

Table of Recommendations

Housing	Adopt the ABFE (Advisory Base Flood Elevations).
	Utilize existing GPS Mapping System to advise citizen property owners of elevation requirements and available financial assistance.
	Assess workforce housing needs throughout Biloxi.
	Utilize "scattered site" multi-family and single-family low-income tax credit projects.
	Work with Modular Housing providers to streamline the application and approval process.
	Rehabilitate and repair low-income projects damaged by Hurricane Katrina.
	Utilize the Biloxi Housing Authority to build additional units using the Hope IV model.
	Resist the efforts of developers to convert apartments into condominiums.
	Develop a land bank.
Transportation	Relocate the rail traffic from the CSX corridor
	Establish a new boulevard system throughout the peninsula and complete the Back Bay boulevard extension to Hwy 90
	Enhance Beach Boulevard as a world-class scenic thoroughfare from Gulfport to the eastern point of Biloxi
	Establish a tram along the beach connecting all the commercial centers
	Reduce the number of at-grade RR crossings
	Maintain the elevated height of the rail corridor
	Improve all the existing at-grade rail crossings to have active warning devices
	Establish an additional East Harrison County connector to I-10
	Improve the D'Iberville interchange to include a "Texas U-Turn"
	Construct a loop ramp for southbound traffic off I-110
	Reconfigure the southbound I-110 to Westbound Hwy 90 ramp for better safety
	Pedestrian and bicycle paths should be part of Hwy 90 improvements
	Move the main gate to Keesler AFB to Division Street
	Complete the East Biloxi Transportation Loop
	Provide aesthetic and pedestrian features on all new roadways
	Re-establish Howard Avenue as two-way traffic

	Establish an effective Inter-Modal Public Transportation System
	Develop a “park once” system
	Launch a Streetcar Trolley system, primarily along the waterfront
	Make Hwy 90 an Inter-Modal Thoroughfare and Gulf Coast Walkway/Bikeway
	Launch a public Airport Bus Service
	Launch a Work Transportation System
	Biloxi should be part of a Gulf Coast Regional Commuter Rail
	Begin with a tri-county light rail commuter system on the CSX rail bed
Land Use	Adopt Advisory Based Flood Elevation (ABFE) maps and regulations.
	Encourage and accommodate mixed use.
	Increase water and sewer capability.
	Establish a new Commercial Residential Zone.
	Support relocation of the CSX rail.
	Maintain the Old Biloxi Architectural style.
	Preserve the public view and the sand beach.
	Establish neighborhood nodes at select intersections.
	Promote walkability and interconnectivity.
Historic Preservation	Review and define the historical districts and strictly adhere to the zoning and the Design Review Guidelines.
	Strictly avoid granting any commercial zoning along the beachfront in areas already zoned as residential.
	Respond to the urgency of stabilizing and securing the city-owned damaged historical landmarks/ structures to stop further deterioration.
	Consider these structures as priorities for preservation and restoration or rebuilding: Dantzer House, Tullis-Toledano Manor, Magnolia Hotel, Old Brick House, Bond House, Biloxi Lighthouse, Lighthouse Keeper’s House, Swetman House, US Coast Guard Station, Saenger Theater, Brielmaier House, Creole Cottage, Biloxi City Hall, Biloxi Library, #3 Fire Company. (See Appendix A)
	Obtain right of first refusal for the City when privately owned historic properties such as the Old Biloxi Library are up for sale.
	Gain agreement to establish building codes, which will create unity of design and maintain a Sense of place as recommended by the Governor’s Commission.
	Keep the integrity of historical neighborhoods by placing all utilities underground.
	Avoid moving the Magnolia Hotel in order not to place it in harm’s way.
	Attempt to acquire the properties at the east and west corner of Porter and directly behind the east corner of Porter to add to the visitors center complex. If these properties cannot be acquired, structures built must adhere to the AHRC Design Recommendations and meet the City’s building codes.

