



Operation Progress

Operation Progress is a collaboration of individuals within community-based and governmental organizations, called Stakeholders, who are passionate about Iberia Parish and its communities, its rich past and especially its bright future and potential. Stakeholders are fully engaged in improving the quality of life for residents and businesses alike. They seek to support and encourage dynamic and sustained growth by engaging all parties that seek the same.

The Operation Progress Initiative is an ongoing process focusing on three key areas: Economic and Community Development, Residential and Population Expansion, and Workforce Development & Education.

Stakeholders pledge to work together with both time and treasure to reach and exceed these goals for our future and our children's future.

Facilitated by The Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce, July 2013 forward

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Position Statement	3
Guiding Principles	3
Community Perspective—Assets & Challenges	4
Community Perspective--Vision	6
Key Messages/Focus Areas	7
Key Message #1 Residential and Population Expansion	8
Key Message #2 Economic and Community Development	12
Key Message #3 Workforce Development and Education	19

APPENDIX

Community Recognitions	21
Operation Progress Stakeholders	22
Organizations Participating in Visioning Exercises	23
Development Assets	24
Small Group Meeting Design	25
Planning Timeline	27
Project Timeline	28

OPERATION PROGRESS –AN IBERIA PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVE

PRESENTING A 5 YEAR TO 10 YEAR OUTLOOK

Commencing March 2012

7/29/2013 3:43 PM

[The Operation Progress Initiative is an ongoing process. The document, which promotes the initiative and measures its progress, is a “living” document and is updated regularly. The process belongs to the community and is facilitated by the Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce.]

Position Statement

The Stakeholders are passionate about Iberia Parish and its communities, its rich past and especially its bright future and potential. The Stakeholders have seen a recent decline in our communities’ populations and wish to incorporate planning and action goals which seek to reverse this trend and put our communities on a new solid and growing path for the future. The Stakeholders are fully engaged in improving the quality of life for residents and businesses alike.

The Stakeholders seek to support and encourage dynamic and sustained growth by engaging all parties that seek the same. The Operation Progress Initiative guiding document seeks to put in writing the living goals that Stakeholders desire over the next five and ten-year period. The Stakeholders pledge to work together with both time and treasure to reach and exceed these goals for our future and our children’s future.

Operation Progress serves as a catalyst for healthy community conversation around various projects whether they are ultimately included as part of the initiative or not.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The Stakeholders support projects, investments and policies that support increased residential development and more/improved “quality of life” activities.
- The Stakeholders support economic and community development projects and investments, which take advantage of our superior location, pro business attitude and major assets.
- The Stakeholders support policies, activities and investments that build a highly- skilled workforce through quality education.

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE—ASSETS & CHALLENGES

The Community Vision is a composite of input gathered from groups/organizations/agencies throughout the Iberia community, which describes the current characteristics of the community, which are, valued most and where change is desired. The vision expresses the how the business community and residents alike want the community to look and feel in the next five to ten years.

(See appendix for information relative to small group discussions.)

Present characteristics of Iberia Parish we value and wish to retain:

[Information in bold conveys interest of multiple groups]

- ✓ Low crime rates
- ✓ **Small town atmosphere and neighborhood feel**
- ✓ **High employment rates**
- ✓ Diversity of businesses
- ✓ **Activities and events—festivals, arts, cook offs, pancake suppers, etc**
- ✓ **Quality of public schools**
- ✓ Oak Trees
- ✓ **Opportunities for Recreation (in proximity to gulf and basin)**
- ✓ **Main Street**
- ✓ **Iberia historical and cultural resources**
- ✓ **Port of Iberia**
- ✓ **Acadiana Regional Airport**
- ✓ Strong volunteer base
- ✓ People are friendly
- ✓ Cajun family atmosphere (heritage)
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Future I-49
- ✓ Tourism (attractions)
- ✓ In times of disaster--Spirit of cooperation and tenacity for rebuilding

List three greatest success stories in the last five years:

