

# Bossier Plan Chapter 11

## Facilities & Education

Through the advancement of this Master Plan, the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and Bossier City and Parish are committed to ensuring adequate public facilities and educational resources necessary to support the future growth and sustainability of the Bossier planning area. Doing so also results in a safe and healthy environment that protects and enhances quality of life features for residents and visitors to the Bossier area.

Public facilities and services are often taken for granted. Yet, without coordination and conscientious planning for future growth, facilities and services may be interrupted or slip below standards and community expectations. The purpose of the Facilities and Education element of the Master Plan is to analyze the sufficiency of the area's public facility investments to meet the changing service demands of the projected population into the 2020s. Further, this element identifies future community facilities needs and priorities, measured against current demands, to make generalized recommendations for the locations of future facilities as enumerated through a series of goals and objectives supported by clear statements of action.

Over the 20-year planning period, Bossier's population is projected to shift and expand. As such, it will become increasingly important to ensure that public facilities and the education system serve the needs and expectations of the population in a timely, orderly and efficient manner. The provision of public facilities and education in Bossier is linked to other elements of the Master Plan since these facilities will depend, in part, on projected population growth, future land use plans and annexation strategy, parks and recreation planning, and other factors. In addition, facility needs will feed into the Implementation strategy, in which multi-year capital improvements programming is also highlighted.

Planning for public facilities should especially be coordinated with the Future Land Use Plan as it reflects the area's desired growth pattern and will influence the location and

provision of public facilities and related services.

### Public Facilities Considered

Generally, public facilities include infrastructure and services provided by various public agencies for the benefit of Bossier residents. For the purpose of this Master Plan, public facilities and services include the following: police protection, fire protection, library services, municipal and Parish operations, and public schools. Utilities such as water, sanitary sewers and storm sewers are another important type of public facilities. These "hard" infrastructure facilities are thoroughly addressed in Chapter 8 – Utilities and Infrastructure.

### Key Facilities and Education Issues

Central to the comprehensive planning process was public participation, through which comments were received and merged with findings from the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) and key person/agency interviews. The issues that came to the forefront focus on enhanced and efficient service delivery through the community's network of public facilities and schools. These are displayed in **Figure 11.1 - Public Facilities**.

*A public facility is "a use conducted by, or a facility or structure owned or managed by, a publicly funded entity that provides a governmental function, activity or service for public benefit."*

*- Draft 2001 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan*

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### Improve Law Enforcement Resources

Agencies organized to provide police protection and ensure public safety in the Bossier planning area are well equipped and generally function to community expectations. Most of the public safety challenges are found in the outlying areas of the MPC Planning Area where population growth rates are outpacing that of the City.

### Bolster Fire Protection Capabilities

While fire protection capabilities in Bossier City have received superior ratings, volunteer departments in unincorporated areas of the Parish are challenged by limited resources and rapid growth. As a component of fire protection, emergency medical services are based in each of the City's nine fire stations and some of the rural volunteer stations.

### Maintain Quality Library Services

The Bossier Parish library system is considered a valuable community resource. Detailed plans to expand the system within the MPC Planning Area have already been identified to enhance facilities and services in the future. Continued public and patron support of the library system's services should enable it to implement future plans and develop innovative methods to complement public school system facilities and resources.

### Enhance Access to Services

Unique for a community of this size, all of Bossier City's municipal functions are in an accessible, centralized location. However, many of the "tenants" are experiencing space constraints. Given projected population growth, long-range facility plans should be developed to ensure that these facilities continue to meet the needs of Bossier residents and an expanding community.

### Target Education Facility Needs

The quality of education offered to Bossier's young people continues to be a top priority throughout the community. Education has a prominent role in the future of the region, providing a trained and educated workforce. Long-range planning by the Bossier Parish School Board in concert with Bossier residents and City and Parish government is essential to be sure that the number and distribution of facilities – and appropriate maintenance of existing sites – is adequate for fluctuating school age populations and an evolving urbanization pattern.