	Begin collecting Biloxi historic artifacts that were salvaged from homes and businesses for display in the Biloxi Museum.
	Strongly enforce current signage codes and strengthen these codes if necessary to ensure signage is appropriate for historical areas.
	Beachfront property zoned residential must remain residential. Commercial businesses must not be given variances in these areas, especially businesses such as pawnshops and service stations.
	Place historical markers downtown to create a walking and driving tour.
	Strongly encourage knowledge and enforcement of ordinances and laws governing the preservation of existing structures and construction of compatible infill in the City's historic districts and around all historic resources.
	Conduct a comprehensive update of the City's six (6) locally-designated historic districts to identify remaining contributing structures; review the 1754 locally designated landmarks and the additional new designations; and reevaluate district boundaries for updating the Biloxi Land Development Ordinance and the Architectural and Historical Review Commission's "Design Review Guidelines. (See Appendix C)
	Support the concept of leaving the Town Green as green space.
	Support the development of a Visitor's Center/museum complex on the grounds of the Dantzler House/ Chamber of Commerce Property.
	Buildings that were destroyed should be reviewed and the feasibility of building replicas should be determined.
Trees, Green Space and Gardens	Strongly encourage the preservation of the City's green spaces and centurion trees by enforcing tree ordinances. Restore the beauty of Beach Boulevard by nurturing damaged oaks and replace where appropriate.
	Protect and preserve our centurion trees. The City must not allow these trees to be replaced by saplings even when enticed by developers who promise a fifty to one ratio of replanting.
	Do not give variances to remove trees for development.
	Support the development of parks, gardens and green space.
	Support the development of the Mississippi Renaissance Gardens and Horticultural Center. (See Appendix E)
Tourism	Replace, restore, or repair the City's historic sites and attractions to provide tourists with a unique experience
	Work with local attractions to create a marketing program funded by a 1% food and beverage tax
	Expand the Point Cadet Marina and create a Waterfront area attraction, funded grants from the Tidelands Trust Fund or bonds repaid by leases.
	Build fishing reefs using debris from the Biloxi Bay Bridge and old fishing bridge.
	Expedite the process for approving and permitting project proposals.
	Zone East Biloxi and downtown Biloxi for mixed use and create TIF Bond Districts.
	Revise the City's parking requirements for Condotels.
	Support and encourage immediate expansion of the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center and create a "Convention Center District."

	Determine feasibility of an East Biloxi Convention Center.
	Extend hotel tax to include condotels.
	Commit property in East Biloxi for a privately developed minor league baseball stadium.
	Work with CTA to create a "Park Once" transportation systems for tourists.
	Replace the H-tract connector route.
Small Business	Lobby Congress to seek changes in the HUBZone regulations to have the entire City of Biloxi designated as a HUBZone area.
	Expand the scope of the new Community Center in East Biloxi to become a multi-purpose, multi-story building to meet many needs of the community.
	Encourage USM Gulf Coast to investigate the relocation of the campus to the City of Biloxi.
	Develop a plan to upgrade wireless Internet access throughout the City to create "hot spots" for connectivity.
	Develop a commerce park in the northern portion of the City to give businesses location options outside potential flood area.
	Provide better communications and distribution of information for small businesses in Biloxi to assure all citizens are aware of the resources are available from various agencies.
	Investigate and implement grants/tax credits to small companies for employment including hiring and retaining family members as these parties are excluded as part of the Go Zone legislation.
	Adopt a residential and commercial rent stabilization ordinance to offer affordable housing and office space for small businesses.
	Adopt a vacancy fine for commercial locations to encourage property owners to lease or sell available property.
	Monitor legal issues including non-regulation of business insurance, wages paid by FEMA, and unemployment tax rate increases.
	Review and update the City's sign ordinance.
	Encourage diversity of small business in the City of Biloxi and provide assistance to all businesses.
	Revitalize the Vieux Marche area.
Seafood Industry	Increase dock space for shrimp boats.
	Develop land use for fuel, ice and an unloading facility.
	Develop a Seafood Industry Cluster
	Develop land space for shipyard use.
	Expand the dock space at Point Cadet Marina.
	Reinstall power at Point Cadet Marina.
	Maximize use of Point Cadet Marina to encourage retail seafood, a Farmer's Market, and restaurants.

