BUSINESS CLIMATE
Subsequent to Hurricane Katrina, the St. Tammany Parish business climate saw accelerated growth. After 2005, FDIC bank deposits rose by 62% and have only fallen 18% in the years since that initial increase. Though electric customers and per capita income had fallen between 2004 and 2005, electric customers rose each subsequent year – totaling 15% growth since 2005 – and per capita income increased dramatically in 2006 and 2007, continuing at a steady pace through 2013. New business establishments have risen 22% since 2005. Since 2006, population has risen 4% and continues to increase, and average employment has been rising steadily since before Katrina. Though housing sales fell dramatically in 2007 and had not returned to pre-Katrina numbers as of 2013, sales rose approximately 60% in 2005 and 2006 immediately following the storm.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
Near to New Orleans and in close proximity to the Gulf Coast via major Interstates 10, 12, 55, and 59, St. Tammany Parish’s low business cost, nationally recognized school system, low crime, and first-rate medical facilities make the community a destination of choice for both families and businesses. St. Tammany Parish’s ACT scores are currently the highest in the state.

Locals revel in the romance and history of resort towns such as Abita Springs and Mandeville, established when steam-powered boats and trains brought the fashionable and elite 24 miles across Lake Pontchartrain. The cities of Slidell, Covington, and Mandeville are populous in industry and people. The entire parish is renowned by outdoor enthusiasts, gourmands, golfers, and art-lovers, and adored by locals for its quirks and commitment to purposeful planning.

As Louisiana’s first and only rails-to-trails conversion, the Tammany Trace is an extremely popular recreation, transportation, and educational attraction. Area residents walk, skate, and bike along the 31-mile public path through a fertile landscape among Covington, Abita Springs, Mandeville, Lacombe, and Slidell. The Trace recently celebrated its 20th anniversary.


KEY COMMUNITY FOCUSES
Transportation: St. Tammany Parish has funded several infrastructural improvements including the widening of Interstate 10 in Slidell, continued plans for the widening of Interstate 12 throughout the parish, the reconstruction of the Interstate 10 Twin Span Bridge, and the resurfacing of US 190 in Mandeville.

Environment and Recreation: The St. Tammany Fishing Pier represents the resilience of St. Tammany Parish. After Hurricane Katrina destroyed the original I-10 Twin Span Bridge, the Parish repurposed the structure for public use. The 650-foot pier opened in June 2012 as the first public fishing pier in the region since the 1960s. When Hurricane Isaac hit in 2012, the pier was damaged and subsequently closed. Repairs completed in December 2013, and the pier reopened in January 2014. It is a favorite local attraction.

Wetlands mitigation and drainage solutions are critical to the sustainability of our coastal region. We want our region to maximize resources for the research of sustainable solutions, implementation of cutting edge technology and continued research and education for future product and process development.

St. Tammany Parish has instituted numerous planning efforts and specific projects with a goal toward creating an Environmental Cor-
There are three main purposes for the Corridor: green space and land-resource management, tourism/economic development, and smart growth planning. The vision for the Environmental Corridor is to identify property based on preservation and restoration and then to classify by use: preserve, restore, mitigate, public/private use, or for use as recreational green space.

**Education Opportunities:** The St. Tammany Advanced Campus, a collaborative effort between educational facilities and the St. Tammany Parish School Board, will focus on workforce development and transitional programs with an emphasis on trade skills. The goal is for this facility to be a dynamic center of learning, training, and business development within the region.

A regional performing arts center and cultural district will house a performing arts center, children's museum, educational facilities, and interpretive nature trails on its campus located in St. Tammany. Future opportunities including training, professional development, and regional tourism draws from events and festivals.

**Risk Mitigation:** The recently created Levee, Drainage, and Conservation District board meets on the third Wednesday of every month. Formed by the Legislature in 2014, this nine-member board populated by gubernatorial appointments from various communities throughout St. Tammany allowed the Parish to withdraw from the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and take control of its own flood protection.

The St. Tammany Advanced Campus will provide the region with an easily accessible “safe house” campus for transportation and communication services, emergency preparedness education, training and staffing, disaster response coordination, and execution and support activity before, during, and after any major emergency situation.

St. Tammany Parish has created several Economic Development Districts to strategically position ourselves in advance of development proposals, rather than reacting to such proposals. The districts will give us an important new tool to stimulate economic development over the long term, establish quality standards for design and development of commercial facilities within the districts, to compete more effectively with other jurisdictions for new private sector investment, and to enable us to afford to invest in economic growth as our Parish grows.

In order to properly protect our region’s livestock during emergency situations, it is imperative that a regional livestock emergency shelter be built. Not only will this facility provide lifesaving protection for our region’s livestock, the facility can be a research and training center through a partnership with the Louisiana State University agricultural education and veterinary sciences departments.

**NEW PHYSICAL ASSETS**

- St. Tammany Fishing Pier
- Northshore Technical Community College STEM campus
- St. Tammany Advanced Campus
- Economic Development Districts
- Levee, Drainage, and Conservation District

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