DEBRIS**  
Leaves (bag & place at curb)  
Logs  
Plants  
Tree branches

**CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS**  
Drywall  
Lumber  
Building materials  
Fencing materials  
Plumbing  
Carpet  
Mattresses

**BR DES**  
Baton Rouge Department of Environmental Services  
For more information, contact the City-Parish Department of Environmental Services at (225) 385-5855  
The City of Baton Rouge

This helpful graphic is shown on the City-Parish website.



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Gilles Morin, AICP, CFM, Assistant Planning Director  
Vance Baldwin, PLA, CFM, Planning Project Coordinator  
Annette Chambliss, Executive Assistant  
Donna Bennett, Senior Clerical Specialist

Maggie Trenary Gleason, AICP, Long Range Planning Manager  
Jasmine Thomas (AICP Candidate), Senior Planner  
Collin Lindrew, Planner II  
Osa Marie Hopkins, Senior Clerical Specialist

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Donnicha London, Planner II  
Esbii Ogholoh, Planner II  
Meaghan Nguyen, Planner II  
Yulonda Derrick, Planner I  
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Ablenell Smith, Administrative Specialist

Blanca Azucena Tejera, ICC, Site Plan and Plats Manager  
Caroline Marse, Planner I

Others Involved in the Annual Report  
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Camille Norton, Intern

Special Thanks to Parish Attorney's Office  
Paolo Messina, Assistant City Prosecutor

**Coordinated by the Long Range Planning Division**