Military Government Contracting	Supplement available Keesler on-base housing through public or private sources at a price range in line with current government housing allowances.
	Review Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) plans for North/South Connector routes to ensure Keesler's near- and long-term plans (particularly housing needs) are not adversely affected.
	Support Keesler's airspace management requirements to protect the integrity of Keesler's flying mission and its potential impact on the future of Keesler Air Force Base.
	Work closely with Keesler AFB on land use issues including Keesler gate locations, additional family housing and recreational needs.
	Pursue Keesler's medical vision for the Mississippi Coast and work with Keesler, the U.S. Veterans Administration and the University of Mississippi Medical School to coordinate common needs and explore other viable options to provide and enhance available medical support.
Education	Provide instruction on knowledge and skills for the workforce that is available after regular work hours for the City's residents.
	Provide instruction on leisure activities and hobbies available after regular work hours for the City's residents.
	Participate in the educational offerings of the Mississippi Renaissance Garden and Horticultural Center.
	Clearly define "technology training" so the public understands the nature of the training and survey employers and the community to determine the type of instruction or classes to be offered. Enhance the continuing education opportunities already offered by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.
	Training will occur at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), Biloxi Public Schools (BPS), or where a computer lab is located. Training will be delivered, in some cases, to individuals as online courses.
	Encourage private pre-school education providers to use the Mississippi Department of Education's Pre-Kindergarten curriculum.
	Offer pre-school instruction for 3 and 4 year olds at local schools as space permits.
	Determine if the local school district can absorb costs to offer pre-school classes. (State funds are not available for pre-kindergarten classes.)
	Determine the feasibility of reconfiguring of school grades to accommodate classes in elementary schools, i.e. serving grades 9-12 at Biloxi High School, grades 7-8 at Biloxi Junior High School, and serving grade 6 at Michel.
	Consider a pilot program at the elementary school having the greatest percentage of free and reduced lunch students.
	Assist Harrison County Head Start's efforts to locate housing in the Biloxi area to reopen its programs in Biloxi.
	Develop a planned program of remedial or extended instruction for students in after-school programs.
	Include rudimentary nutrition instruction appropriate for students served.
	Teach skills using methods that complement school instruction and utilize alternative strategies for instructional delivery.
	Providers could include Boys & Girls Club in Biloxi or similar entities. (The Boys and Girls Club currently offers after-school programs in some Biloxi schools.)

	Approach local industries to offer assistance in establishing educational child care for their employees.
	Acknowledge quality GED programs already in place at MGCCC or already in place for enrolled students who meet eligibility requirements at Biloxi High School.
	Continue having all GED students receive a college counseling session prior to taking GED exams. As a part of the counseling session, add to this a tour of the college including detailed "how-to" information on such topics as registering, applying for financial aid, etc.
	Research the need for additional locations in the evening for the convenience of prospective students.
	Identify industries in Biloxi whose employees work 24-hour shifts and need child care for their children, i.e. gaming industry, Keesler Air Force Base, etc.
	Offer industries educational assistance to set up day care programs at their work places.
	Explore the possibility of combining the efforts of industries and educational entities to develop a citywide 24-hour child care program.
	Encourage all child care programs to use the Mississippi Department of Education's pre-kindergarten curriculum.
	Investigate partnerships with local industries to provide shuttle services between child care sites and local schools when parents/guardians are working non-traditional hours.
	Lobby state legislature for statutory approval of gaming course work.
	Gain approval/support from State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and from the Board of Trustees of the state Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) for gaming coursework
Health Care	To better facilitate disaster communication, a designated City representative should be appointed to serve as the primary liaison between Biloxi health care facilities and the Mayor's office, two-way communication available between the health care facilities and this person once storms enter the Gulf.
	Develop a plan to address the needs of "Special Needs" patients, including shelter designation, medical staffing of the clinic, and supplies/medical equipment that will be needed by these patients. A schedule of who will be working in these shelters (doctors, nurses, etc.) will need to be developed and the staging of medical supplies and replenishing of those supplies will need to be addressed.
	Designate medical personnel as first responders following a disaster to help support their mission of taking care of the medical needs of the community.
	Develop a Health care clearinghouse locally, as well as a satellite center outside of the disaster affected area, for contact information for all health care providers to assist patients in finding their physician and medical information after the storm.
	Work with the local Universities and with available federal grant money to increase the size of Clinical Programs, (i.e., Nursing, Respiratory, Radiology, etc.) on the Coast.
	Implement recommendations made in this report from the affordable housing committee.
	Replacement of the Biloxi/Ocean Springs Bridge is imperative for the long-term stability of the health care providers on the Coast.
	Work collaboratively with the public and private health care systems on the Coast to establish a Medical School and Residency Program for physicians.
	Continued growth in the annexed areas of Biloxi will increase the demand for health care services on the Coast. Additional resources will be needed to meet this demand.