- ✓ **Iberia Performing Arts League (IPAL)**
- ✓ Establishment of Iberia Cultural Resources Association
- ✓ Revitalization of Delcambre
- ✓ Bayou Teche Museum
- ✓ **New construction for public schools** and school technology
- ✓ **PepperPlex**
- ✓ Parks
- ✓ Berry Bowl
- ✓ **Established events like Gumbo Cook-Off**
- ✓ School Board w/ minimal politics
- ✓ **Main Street**
- ✓ Beneath the Balconies
- ✓ Business growth such as Metal Shark
- ✓ On Tap- Dragon Boat Festival
- ✓ On Tap – Movies in the Park
- ✓ LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS Iberia

- ✓ Economic Development Districts (TIF)
- ✓ Stable and persistent agriculture industry
- ✓ SugArena
- ✓ Port of Iberia
- ✓ Acadiana Regional Airport
- ✓ Educational opportunities: technical schools/community college/ career center (Relationship of business to education, i.e. workforce development in place)

Present conditions of Iberia we characterize as problems requiring resolution:

[Information in bold conveys interest of multiple groups]

- **Political divide, political structure(s), sparring within and between organizations**
- Crime
- **Housing and business development--planning/zoning/permitting processes**
- **Road construction, maintenance and drainage (maintaining current resources, such as roads)**
- Collaborations in infrastructure development
- National Brand Retail & Restaurants
- Small minded mentality
- Lack of facilities for functions of more than 500 people
- TIF implementation
- Condition of bridges
- Streamline regulations (i.e. zoning and permitting); Look for resolutions to challenges
- Lack of consolidated government
- Lack of cooperation among governmental entities

Conditions/trends you see as opportunities to make Iberia better in the next 5-10 years:

- ↑ Progress Point Business Park
- ↑ I-49 Completion
- ↑ Community building experiences
- ↑ Bayou Teche
- ↑ Port of Iberia continued growth
- ↑ Acadiana Regional Airport continued growth
- ↑ Building upon events we already have such as the Dragon Boat Festival
- ↑ Better functioning governmental bodies
- ↑ Improved Roads and drainage
- ↑ AGMAC is completed
- ↑ Direct / easy road access from Hwy 90 to Acadiana Regional Airport
- ↑ Parking garage
- ↑ Reduce blighted properties

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE -- VISION

Describe how the community would look/act/feel when changes are realized:

- ❖ Restaurants are full
- ❖ Construction is intense
- ❖ Residents are walking on walking paths
- ❖ Government officials are working together on progressive and innovative projects.
- ❖ Elected officials are respected and communities are coming to Iberia to learn how to “build community”
- ❖ My children and grandchildren live across town
- ❖ Tourists are flocking to Iberia Parish
- ❖ Conventions and business events are happening creating a positive economic impact from visitor spending
- ❖ Cultural events are taking place at the new convention center
- ❖ Local and out-of-town families are attending tournaments at the PepperPlex
- ❖ People prefer living in New Iberia
- ❖ Traffic flows smoothly and timely
- ❖ People have a variety of housing choices
- ❖ There are many activities in the community such as “movies in the park” and other “mixers” for young adults/young families
- ❖ Government is progressive, action oriented, and works well with the many grass roots projects underway
- ❖ Pride resonates throughout the community
- ❖ New businesses are thriving. New businesses are excited to be in Iberia.
- ❖ Marginal businesses are “stepping up their game”
- ❖ Shops, restaurants and strip malls are attractive, appealing and full of local and out of town shoppers
- ❖ The many activities in the community are all publicized well. The calendar is full of well attended events and activities
- ❖ The natural resources in Iberia Parish are a tremendous asset with opportunities to enhance ecotourism activities and parish-wide farmers’ markets. The outcome will be improved quality of life and a positive economic impact from visitor spending.
- ❖ The Iberia Parish Tourism Community Development Fund provides for event marketing grants through a competitive based grant program. The outcome will be improved quality of life and a positive economic impact from visitor spending.
- ❖ PepperPlex is built-out and the schedule is full of local and traveling teams
- ❖ Residents and tourist alike feel safe

THREE KEY MESSAGE/FOCUS AREAS

Key Message #1:

Residential and Population Expansion

Our population has declined and we seek to reverse it by making our communities a magnet for families.

