



# ADDRESSING "GROWING" NEEDS ACROSS THE NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO

THE CENTER FOR URBAN RURAL INTERFACE STUDIES  
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

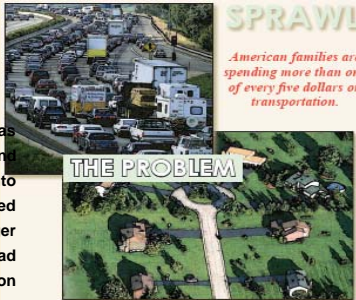


## Mission:

To provide a clearing house 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.



American families are spending more than one of every five dollars on transportation.

## The Center

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 resources for developers, public officials, stakeholders, and citizens on sustainable development practices. The regional scope of the center consists of the coastal areas of Alabama Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida.

### Resources:

1. Library
2. Computer Lab
3. Class room
4. Conference Hall

The Solution Tool

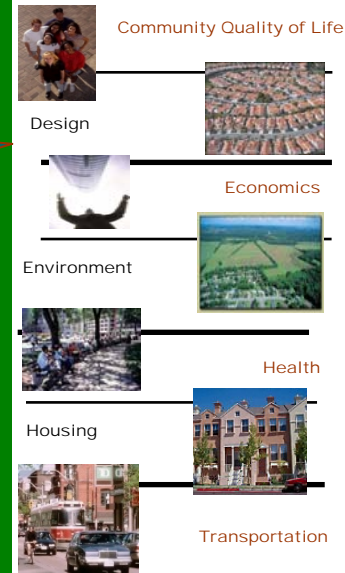


## Projects

1. **The Mississippi Coastal Birding Trail: A Socioeconomic and Biological Assessment**  
Partner: The University of Southern Mississippi
2. **Smart Growth Education Projects for Tangipahoa, Washington, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany Parishes.**  
Partner: University of New Orleans
3. **Mississippi: Smart Growth Lecture Series**  
Partner: Town Planning & Urban Design Collaborative
4. **Sustaining ChIPLEY: Proposal for planning, visioning, and housing concepts to advance economic vitality in ChIPLEY, Florida.**  
Partner: University of Florida

## Smart Growth

### Smart Growth Issues



### Smart Growth Principles

- Create Range of housing Opportunities and Choices
- Create Walkable Neighborhoods
- Encourage Community and Stakeholder Collaboration
- Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place
- Make Development Decisions Predictable, Fair and Cost Effective
- Mixed Land Uses
- Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty and Critical Environmental Areas
- Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices
- Take Advantage of Compact Building Design
- Strengthen and Direct Development towards Existing Communities

Source: www.smartgrowth.org

### Contact Information

#### Center For Urban Rural Interface Studies

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