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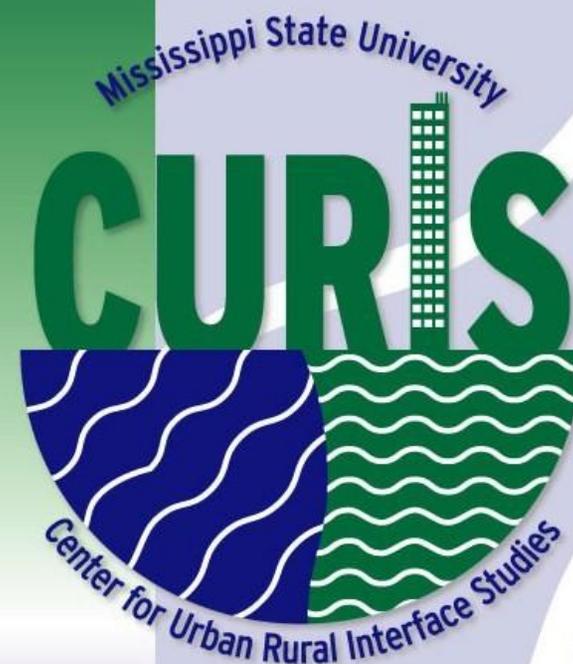
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**MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™**



...addressing growing needs

THE CENTER FOR URBAN RURAL INTERFACE STUDIES

Mission

To provide a clearinghouse for information regarding smart growth, sustainable development and socio-economic resources that will assist planning and policy decisions related to the improvement of quality of life in the Gulf Coastal region of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Introduction

Along I-10 corridor from Florida to Texas areas which once supported agriculture and silviculture are now being developed into residential communities with associated increases in population densities. Larger metropolitan areas within the region have had difficulty coping with the demands placed on infrastructure such as new roads, waste treatment facilities, public safety and schools. It will be nearly impossible for smaller rural communities which are strapped for resources to effectively plan for and meet the challenges of those sweeping demographic changes. Monies generated by impact fees and new tax revenues often come too late in the development process to ensure that wise and sustainable land-use decisions are implemented. The results are often school overcrowding, traffic congestion, pollution, loss of cultural identity, and dislocation of historical residents and landowners. Along with the increased pressure on the infrastructure of these rural counties comes the increased loss of jobs and land as traditional agriculture and forestry lands become developed into residential subdivisions and retail centers.

CURIS

The Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi established the Center for Urban Rural Interface Studies in 2005. The center serves as a resource for developers, public officials, stakeholders, and citizens on smart growth and sustainable development practices. The regional scope of the center consists of the coastal areas of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida.



Project Partners

- Department of Commerce, NOAA
- Mississippi State University- Southern Rural Development Center
- Auburn University- Community Planning Program
- Phillips ~ Development Planning Consulting
- Mississippi Sea Grant Extension Program
- Town Planning & Urban Design Collaborative
- University of Florida- Community Design Center
- University of New Orleans- Dept. of Geography
- University of Southern Mississippi- Dept. of Biological Sciences

Learn about Smart Growth

Smart Growth Issues



Smart Growth Principles

- Range of housing opportunities
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Community and stakeholder collaboration
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Predictable, fair and cost effective development decisions
- Mixed land use
- Preserve open spaces, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas
- Variety of transportation choices
- Compact building design
- Strengthen and direct development toward existing communities