The Stakeholders support establishment of long-term improvement in activities that support a greater quality of life, more neighborhoods and a growing population.

Key Message #2:

Economic and Community Development

Iberia Parish and its communities have great potential, superior location, a pro business attitude and major assets to build upon.

The Stakeholders support activities that strengthen our traditional business base and build new diversified opportunities so that our children can prosper here.

Key Message #3:

Workforce Development and Education

The Stakeholders acknowledge that a strong and growing community can be built only on a strong foundation.

Stakeholders support a strong foundation, built with an educated and skilled workforce, which has the ongoing skill set that businesses need to grow.

Specific projects supporting each focus area are listed below. The project listings are not intended to be comprehensive of all projects within Iberia Parish and municipalities, but rather indicative of important projects and processes that are needed to generate growth and momentum.

Key Message #1:

Residential and Population Expansion

Our population has declined and we seek to reverse it by making our communities a magnet for families.

The Stakeholders support establishment of long-term improvement in activities that support a greater quality of life, more neighborhoods and a growing population.

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Streamlined and efficient permitting processes at every regulatory level.**

Anticipated Outcomes:

EXPECTATION: Public meetings are held annually between building officials and developers to improve regulatory processes

PROJECT W/ LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: Planning, Permits/Zoning Departments of governmental entities /Chamber, IDF, home builders association, developers

BENCHMARK August 2014 (annually)

ONGOING: The city's Development Team (the Mayor, Dept. Heads, Board of Health, and Utility Company representatives) meet with Land Developers, Building Contractors, Residential/Commercial Builders and local citizens to offer assistance and discuss projects relative to land development, zoning, subdividing, permitting, plan reviews and public infrastructure. At the requester's convenience, a meeting is scheduled by the Planning Director.

The team provides an immediate positive response to questions from developers and builders. The City of New Iberia's Development Team members meet as a group and personally assist individuals through the various processes which might begin with subdividing or re-zoning property, state and local code requirements, installation of streets and infrastructure, drainage improvements, fire safety, site plan reviews, obtaining permits, plan reviews, construction and inspection information until the final step of occupancy.

EXPECTATION: Maintain highly qualified planners with adequate planning and zoning staffing to meet planning and development needs
LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: Iberia Parish Gov., City of New Iberia/Home Builders' Assoc,
BENCHMARK Review by February 2014

EXPECTATION: Create a **BOLD** initiative that will change the dynamic of residential growth.

This bold initiative may be:

- a range of incentives that abate property taxes for new comers;
- the creation of a residential development czar;
- the creation of a one-stop "tool box" for building/living in Iberia;

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: Builders Association, Governmental entities

BENCHMARK: Planning group organized by Feb. 2014

✓

EXPECTATION: Parish has appropriate ordinance and implements comprehensive zoning for wise growth and to protect property owners.

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: IPG Administration & IPG Council

BENCHMARK: Parish Zoning was adopted on February 25, 2009 by Ordinance No. 2009-02-4099.

✓

EXPECTATION : For better access, house state fire marshal office within city hall building.

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: City of New Iberia

BENCHMARK: 2012

✓

EXPECTATION: City of New Iberia has Traditional Neighborhood ordinances, which include mixed-use development.

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: City of New Iberia

BENCHMARK – complete 7/20/10

US Department of Rural Development includes all of Iberia (outside City of New Iberia jurisdiction) for 100% home financing.