## Public Facility and Education Plans, Related Studies and Regulatory Provisions

- ◆ Community Policing Assessment Report (2000) – Completed by the Louisiana Community Policing Institute, this report is a comprehensive assessment of the Bossier City Police Department, designed to assist in the further implementation of community policing methods.
- ◆ "The Bossier Central Library Master Plan 2001" – This plan was developed to create additional space and services in anticipation of projected growth of the Bossier community.
- ◆ "Bossier Parish School Board District Improvement Plan – Goals 2000-2003" – This plan was developed by the BPSB in conjunction with the District Improvement Plan Council to "set forth goals for the advancement of education" in Bossier. It is to be evaluated and updated annually.

## Facilities and Education Goals, Objectives and Action Statements

The following summary of goals is designed to address the stated issues and support the independent strategic plans maintained by various entities responsible for public facilities and services in the MPC Planning Area. Each expanded issue is followed by a goal, and then objectives and actions were developed as a result of comments received through stakeholder input in various public forums, staff interviews and field observation. The statements are intended to provide a framework for implementing long-term strategies for the provision of adequate public facilities and education infrastructure. In summary, the goals include:

- ◆ Expand staffing and facilities as needed to maintain high standards for law enforcement functions in the MPC Planning Area.
- ◆ Provide for facility maintenance and development, staff enhancement and equipment acquisition needed to meet the long-term fire protection needs of the MPC Planning Area.
- ◆ Support expansion of the Bossier Parish Library System and its efforts in providing educational and

informational services to residents within the MPC Planning Area.

- ◆ Develop and implement a long-range facilities plan for municipal operations to address future space needs and ensure access to all residents.
- ◆ Support the Bossier Parish School Board and other education institutions in providing quality education opportunities, including school facilities that are adequate to handle fluctuating enrollment projections.

**Improve Law Enforcement Resources**

Ensuring the public’s safety is one of the primary functions of local government and is a basic allocation of taxpayer dollars. The effectiveness of law enforcement is highly correlated to quality of life assessment. Since the MPC Planning Area encompasses portions of Bossier Parish beyond the corporate limits of Bossier City, multiple service providers or agencies are involved. Three law enforcement agencies function to “serve and protect” within the Bossier planning area: the Bossier City Police Department, Bossier City Marshal, and the Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Department. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) also serves in a more limited capacity. Each agency has a specific role, but there is some overlap requiring constant communication and coordination. Service areas for the Bossier City Police and Marshal’s offices are exclusive to the corporate limits whereas the Sheriff’s department covers the entire Parish. LSP focuses on enforcement of laws along the area’s network of Interstate Highways. From the perspective of metropolitan-level planning, communication is paramount when each agency is identifying anticipated needs.

**Goal 11.1: Expand staffing and facilities as needed to maintain high standards for law enforcement functions in the MPC Planning Area.**

**Objective A:** Ensure that area law enforcement agencies have adequate personnel to meet the current and future needs of the community.

**Objective B:** Ensure that area law enforcement agencies have adequate equipment and facilities in order to continue providing quality services to residents.

**Objective C:** Provide continuous training and education programs for law enforcement personnel.

**Objective D:** Increase community involvement in crime prevention efforts to empower residents to make a positive impact toward the safety and security of their area.

**Objective E:** Continue implementation of policies, programs and services based on national standards.

**Action 11.1.1:** As the population continues to grow, periodically review the staffing needs of area law enforcement agencies and hire additional qualified staff to accommodate growth and increased demands for service.

**Action 11.1.2:** Maintain equipment inventories and identify replacement and acquisition needs in advance to ensure appropriate budgeting.

**Action 11.1.3:** Support regular software and equipment upgrades to ensure that personnel have access to state-of-the-art technology.

**Action 11.1.4:** Integrate Geographic Information System (GIS) applications to spatially record and analyze area crime statistics, and share data across agencies to address findings and better target resources.

**Action 11.1.5:** Continue regular training of police personnel to meet all applicable state and national standards and certifications.



*Law enforcement activities in the MPC Planning Area are addressed by multiple agencies, with each committed to teamwork and preserving and enhancing Bossier’s quality of life.*

**Action 11.1.6:** Hire a full-time Training Officer and implement a citizen police academy program.

**Action 11.1.7:** Take advantage of management and personnel training available through the National Emergency Training Center and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**Action 11.1.8:** Monitor participation and benefits of the ride along program and promote or expand as appropriate.

**Action 11.1.9:** Consider initiating an area residence on watch (AROW) program in apartment complexes.

**Action 11.1.10:** Maintain communications with neighborhood associations and create neighborhood watch programs wherever feasible.

