

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

A Resolution to Endorse Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan Priorities for 2008

October 11, 2007

OVERVIEW: A Resolution to endorse the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan priorities for 2008.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, approval of the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan by the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board in May of 2007 represented the first step in realizing a sustainable recovery and paving the way for a safer, stronger and smarter future;

Whereas, much remains to be done to move Louisiana toward the state we all envision it can be in the future; thus, the Louisiana Speaks team has identified ten priorities to pursue over the next year; and

Whereas, endorsement of the Louisiana Speaks team priorities for 2008 will represent the next step in realizing a sustainable recovery and will pave the way for a safer, stronger and smarter future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby endorse the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan priorities for 2008 as follows:

1. Establish an Office of State Planning and an Independent Louisiana Speaks Leadership Group.
2. Fund and build recovery-critical transportation infrastructure.
3. Create a Louisiana Location Index.
4. Create model development and zoning codes.
5. Use the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan to guide the Road Home Corporation.
6. Focus public investment into developed areas and centers and identify and clear obstacles to infill development.
7. Establish a state trust fund to revitalize communities.
8. Establish a state trust fund to acquire high-risk or environmentally sensitive land.
9. Locate and design schools and medical facilities to create better neighborhoods and spur community development.
10. Build greener.