EXPECTATION: Developers, lenders, potential home buyers are *made aware of this opportunity*

PROJECT W/ LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: Promotional strategies are developed by Iberia Realtor Association, Lending Industry; Home Builders Association

BENCHMARK: Promotional strategies developed by Sept. 2013

EXPECTATION: Research will be done regarding possibility of including the City of New Iberia with in the USDA Rural Development 100% home financing.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: City of New Iberia/Chamber/ Congressional delegation

BENCHMARK: Sept. 2014

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **A comprehensive and cost-efficient wastewater collection and treatment system that serves areas targeted for rooftop growth.**

Anticipated Outcomes:

EXPECTATION: Economically reasonable agreements are made between governmental entities and residential developers to spur neighborhood development.

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: Governmental entities, Home Builders' Assoc.; realtors

BENCHMARK:



EXPECTATION: Loreauville receives CDBG funding for portable generators at wastewater treatment plants in the event of power outages.

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: Village of Loreauville

BENCHMARK: 2012

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Priority funding for improved roads and bridges and other infrastructure within the parish and through municipalities and the development of long-term maintenance schedules**

Anticipated Outcomes:

EXPECTATION: To ensure better roadways for safer and more efficient travel, maintenance schedules for roads and bridges are developed and published for the community (Aging bridges throughout Iberia Parish are being replaced.)

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Municipalities, IPG, LDOTD

BENCHMARK: Sept. 2013



EXPECTATION: Loreauville receives \$370,000 for improvements to 26 of 30 streets.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS:

BENCHMARK: Spring 2013



EXPECTATION: Through intergovernmental agreement with LAWCO, Loreauville raises water level to help obtain better fire rating

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Village of Loreauville, LAWCO

BENCHMARK: 2012

EXPECTATION: Upgrade water line extension for village of Loreauville through \$1.3 million state revolving loan program.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Village of Loreauville, LA Revolving Loan Fund/LAWCO

BENCHMARK: scheduled completion August 2013.

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **The development and maintenance of community amenities that appeal to young families.**

EXPECTATION: Remaining funds are raised, \$47,0000, of the \$205,000 needed to make playground improvements to the New Iberia City Park Playground.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: New Iberia Parks and Recreation Commission/community volunteers/Iberia Parish Foundation

BENCHMARK: Spring 2014

EXPECTATION: PEPPERPLEX

Key Message #2:

Economic and Community Development

Iberia Parish and its communities have great potential, superior location, a pro business attitude and major assets to build upon.

The Stakeholders support activities that strengthen our traditional business base and build new diversified opportunities so that our children can prosper here.

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Master Plans, which are thorough, updated, and in current use guiding growth and development in Iberia,**

Anticipated Outcomes:

EXPECTATION: Iberia Parish Government updates Infrastructure Master Plan with sections to include:

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS:

BENCHMARK: Consultant presentation is made 2013



Three tasks are funded—1)Economic Development, 2)Duplication of Government Services, 3a)Value of MPO, 3b)Joining Community Rating System : July 2013
Due date: _____

EXPECTATION: The City of New Iberia updates the 2004 Land Use and Enhancement Master Plan.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: City of New Iberia

BENCHMARK: 2014



EXPECTATION: Acadiana Regional Airport has comprehensive master plan with five-twenty year range.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Acadiana Regional Airport Authority; community committee

BENCHMARK: One component of Plan focuses specifically on attracting international business; completed June 2013.

EXPECTATION: The Port of Iberia updates Master Plan

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Port of Iberia Commission

BENCHMARK: February 2015

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

➤ Economic development readiness.

Anticipated Outcomes

- ✓ **EXPECTATION:** Iberia is designated as a “Louisiana Development Ready Community” for economic development

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: City of New Iberia, IDF, IPG

BENCHMARK: New Iberia is a state-recognized “Development Ready Community”

A nationally recognized site selection expert visited New Iberia and helped us to evaluate sites and buildings, in addition to furnishing us with a Resource Team from LED to assist with a community assessment, developing a Community Assessment and “Ready-to-Go” survey tools.

As a result of this year long process that included weekly Steering Committee meetings and two Town Hall gatherings of community stakeholders, more than a few plans were developed to better prepare the city to effectively compete with out-of-state communities for good jobs; business development projects and capital investment initiatives.