**Action 11.1.11:** Develop opportunities/activities to enhance relations between youth and law enforcement.

**Action 11.1.12:** Consider pursuit of accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

**Action 11.1.13:** Encourage inter-jurisdictional cooperation among law enforcement and corrections agencies to further develop, where practical, shared services and facility use.

**Action 11.1.14:** Develop community benchmarks and program performance measures to evaluate police protection effectiveness. Such performance measures might include response time to calls, crime solution rates or other methods to determine actual effectiveness.

**Action 11.1.15:** Require development of comprehensive emergency management plans consistent with this Master Plan.

**Action 11.1.16:** Commit to coordination between the MPC and law enforcement entities to anticipate the need for new facilities resulting from growth and trends.

**Bolster Fire Protection Capabilities**

Overall, fire protection in the MPC Planning Area is considered good. Bossier City’s fire protection resources exceed those of the volunteer departments serving the unincorporated portions of the planning area. There are numerous opportunities for inter-jurisdictional cooperation and sharing of

resources, training and equipment. Over the years, the community has demonstrated a strong commitment to good fire protection as evidenced by awarding of the Class One fire protection rating to the Bossier City Fire Department.

**Goal 11.2: Provide for facility maintenance and development, staff enhancement and equipment acquisition needed to meet the long-term fire protection needs of the MPC Planning Area.**

**Objective A:** Ensure the Bossier City Fire Department and other area fire agencies have adequate resources and facilities to meet the needs of a growing population and expanding service areas.

**Objective B:** Pursue supplemental funding through grants and other means to reinforce agency missions.



*Bossier City’s Fire Station No. 9 is located at 2621 Brownlee Road in north Bossier. It is the City’s newest station.*

**Objective C:** Promote fire prevention and expand public outreach and education programs.

**Action 11.2.1:** Review fire staffing needs periodically and recruit additional employees as resources allow to meet increased demands for fire protection services.

**Action 11.2.2:** Regularly review service areas and response times, and plan and construct additional fire stations in appropriate locations.

- Action 11.2.3:** Support regular technology and equipment upgrades to keep pace with technical innovations as well as to serve a growing area effectively.
- Action 11.2.4:** Continue and expand community programs such as CPR training, Fire Prevention Week activities, school programs, and fire extinguisher classes.
- Action 11.2.5:** Focus urban growth in areas served by a fire protection district or within the Bossier City corporate limits.
- Action 11.2.6:** Encourage continued inter-jurisdictional cooperation among fire districts, including sharing of equipment and facilities and eventual consolidation of districts, where practical.
- Action 11.2.7:** Encourage development of community benchmarks and program performance measures to monitor outcomes from public safety efforts.
- Action 11.2.8:** Prepare comprehensive emergency management plans consistent with this Master Plan.
- Action 11.2.9:** Coordinate between the MPC and the various fire departments to anticipate the need for new facilities resulting from growth and trends.

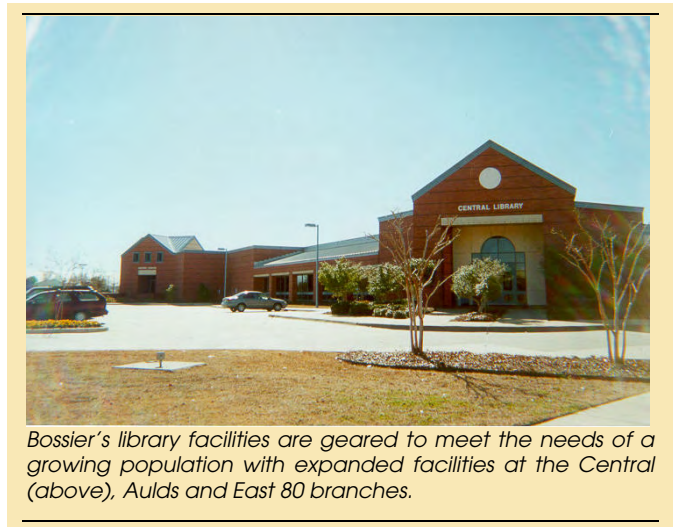
**Maintain Quality Library Services**

The public library system in the MPC Planning Area is a Parish government function. The majority of Bossier Parish’s population is situated within the Planning Area and, so too are most of the library facilities. The library system underwent an aggressive expansion program several years ago and has already identified needs and plans for another round of facility expansions proposed to begin in 2003. The facilities are well used and considered to be a focal point of each neighborhood.

