

CRC Infrastructure Sub-Committee

Explanation of Project Identification

Template Process & Instructions

CRC Guidance for Infrastructure Subcommittee

In the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill, on September 27, 2010, Governor Riley issued Executive Order Number 52, creating “the *Coastal Recovery Commission of Alabama*, to provide expertise, experience and leadership for development of a transparent, unbiased and well-considered Report, detailing the Road to Resilience for South Alabama.... [T]he Coastal Recovery Commission of Alabama **shall capture, develop and organize recommendations, projects and programs** for the restoration of public health, the economy and the environment in Mobile and Baldwin counties and the waters of the Gulf and State land underlying those waters.”

“The Coastal Recovery Commission shall, by **December 15, 2010**, recommend to the Governor and the Governor-Elect a **Restoration and Resiliency Plan, including recommendations, projects and programs for the restoration** of public health, the economy and the environment in these coastal counties and the waters of the Gulf and State land underlying those waters.”

Excerpts from CRC Mission Statement: A Roadmap to Resilience

“... [To] build regional capacity for long-term resilience. We must position ourselves to respond not only to future oil spills but also to other forces beyond our control, including everything from hurricanes to sudden shifts in the economic environment...we need to develop and implement strategies across a broad range of categories that strengthen our communities’ – and our region’s — adaptability and sustainability over time.”

“We will propose bold but attainable goals, based on the most authoritative research and reality-tested best practices.”

“... this is entirely different program [than the claims process]. It’s meant to lay the foundation for long-term planning; planning that will likely unfold over decades. We want a **roadmap to resilience.**”The Coastal Recovery Commission is charged with identifying strategic investments and projects that will promote a sense of community and connectivity, and build more resilient, and sustainable improvement in the quality of life for Coastal Alabama in the areas of a Healthier Environment, a more robust, diverse and Healthier Economy, and a Healthier Society.

Threats and Events to be addressed by the CRC include:

- Hurricanes
- Terrorism
- Major industrial or transport mishap (i.e., chlorine, explosive gas leak)
- Loss of major employer or critical infrastructure failure/disaster
- Drought
- Pandemic
- Public Perception outside the region of the attractiveness of region as a destination or safety of Gulf seafood harvest

Background of Infrastructure Subcommittee Working Group

A working group of the Infrastructure Sub-Committee has developed the following Project Identification Template to provide consistency in project description and quantification of project impacts, both positive and negative. This product has been reviewed by and incorporates the comments of the entire Sub-Committee. The Coastal Recovery Commission (CRC) will not be the decision making authority for project selection. The project selection process (what entity and by what criteria) has yet to be defined.

The CRC staff and leadership have indicated that a list of projects will be included with the report as an appendix. An appendix to the report will list projects that have been proposed by various CRC subcommittees. Discussion is ongoing and no decisions have been made. A few historical projects may be highlighted in the report as examples only, to illustrate the proposed screening process. Because of the anticipated large number of project suggestions, we have been asked to limit each example to no more than 6 pages (one sided) including attachments. The purpose of the template is to identify the projects including relation to the stated goals of the CRC. The evaluation team is expected to solicit additional information in the future. At this juncture, we don't know who will comprise this evaluation team or how it plans to evaluate, but we hope that our suggestions will be considered.

This working group believes that the following criteria are consistent with the Governor's Proclamation and the Roadmap to Resiliency and could form the basis of a screening and selection process to be recommended to the ultimate decision making authority, yet to be determined:

1. **Coastal Recovery:** Regional beach restoration funding and maintenance capability, preservation of the Gulf's natural resources/quality of life; rapid recovery assistance to business, especially small business that define the character of the Coastal economy.

2. **Resiliency:** Defined as “*the ability of economic entities to maintain function and recover quickly from a disaster*” (CARRI Research Paper #8). The Resiliency of a system, region or economy has three aspects:
 - a) Reduced probability of failures
 - b) Reduced consequences from failures
 - c) Reduced time to recovery
3. **Transformation:** Progressive advances in the Region’s capacity and ability to develop and implement a thoughtful vision that creates a significant improvement in quality of life, commerce, or environment, and provides a diverse economic engine capable of better sustainability and stability through impacts. (See *Transformation attachment from Think.*)
4. **Regionalism:** To promote regional solutions to regional challenges through collaboration, alliances and broad-based Regional entities to best capture economies of scale, and better develop and implement a Regional Strategic Plan and Vision. Regionalism is not just cooperation between a few neighbors doing what is best for them. Regionalism provides collateral benefits to Economic Development, Resiliency, and Economic Diversification. See *Department of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) conceptual framework attached.*
5. **Economic Diversification:** Key strategy for resiliency and transformation. Without compromising the character, environment, and quality of life in Coastal Alabama, where possible, but not limited to, leveraging our existing strengths of our beaches, bay, port and transportation hub, industrial base, higher education and medical facilities (indicative list, not definitive).

Project Impact and Descriptors

In addition to these five criteria, the Infrastructure Sub-Committee working group further recommends the additional *descriptors* of project scope and impact similar to the following be considered in the evaluation and screening process. With further development and refinement, such *project descriptors* may help quantify the relative impact and attractiveness of projects and may be a useful in evaluation process when used as the multiple vectors of a Spider Diagram, or similar analysis tool.

- Cost (inverse scale). Grouping of projects of similar size might lead to a fairer evaluation comparison of benefits of projects of all sizes (including proposed studies.)
- Environmental Impact (-) or benefit (+)
- Implementation Obstacles, i.e., regulatory, organizational
- Leverage on CRC funding, matching funds, either public or private
- Immediacy of Project impact

- Impact on Workforce, both employment level and skill mix/development

Each Project submitted on the Project Identification Template will be scored at a future point by a yet to be named group on a 1-100 scale for each of the Project Criteria and Project Impact & Descriptors categories listed above. The results of this scoring will be tabulated in a table or matrix and will be graphically depicted in a Spider Diagram. Projects do not have to score highly in all categories to be evaluated as worthy or eligible for subsequent review and possible funding.

The Project Identification Template can be found on the CRC website [www.crcalabama.org].