EXPECTATION: Creation of three (3) Tax Increment Financing Districts within the City of New Iberia

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS:

BENCHMARK: State legislation creating districts passed summer 2011.

Implementation _____

- ✓ **EXPECTATION:** Creation of two (2) Tax Increment Financing Districts within Iberia Parish

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS:

BENCHMARK: State legislation creating districts passed summer 2011.

Implementation: Fall 2011

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Making the Port of Iberia “Acadiana’s Port”.**

Anticipated Outcomes:

EXPECTATION: Continued expansion of the footprint of the Port of Iberia includes Phase II of Port Development (Millennium Project)—Port develops 108 acres with 13’ channel access.

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS: Port of Iberia Commission,

BENCHMARK: October 2014

EXPECTATION: Continued expansion of the footprint of the Port of Iberia includes Phase III of Port Development (AGMAC)—deep-water access and enhanced intermodal access (inclusive of water, road, and 50-acre tract with rail access)

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS:

BENCHMARK: 2015

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Improved ratings enhance safety and reduce the cost of doing business in Iberia.**

Anticipated Outcomes:



EXPECTATION: Improved fire rating in Loreauville to a 4 rating.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Village of Loreauville; Fire District #1; IPG/IEDA

BENCHMARK: 2012

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Priority funding for improved roads and bridges and other infrastructure within the parish and through municipalities. Maintenance schedules are established and made public.**

Anticipated Outcomes:

EXPECTATION: To ensure better roadways for safer and more efficient travel/transportation/evacuation, maintenance schedules for roads and bridges are developed and published for the community

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Municipalities/IPG

BENCHMARK: Sept. 2013

EXPECTATION: Frontage Road Connection Link from Highway 14 to Avery Island Road. (Est. cost: \$1.1 DOTD State project)

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: CONIW/ LDOTD

BENCHMARK:

EXPECTATION: Upgrade Main Street/Hwy 86 (Loreauville) through governor's rural road fund.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: LDOT/IPG/ Village of Loreauville

BENCHMARK: future plan

EXPECTATION: Canal Street from Hwy 90 to Jeanerette

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: City of Jeanerette, DOTD/

BENCHMARK: February 2014

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

➤ **Aggressive growth strategies for Acadiana Regional Airport**

Anticipated Outcomes:

EXPECTATION: Maintain air traffic control service at Acadiana Regional Airport.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Acadiana Regional Airport/ IPG/LDOTD

BENCHMARK: 2013 and ongoing

EXPECTATION: RUNWAY REHABILITATION AND LIGHTING UPGRADE:

Estimated cost: \$3,550,000

LEADERSHIP/FUNDING/PARTNERSHIP: Louisiana DOTD, F.A.A.
Iberia Parish Airport Authority

BENCHMARK: Start Date (Estimated): March 2015

EXPECTATION: AIRPORT PERIMETER AND EMERGENCY ACCESS

ROAD: Estimated Cost: \$624,000

LEADERSHIP/FUNDING/PARTNERSHIP Louisiana DOTD, F.A.A.
Iberia Parish Airport Authority

BENCHMARK: Start Date (Estimated): March 2015

EXPECTATION: AIRCRAFT RESCUE & FIRE FIGHTING BUILDING

UPGRADE: Estimated Cost: \$500,000

LEADERSHIP/FUNDING/PARTNERSHIP Louisiana Capital Outlay
(Facilities Planning), Louisiana DOTD, F.A.A. Iberia Parish Airport
Authority

BENCHMARK: Start Date (Estimated): May 2014

EXPECTATION: FUTURE AIR CARGO DEVELOPMENT AREA: Estimated

Cost: \$41,003,135

LEADERSHIP/FUNDING/PARTNERSHIP Funding/Partnership:
Louisiana DOTD, Louisiana Capital Outlay (Facilities Planning), U.S.
Department of Commerce, F.A.A., Iberia Parish Government and Iberia
Parish Airport Authority

BENCHMARK: Start Date (Estimated): January 2016

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **A comprehensive and cost-efficient wastewater collection and treatment system that serves areas targeted commercial/industrial growth and meet serve to meet the requirements of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality consent decree.**

Anticipated Outcomes:

[The first four enumerated items are not necessarily in any priority. These projects represent about \$6m in project costs.]