**Goal 11.3: Support expansion of the Bossier Parish Library System and its efforts in providing educational and informational services to residents within the MPC Planning Area.**

- Objective A:** Improve accessibility, awareness and use of the public library system.
- Objective B:** Address the current and future space requirements of the library system.

- Action 11.3.1:** Continue to pursue grants to finance technology improvements, including the purchase of additional computers.
- Action 11.3.2:** Continue to provide sufficient staffing and budget resources to enable the library system to meet Louisiana Library Association standards.



*Bossier’s library facilities are geared to meet the needs of a growing population with expanded facilities at the Central (above), Aulds and East 80 branches.*

- Action 11.3.3:** Consider adjusting library hours as demands for services change.
- Action 11.3.4:** Seek opportunities to associate with agencies that have a significant public outreach/education component, such as the City Parks & Recreation Department or the Bossier Parish School Board, to implement coordinated activities related to the Red River and Bossier’s extensive inventory of natural resources.
- Action 11.3.5:** Implement facility expansion plans identified in the *Bossier Central Library Master Plan - 2001*.
- Action 11.3.6:** Continue to participate with the program that distributes library cards to second graders throughout the Parish.
- Action 11.3.7:** Identify school library needs and seek to address them in a coordinated fashion through either system.
- Action 11.3.8:** Hire additional staff to provide better training and service for computer / Internet workstations.

**Action 11.3.9:** Encourage inter-jurisdictional cooperation, sharing of equipment and facilities, and consolidation of districts.

**Action 11.3.10:** Ensure that the expansion of library capacity proceeds at a comparable rate with that of residential development and demographic trends.

**Action 11.3.11:** Ensure that land use regulations allow siting of library facilities in locations convenient and accessible to residential areas.

**Enhance Access to Services**

The provision of adequate public facilities must be carefully weighed with other elements of this comprehensive planning effort, particularly the land use and transportation elements. Moreover, future needs must be properly anticipated to budget appropriately and to identify opportunities for inter-jurisdictional cooperation to stretch current resources.

**Goal 11.4: Develop and implement a long-range facilities plan for municipal operations to address future space needs and ensure access to all residents.**

**Objective A:** Establish appropriate Level of Service standards for public facilities and services.

**Objective B:** Implement a Capital Facilities Plan which ensures that public facilities and services meet the established Levels of Service.

**Action 11.4.1:** Determine the type and quantity of capital improvements that are needed to eliminate existing deficiencies and maintain desired Levels of Service.

**Action 11.4.2:** Establish priorities among capital improvement needs through annual review and amendments to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

**Action 11.4.3:** Monitor the implementation of the Capital Improvement Program and area development trends to ensure that the Land Use and Transportation elements and capital facilities planning are coordinated and consistent.

**Action 11.4.4:** Finance capital improvements and manage debt consistent with the needs and priorities identified through the Master Plan.

**Action 11.4.5:** Provide public facilities and services – or accept their provision by other entities – only if Bossier

City/Parish or the other entity is able to pay for subsequent operation and maintenance costs.



*The implementation of plans to develop the Municipal Complex was ambitious, but effectively accomplished, with good planning and anticipation of community needs.*

**Target Education Facility Needs**

The provision of adequate public facilities for education is of incalculable value to Bossier. Primary and secondary schools that are neighborhood oriented are key contributors to the creation and long-term sustainability of the “community.” Community involvement in the schools enables the children and educators to thrive. In the MPC



*Older school facilities are sometimes ill-equipped to address shifting populations, and portable buildings help fill the gap.*

Planning Area, the Bossier Parish School Board (BPSB) administers public education functions. Relatively few students attend private schools; however, Christ the King School is located in central Bossier City. Although post-secondary education opportunities are more regional in nature, with numerous institutions located throughout the Ark-La-Tex, Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) is

located in Bossier City and is expanding to fulfill its vital mission.

**Goal 11.5: Support the Bossier Parish School Board and other education institutions in providing quality education opportunities, including school facilities that are adequate to handle fluctuating enrollment projections.**

**Objective A:** Ensure coordination with the BPSB so that school sites and facilities serve the educational needs of Bossier area residents while also meeting neighborhood compatibility objectives (traffic, parking, recreation, building layout, etc.).