	It is imperative that support be given to the rebuilding efforts of Keesler Medical Center. Keesler has been a major contributor to the past growth of Biloxi. A strong Keesler Medical Center will continue to support our local economy for many years to come.
Non-Government Organizations	Develop a clearinghouse for non-profits to coordinate services to clients, coordinate volunteers, and disseminate information among agencies and clients.
	Reinstate social services funding from the City to address the unmet needs of children, families, seniors, and the homeless.
	Provide resources to address the problems of homelessness and hunger, including land in the inner city for additional shelters and assistance in eliminating contractor abuse of homeless workers.
	To address affordable child care and after-school care, locate an interim site for Moore Community House and expedite permits for reconstruction.
	Restore social service funding and encourage the casino industry to support child care for employees.
	Address problems facing senior citizens by re-instituting senior programs and senior centers, reestablishing the "Meals on Wheels" program, supporting the Mental Health Association and other senior providers, and prosecuting dishonest contractors.
	Assist citizens with disabilities by encouraging developers to build affordable homes, improving transportation to the disabled population in Biloxi, and provide homeowners and renters assistance with home modifications.
	Support programs that help people move from continued emergency services to self-sufficiency and offer an exception to the City codes for housing volunteers.
	Help provide low-cost health care by encouraging contractors to provide insurance to employees and fine or rescind, if possible, the licenses of contractors who are taking advantage of workers; insure that contractors carry workers' compensation insurance or rescind their licenses to work in the City; and help disseminate information within the City about available services and how to obtain those services by way of the City newsletter.
	Provide funding to support transportation programs in areas where a higher percentage of the population use public transportation.
	Create plans for transportation to shelters in the event of a hurricane.
	Develop strategies to prevent predatory lending, including limiting the number of lenders allowed in the city and supporting city, county and statewide legislation that limits excessive fees, abusive pre-payment penalties and harmful refinance loans.
	Address rising mental health issues by distributing "Coping with Disaster" information; by promoting available mental health services through mailings, e-mails and the city's Web site; and by funding mental health programs where appropriate.
Finance	The Biloxi City Council should make a decision on the new base flood elevations.
	Officials from the City of Biloxi should begin meeting with representatives from the gaming industry to discuss work force housing and with representatives from Keesler AFB to discuss their housing needs.
	Formulate a letter from the Reviving the Renaissance Commission to FEMA requesting a current mailing list and contact information of tele-registered people who lived in the Biloxi at the time of Hurricane Katrina.

	All residents of Biloxi who think they may be eligible for the Katrina Homeowners Grant Program Phase I should complete an application for funding and set an appointment to have that application processed.
	The City of Biloxi should continue to lobby for Phase II of the Katrina Homeowners Program administered by the Mississippi Development Authority.
	The City of Biloxi should move as quickly as possible to complete infrastructure improvements (water and sewer) to the Woolmarket area, North of Interstate 10, in order to provide housing and economic development opportunities.
	Explore the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bonds to finance infrastructure improvements and/or purchase real estate to stimulate private investment.
	The City Planning Department and City Council should explore establishing a "Rebuild Biloxi Enhancement Fee" for the approval/granting of variances that exceed the provisions of the current Land Development Ordinance (LDO).
	Continue to pursue private developers and investment groups and help expedite their development efforts.
	Work with local financial institutions to find solutions.