EXPECTATION #1: Abate infiltration/inflow and make structural repairs in various sanitary sewer lines in Sewersheds Basins A, C, and G.

LEADERSHIP W/PARTNERS: City of New Iberia/State Revolving Fund Loan

BENCHMARK: Est. completion Fall 2015

EXPECTATION #2: Upgrade Adrian Street pump station from its existing capacity of 680 gallons per minute to 1,540 gallons per minute to handle all flows from service area, which includes constructing a sixteen inch diameter force main to replace the existing ten inch force main. A portion of the force main was constructed in anticipation of this upgrade; the remainder of the force main, appx. 3,100 feet along Twenty Arpent Road from Jefferson Terrance Road to Ann Street, is included in this project.

LEADERSHIP W/PARTNERS: City of New Iberia/State Revolving Fund Loan

BENCHMARK: Est. completion Fall 2015

EXPECTATION #3: A gravity sewer interceptor is constructed along Henry Street to intercept flow currently contributing to the Front Street pump station. Additionally, a pump station and force main are constructed to pump flow to the main collector pump station on Texas Street

LEADERSHIP W/PARTNERS: City of New Iberia/State Revolving Fund Loan

BENCHMARK: Est. completion Fall 2015

EXPECTATION # 4: Structural repairs are made for abatement of infiltration/inflow of various sanitary sewer lines in Sewersheds Basins B and D.

LEADERSHIP W/PARTNERS: City of New Iberia/State Revolving Fund Loan

BENCHMARK: Est. completion Fall 2015

EXPECTATION: \$1.8 million invested in construction of a force main from the Acadiana Regional Airport complex to the city's large sewer plant.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS:

BENCHMARK: Construction began Spring 2013.

To be completed December 2013

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Transportation routes, new road construction, road maintenance-including drainage is a priority.**

EXPECTATION: Queen City Boulevard is connected to Sucrose Drive; Estimated cost: \$1,893,290.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS

BENCHMARK:

EXPECTATION: Queen City Boulevard is connected to Sucrose Drive to Cobb Road and St. Jude Street; Estimated cost: \$3,963,115

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: CONI/IPG Cooperative Endeavor)

BENCHMARK:

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Engaging the community at-large in appreciating the challenges and assets of Iberia.**

Anticipated Outcomes

EXPECTATION: A diverse group of stakeholders are champions of Operation Progress including IDF, Chamber, governmental entities, civic & service clubs/organizations; school groups, LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS Iberia, On Tap, **LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS**—Chamber/ Principals Association, outreach coordinators of SLCC and UL.

BENCHMARK:

See Initial OPI Time Line

Transition to community at large July 30, 2013

First benchmarking Sept. 2103
Semi Annual benchmarking each February / August

EXPECTATION: A community promotional plan is created to educate residents and the region about the opportunities available in Iberia.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS—Chamber/ IDF, etc.

BENCHMARK- Funding sources identified by February 2014.

EXPECTATION: Students—representing all local educational institutions-high schools, SLCC and UL-- are involved in the implementation of Operation Progress

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS--

BENCHMARK-

Key Message #3:

Workforce Development and Education

The Stakeholders acknowledge that a strong and growing community can be built only on a strong foundation.

Stakeholders support a strong foundation, built with an educated and skilled workforce, which has the ongoing skill set that businesses need to grow.

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Primary and secondary schools attract families with school-age children.**

Anticipated Outcomes:

EXPECTATION: Loreauville builds new elementary school.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Iberia Parish School System

BENCHMARK: March 2013

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

- **Providing educators with the necessary tools to help students excel in a twenty-first century learning environment**

Anticipated Outcomes:

EXPECTATION: Iberia Parish School Board offers a \$50million bond proposition addressing technology (in preparation for new State student assessments for spring 2016; school safety (security cameras in all elementary schools), and other similar projects.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Iberia Parish School System/ Community organizations/Voters

BENCHMARK: October 19, 2013.