**Objective B:** Include the community in the facility planning process.

**Action 11.5.1:** Request that the Bossier Parish School Board provide an annual report to the MPC to evaluate the district's ability to accommodate shifting populations and new growth.

**Action 11.5.2:** Consider the development and implementation of a Charter School as necessary and feasible.

**Action 11.5.3:** Encourage arrangements for shared access to facilities for recreational or other civic purposes.

**Action 11.5.4:** Assist BPSB as needed in developing Capital Facilities Plans that are consistent with the Master Plan.

**Action 11.5.5:** Ensure that land use policies protect and allow for the establishment of new schools in urban areas.

**Action 11.5.6:** Ensure that expansion of school facility capacity proceeds at a comparable rate with that of residential development and demographic trends.

**Action 11.5.7:** Consider the adequacy of area school facilities when reviewing proposed new residential development.

**Action 11.5.8:** Develop a process to determine needs based on identified standards that take into account current use as well as the existing condition of each facility.

**Action 11.5.9:** Using a standardized process, compile and maintain an accurate space inventory for each school tied to the floor plans of each facility.

**Action 11.5.10:** Adopt a set of facility use standards and annually use the standards to assess the efficiency of school facility utilization and to plan new schools.

**Action 11.5.11:** Establish a policy on the use of temporary facilities that recognizes the negative effects on the educational program from overuse of common school facilities and resources.

**Action 11.5.12:** Annually review school attendance zones to avoid over- or under-crowding of particular campuses.

**Action 11.5.13:** Adopt a land acquisition process that includes increased opportunities for public input and coordination with future land use, transportation and utilities plans.

### Primary Public Facilities and Services

As documented in the Area Profile, Bossier's population continues to increase at a healthy rate; however, much of the growth is occurring on Bossier City's periphery, often in unincorporated portions of the MPC Planning Area. The Land Use element presents a series of growth constraints that should be accounted for when platting new development. With continued population growth, these constraints could induce development trends with higher population densities. New development should also consider the presence and adequacy of existing and proposed public facilities throughout the community.

New public facilities cost money, even as existing facilities must be maintained. Decentralized or dispersed development patterns result in a poor distribution of the necessary public facilities to serve these newly populated areas. Shifting populations also strain school resources and result in some facilities being underutilized.

The following sections provide further background to the goals, objectives and actions for the various public facility and education issues in the Bossier area.

#### Law Enforcement

As previously noted, the Bossier City Police Department (BCPD) is responsible for all law enforcement activity within the corporate limits. The City Marshal is the agent of the Municipal Court System. Unincorporated portions of the MPC Planning Area are the responsibility of the Bossier

Parish Sheriff's Department (BPSD). The region also benefits from the presence of the Louisiana State Police.

*Bossier City Police Department*

The mission of the Bossier City Police Department (BCPD) is "...to protect life and property under the law, with full respect of citizens irrespective of race, color, or sex, and according to the highest standards of professional skill, integrity and accountability." Prior to 1949, the City Marshal administered law enforcement functions and no police department existed. Initially, the department was comprised of 12 officers and one patrol car.

Today's Police Department has grown into a modern, multi-faceted law enforcement agency. The Department's headquarters are located within the Municipal Complex at 620 Benton Road.

The BCPD is comprised of five divisions (Uniform Services, Criminal Investigation, Special Investigations, Records, and Jail/Training/Community Services) and nearly 200 employees. Of the 194 total employees, 71 officers are assigned to three shifts. According to *Crime in the United States - 2000*, published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), law enforcement agencies nationally had an average of 3.5 employees per 1,000 persons. Based on the Year 2000 City population of 56,461 persons, application of this ratio would require the department to be staffed to 197.4 employees. Used as a guide or indicator and not as a recommendation, this would represent a slight deficiency of about three employees. As discussed in the Area Profile, Bossier City's population for the end of the 20-year planning period is projected to be approximately 69,000 persons. Thus, the BCPD staff would need to expand to approximately 241.5 employees. **Table 11.1 - Law Enforcement Employees**, compares the average number of employees per 1,000 persons to national averages provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Current and future staffing needs may also be evaluated using call statistics, defined by the BCPD as all calls that require a police response. This definition includes, but is not limited to the following:

- ◆ all criminal complaints, including suspicious activity;

- ◆ services, which are supportive of citizens' requests, such as welfare checks/vacation watch, extra patrol, message delivery, and motorist/citizen assistance;
- ◆ warrant and summons service;
- ◆ citizen-initiated calls; and,
- ◆ officer-initiated calls.

