
7. THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LISTING



STRATEGIC PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The following pages provide a listing of projects that local units of government and economic development organizations and the MRRPC have identified to assist in implementing the goals and objectives of this report. This listing is not to be considered a complete listing of all economic development projects in the region. The MRRPC will accept additional projects on an on going basis that will be considered for inclusion in annual updates of this report.

Each project has been analyzed based upon its economic impact using the following tier criteria.

Tier 1 Projects - Tier 1 projects are expected to produce the greatest economic benefits in terms of: (1) Inducing private investment, creating or retaining jobs, increasing income levels and tax base. (2) Raising the quality of life for those in poverty or of low income means. (3) Resolving a problem where a direct threat to health and public safety exists. Examples include: Public infrastructure projects such as development of an industrial park to accommodate traded, local or natural resource based industries that lead to private job creation and tax base expansion, housing or employment projects specifically designed to improve the quality of life for those who are disabled, in poverty or of low income means and a road, water, sewer, dam, levee, or relocation (infrastructure) project that is needed to protect health and public safety.

Tier 2 Projects - Tier 2 projects are expected to have less of an economic impact than Tier 1 projects. They are defined as those projects involving local businesses and industries generating less private investment, job creation-retention and income level benefit than tier one projects but provide services or a function designed to further develop economic self sufficiency, entrepreneurship, business and industry innovation, commercial development, housing projects, downtown investment, tourism and recreation projects.

Tier 3 Projects - Tier 3 projects are defined as those projects that have the least impact on the economy by way of private investment and job creation-retention and income level benefit. These projects however deserve merit and attention because of the potential economic development role they can play in the future and/or the important role they play in providing needed public services. Types of projects included in this category are: (1) Projects or programs with economic development potential that are still in the conceptual or planning stage where the full scope has not as of yet been agreed to or completely defined; (2) Projects that are maintenance oriented but merit attention so the existing infrastructure and facilities do not later have to be made due to a threat to health and public safety; (3) Local government public building or facility projects that are needed to carry out routine local government functions.

How Will This Economic Development Project Screening System Be Used? - The purpose of this screening process is to assist the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission in targeting our resources to where they will provide the greatest benefit. This does not mean the MRRPC will only concentrate on Tier 1 projects. For instance, many of these projects may proceed with little or any MRRPC involvement. It would be a serious misallocation of our resources to spend a great amount of our time on a project if private local, state or federal resources are expected to be in place to successfully move a project along. It may be the case that after looking at all Tier 1 projects in a given year that they all may have the resources to move forward with little MRRPC involvement. In this case MRRPC resources would be more effectively spent on Tier 2 or 3 projects that provide economic benefits but lack the resources to move forward. Another reason of going through this process of identifying projects based on their economic development potential is it helps identify in a very practical way the economic development needs of the region which after some analysis may lead to joint ventures and cost sharing or assisting in influencing local, state and federal project funding priorities. The MRRPC encourages recommendations on how we might better identify economic development projects and how to channel resources from throughout the region to these projects to see that these and future projects are successful. The MRRPC desires this report to serve as a catalyst that pulls us together in building prosperity for our region.