EXPECTATION: Parents, community leaders, community and faith based organizations, youth non-profits support educators and students as they prepare for the new “Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers” (PARCC) testing, which will measure student academic level nationwide.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: Iberia Parish School System/Media/Community-at large

BENCHMARK: On going – First testing Spring 2015

OPERATION PROGRESS SUPPORTS...

➤ Meeting the workforce needs of local business and industry

Anticipated Outcomes

EXPECTATION: Local office of Louisiana Works transitions to business and industry as primary client

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: La Works, State legislative delegation

BENCHMARK:

EXPECTATION: SLCC increases enrollment annually by 10%.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: SLCC/IDF

BENCHMARK: Reports annually in fall

EXPECTATION: SLCC increases the number of students receiving high school dual enrollment credit.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS:

BENCHMARK:

EXPECTATION: SLCC increases the number of students enrolled outside traditional times and schedules through availability of online courses and programs and night and weekend offerings.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: SLCC outreach/promotional/Principal Association

BENCHMARK: Increase online programs by 2 by summer 2016;

Increase evening classes by 16% by summer 2016

EXPECTATION: SLCC creates training offerings that meet the expressed need of area businesses and industry including creating a pipeline of certifications that matches business and industry advancement levels and encourages students to continue their education.

LEADERSHIP W/ PARTNERS: SLCC business outreach/Chamber

BENCHMARK:

Add four certifications by end of 2012/13

Add six additional certifications by end 2015.

APPENDIX

COMMUNITY RECOGNITIONS

OPERATION PROGRESS STAKEHOLDERS

ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN VISIONING EXERCISE

Visioning Information was provided by the following organizations:

2013

New Iberia Optimist Club

Kiwanis Club of New Iberia

On Tap

Iberia Parish Principal's Association

Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce

Iberia Parish Convention and Visitor's Bureau

New Iberia Rotary Club

DEVELOPMENT ASSETS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT TOOLS:

The City of New Iberia has adopted a Comprehensive Master Plan & Land Use Plan; completely revised Subdivision Ordinance; Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Ordinance; GIS mapping with zoning and infrastructure overlays are available and updated as required; Pictometry software (3-dimensional aerial view of all properties within the city limits) is used by the Planning & Zoning Department to assist in the study of properties, structures and land use.

BUXTON STUDY:

Three years ago, the City of New Iberia partnered with Iberia Industrial Development Foundation to hire the Buxton Management Company to fund "The Buxton Study," which identifies the best locations for retail or healthcare facilities, creating long-term customer relationships, and identifying the best merchandising mix for retail stores. The study revealed retail sales potential, market opportunities and valuable retail marketing "leakage" data. This information is not only essential in our business recruitment efforts, but is also available to all local business owners and others who may be looking to expand their product lines or open a new business.

SMALL GROUP MEETING DESIGN

OPERATION PROGRESS

NEIGHBORHOOD BY NEIGHBORHOOD&

SMALL GROUP COMMUNITY MEETINGS

WHO IS OPERATION PROGRESS?

The Stakeholders of Operation Progress are representatives of businesses, civic organizations, educational institutions, governmental entities, citizens. The Stakeholders are passionate about Iberia Parish and its communities, its rich past and especially its bright future and potential. The Stakeholders have seen a recent decline in our communities' populations and wish to incorporate planning and action goals which seek to reverse this trend and to put our communities on a new solid and growing path for the future. The Stakeholders are fully engaged in improving the quality of life for residents and businesses alike.

Operation Progress is facilitated by the Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce.

WHAT IS OPERATION PROGRESS?

The Stakeholders, as identified above, seek to support and encourage dynamic and sustained growth by engaging all parties that seek the same. The Stakeholders pledge to work together with both time and treasure to reach and exceed these goals for our future and our children's future.