Bossier City Police Department statistics indicate that calls for service have increased each year since 1997 when calls totaled 95,139. Calls in 2000 totaled 114,481, representing an annualized increase of 6.8 percent. According to BCPD, the increase is attributed to increased tourism and demand for services associated with the arrival of dockside gaming activities in Bossier City and Shreveport.

BCPD initiated a "community policing" approach to area law enforcement activities in 1999. In 2000, the Louisiana Community Policing Institute completed a comprehensive assessment of the department "to assist in the further implementation of community policing." Two of the key strategic recommendations emphasized keeping the public aware of the department's vision and mission and taking advantage of community support by creating formal partnerships for crime prevention efforts and quality of life issues. Each of three areas is led by a Captain, or Area Coordinator. Citywide, the community is broken into 13 police districts where each Area Coordinator is

*"Community policing" is defined as a philosophy and management approach that promotes police, community, and government partnerships and proactive problem solving to address the causes of crime, fear of crime, and other community issues. There are three interrelated, equally important core components: including partnerships, problem solving, and organizational structure/leadership.*

**Table 11.1  
Law Enforcement Employees**

	MPC Planning Area	All Cities	South	Suburban Areas	County Areas
Average Number of Employees Per 1,000	4.9*	3.1	3.5	3.7	4.3

\* Represents both BCPD and BPSD  
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

responsible for four districts. The department uses an “active/aggressive patrol” approach. This is based upon the philosophy that petty or minor crimes lead to criminal activity of a more serious nature.

Since 1985, the Main Police Headquarters have been situated within the Municipal Complex. This location coordinates most of the department functions, including administration, records, jail, communications, criminal investigation, patrol and patrol administration, ABO and area coordinators. Space constraints have created the need to locate some components of the department off site. DSI is located at 1403 Hamilton Road and houses narcotics, vice and SCIU operations. The Police Training Center is located at 1549 East Texas, and Evidence Storage is on Cook Road. The BCPD currently has a fleet of 186 vehicles. Of these, 104 are marked patrol cars and 70 are unmarked units.

Through its community policing programs and other mandates, the department provides a number of programs that serve to protect, educate and interact with Bossier residents, including:

- ◆ sporting events;
- ◆ mentoring programs;
- ◆ community meetings;
- ◆ child restraint clinics;
- ◆ bicycle rodeos;
- ◆ Operation Bus Stop;
- ◆ D.A.R.E.; and,
- ◆ Crime Stoppers.

*City Marshal*

According to LRS 13:1881, the (city) Marshal is the executive officer of the (city) court; he shall execute the orders and mandates of the court in the execution thereof, and in making arrests and preserving the peace, he has the same powers and authority of a sheriff. As such, the Marshal and deputies are based out of the Bossier City Municipal

Courts. The department is staffed by the Marshal and 12 deputies.

*Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Department*

The Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Department (BPSD) is mandated to provide law enforcement services to unincorporated portions of Bossier Parish, including such areas within the MPC Planning Area. The Sheriff also functions as the Parish Tax Collector.

The mission of the Sheriff’s Department is “to uphold the law with fairness and firmness. It will pursue and bring to justice those who break the law. It seeks to prevent crime and keep the peace. It works diligently to protect the citizens it serves.”

The BPSD is staffed with 179 Regular Deputy Sheriffs, 29 Reserve Deputy Sheriffs, and 250 members of the Sheriff’s Posse. The BPSD is based in Benton, the Parish seat. However, two satellite facilities are in Bossier City. One office is located within the Municipal Complex, and the other is located at 2510 Viking Drive in Bossier City. The existence of these substations is due to the concentration of the Parish population relative to the predominately rural

nature of the remainder of Bossier Parish. Interviews with officials from both the Sheriff’s Department and the Bossier City Police Department revealed a high level of cooperation and deferral of most police functions within the City to the BCPD.

*Louisiana State Police*

The Louisiana State Police (LSP) also have an important law enforcement function in the MPC Planning Area. Troop G is based in Bossier City on Industrial Drive near IH 20.

The mission of the LSP is as a statutorily mandated, statewide law enforcement agency. “We will ensure

*The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) cites the following factors that are known to affect the volume and types of crime occurring in communities such as Bossier:*

- ◆ Population density and degree of urbanization
- ◆ Variations in composition of population, particularly youth concentration
- ◆ Stability of populations with respect to residents’ mobility, commuting patterns and transient factors
- ◆ Modes of transportation and highway system
- ◆ Economic conditions, including median income, poverty level and job availability
- ◆ Cultural factors and educational, recreational and religious characteristics
- ◆ Family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness
- ◆ Climate
- ◆ Effective strength of law enforcement agencies
- ◆ Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement
- ◆ Policies and other components of the criminal justice system
- ◆ Citizens’ attitude toward crime
- ◆ Crime reporting practices of the citizenry

the safety and security of the people in the state through enforcement, education, and providing of other essential public safety services.”

Operations in the Bossier area revolve around two primary activities: highway safety and education on seatbelt and child restraint laws.

*Priorities*

Law enforcement agencies within the MPC Planning Area are well equipped and supported to fulfill their mission well into the future. Continued and expanded sharing of resources among the various agencies will enable them to do “more with less.” Continuation of the Area Coordinator and Community Policing approaches to law enforcement within the City promotes good lines of communication within the Department and among residents and businesses.

**Fire Protection**

Fire protection in the MPC Planning Area is provided by the Bossier City Fire Department within the Bossier City corporate limits and by three fire districts in the unincorporated areas. These districts are the Benton Fire Department, East Central Bossier Parish District 1, and the South Bossier Volunteer Fire Department. Each operates independently but lends support as necessary through mutual aid agreements.

*Bossier City Fire Department*

The Bossier City Fire Department enjoys broad community support for its services. This support has translated into efficient fire protection and lower property insurance rates. Last year, the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) recognized these efforts in its evaluations by awarding the department a prestigious Class 1 Fire Protection rating. Bossier City is one of three communities in Louisiana and one of approximately 48 nationwide that have achieved this distinction.

To continue this important rating, it is essential to maintain good service area coverage to minimize response times. Each department’s facilities are identified in Figure 11.1 – Public Facilities. Bossier City has nine fire stations:

- ◆ Fire Station #1 is located in the Municipal Complex at 620 Benton Road. Primary operations and communications are out of this facility. A refueling facility is also on site.
- ◆ Fire Station #2 is located at 1101 Waller Avenue.
- ◆ Fire Station #3 is located at 2800 Northside Drive.

- ◆ Fire Station #4 is located at 4300 Parkway Drive.
- ◆ Fire Station #5 is located 915 Meadowview Drive.
- ◆ Fire Station #6 is located at 700 Barksdale Boulevard.
- ◆ Fire Station #7 is located at 5900 Shed Road.
- ◆ Fire Station #8 is located at 2001 River Bend Drive.
- ◆ Fire Station #9 is located at 2621 Brownlee Road and is the department’s newest facility. It opened in September 2000.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) publishes data on career and volunteer firefighters across the country. In 1997, NFPA conducted a survey of fire departments for U.S. fire experience (*U.S. Fire Department Profile Through 1997*, November 1998). The survey includes data pertaining to a ratio of career and volunteer firefighters per 1,000 inhabitants. These rates are based on data reported by the NFPA and do not reflect recommended rates or a defined fire protection standard. They do, however, provide insight for comparisons with fire departments in similar sized communities. According to the survey of departments serving a population of 50,000 to 99,999 residents, career firefighters per 1,000 people ranged from 0.00 to 3.33.

No new stations are required to serve populated areas within Bossier City. As population growth in unincorporated areas continues to outpace that of Bossier City, additional stations may become justified in northern and southern portions of the MPC Planning Area. However, geographically, volunteer-dependent stations operated by Benton, East Central and South Bossier are well distributed.

*Benton Fire Department*

The Benton Fire Department service area extends well beyond the limits of the MPC Planning Area. One station, however, is located in the Planning Area at the intersection of Airline Drive and Swan Lake. With only two paid staff at the station, the department relies heavily on volunteers but manages to provide adequate services to earn a Class 4 Fire Protection rating. Mutual aid agreements with Bossier City also help.