The guiding principles of Operation Progress are:

- The Stakeholders support projects, investments and policies that support increased residential development and more/improved "quality-of-life" activities.
- The Stakeholders support economic and community development projects and investments, which take advantage of our superior location, pro business attitude and major assets.
- The Stakeholders support policies, activities and investments that build highly-skilled workforce through quality education.
-

WHAT PERIOD OF TIME IS COVERED BY OPERATION PROGRESS?

The initiative seeks to put in writing the living goals that stakeholders seek over the **next five and ten-year period.**

Neighborhood/small group meetings should be scheduled and take place in March, April and early May, with results sent to the Greater Iberia Chamber Office by May 24th.

GUIDELINES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD/SMALL GROUP OPERATION PROGRESS DISCUSSION:

1 INVITE:

Identify 8-14 participants to invite to your meeting. (This is the best size for a small group discussion, but if you are comfortable, you can invite more people.) Send a meeting invitation via e-mail, or mail or call invitees.

2 REMIND:

Call and/or e-mail the people you invited 1-2 days before the scheduled meeting.

3 SET UP:

Select a location where all participants can comfortably sit in a circle. Sort copies of meeting materials into sets for participants. Have enough pens/pencils, paper, and other materials available. Determine who will photograph meeting (optional). Prepare light refreshments, if desired. Designate a note taker for the discussions.

NEIGHBORHOOD/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE:

(Have the designated note taker keep track of discussion points.)

1. Which present characteristics of Iberia Parish do we value and wish to retain?
2. List three (3) greatest success stories in Iberia within the last five years.
3. Which present conditions of Iberia do we characterize as problems requiring resolution? (Provide options for resolution.)
4. How would your community look/act/feel if these conditions were changed?
5. Which conditions/trends do you see as opportunities to make Iberia better in the next five (5) years? Ten (10)?

PRIORITIZE:

As a group, review each question and determine by the top “vote-getters” the top three answers to each question.

Ask the group to which two points of discussion they will commit to improving within the neighborhood, an organization with which they serve, within a governmental jurisdiction. **Please list with contact information.**

Thank everyone for their participation. Encourage them to get involved in Operation Progress at any level that appeals to them.

RESPOND:

Collect contact information from anyone in the group who wishes to be notified of other community and/or committee meetings for Operation Progress.

Forward your neighborhood input to Janet Faulk-Gonzales, janet@iberiachamber.org or 111 West Main Street, New Iberia, LA 70560

Operation Progress –Public Policy Initiative
5 year and 10 year plan
Commencing March 2012

Planning Timeline

- ✓ January 11, 2012 Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Annual Planning Session
- ✓ February 23, 2012 Operation Progress Core Committee Meeting
- ✓ March 15, 2012 Operation Progress Core Committee Meeting
- ✓ April 11, 2012 Operation Progress Core Committee Meeting
- ✓ May 8, 2012 Operation Progress Community Stakeholders Meeting
- ✓ May 9, 2012 Operation Progress Governmental Stakeholders Meeting
- ✓ June 7, 2012 Operation Progress Leadership Iberia & “Catch Up” Stakeholders Meeting
- ✓ June 14, 2012 Operation Progress Core Committee Meeting
- ✓ January 26, 2013 Officially “launch” Initiative at Annual Banquet
- ✓ March 11, 2013 Focus on “Residential & Population Expansion”
- ✓ March 18, 2013 Focus on “Economic & Community Development”
- ✓ March 25, 2013 Focus on “ Workforce Development & Education”
- ✓ March-May 2013 Neighborhood Meetings
- ✓ June 27, 2013 Operation Progress Core Committee Meeting
- July 17, 2013 General Stakeholders Meeting
- July 30, 2013 Signing Ceremony
- September 2013 Community Benchmarking Meeting
- February 2014 Community Benchmarking Meeting
- September 2014 Community Benchmarking Meeting ETC.