With rapid population growth in this area, a number of needs have become evident, and some have recently

been fulfilled such as a \$300,000 upgrade for the department's training center and maintenance facility. Acquisition of paid staff is imperative to further improve the fire protection rating. This will require accommodation space.

The recent development influx has contributed to a measurable (10-15 percent) increase in revenues to the department, which derives its funds from a property tax millage. No emergency medical services are available from this station.

#### *East Central Bossier Parish District 1*

Serving eastern unincorporated portions of the MPC Planning Area and beyond, ECBP District 1 has two stations within the Planning Area: 4494 US Highway 80 and Bellevue at Adner Road. A third fire station within the Planning Area is proposed for the intersection of Bellevue and Pease, where land has been donated.

The department retains a Class 4 Fire Protection rating. With four full time employees, one is on duty at all times. Forty volunteers compliment them, but additional regulars are needed. Without hydrants in many areas, tankers are used to supply water for firefighting.

#### *South Bossier Volunteer Fire Department*

The South Bossier VFD responds to approximately 180 square miles from six fire stations, four of which are within the Planning Area limits:

- ◆ Central is located at 3551 Highway 527 at LA 157 and houses paid staff as well as one primary ambulance and one backup ambulance operated by the Bossier Parish EMS.
- ◆ Fire Station #4 is located at the intersection of Sligo and Mayflower Road.
- ◆ Fire Station #5 is located at the intersection of US 71 and Taylortown.
- ◆ Fire Station #6 is located at the intersection of US 71 and Poole Road.

No new stations are proposed at this time. The critical issue facing the volunteer department concerns the desire to migrate to a 24-hour shift next year and the longer-term need for additional paid staff. The department has a roster of approximately 40 volunteer firefighters. Further, the department has a Class 5 fire protection rating, the lowest in

the Planning Area. The most significant hurdle to improving the rating is the lack of a water system. Only dry hydrants exist to facilitate the pressurizing of water hauled to the incident to extinguish the fire.

For planning purposes, all of the departments utilize a 1.5-mile service/response radius for each station, consistent with ISO standards. Based on this criterion, a new station is needed in the northeastern sector of the Planning Area along Bellevue Road where one station is proposed in order to provide adequate protection for this growing area and maintain established fire protection ratings in the Planning Area.

#### **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

The Bossier City Fire Department provides emergency medical services (EMS) to areas within the City. EMS in unincorporated portions of the MPC Planning Area is provided by Bossier Parish EMS.

#### *Bossier City EMS*

Emergency medical services in Bossier City are operated as a function of the Fire Department. The mission of the Bossier City EMS is to "reduce the amount of pain and suffering of the citizens and guests of our city by providing the highest level of quality pre-hospital emergency care possible."

The City's EMS provide patient stabilization and transport with three ambulance units and a variety of personnel, all of which are certified in various specialties. Staff levels are strong, with 47 nationally registered paramedics, five intermediates, 103 basics, and 19 first responders. These resources provide emergency medical response for Bossier City and Barksdale Air Force Base, covering more than 40 square miles and serving over 60,000 persons.

Historically, funding of this service has primarily been through an enterprise fund, and according to Ordinance #70 adopted last year, the fund was losing money for a third year. This ordinance enabled the City to bill residents' and non-residents' insurers, Medicare/Medicaid, or others to make up for the loss. Further, the ordinance established a base rate per patient transported of \$500.00 as well as a loaded mileage rate per patient of \$6.00. While these measures to maintain services were adopted by the City Council, a proposed 9-mill property tax to expand services was denied in a referendum last fall. The

revenues generated would have funded an additional ambulance, additional staff and improve dispatch and response systems. The fourth ambulance would have been utilized to reduce response times in north Bossier.

Areawide, private ambulance services provide non-emergency medical transport and patient transfers.

#### *Bossier Parish EMS*

Emergency medical services in Bossier Parish are funded by a tax of \$36 per residential dwelling unit and a quarter-cent sales tax in unincorporated areas. The service area is parishwide with the exception of Bossier City. Bossier Parish EMS operates seven ambulances, three of which are backup. Stations with ambulances are South Bossier, East 80/Haughton, Benton and Plain Dealing. All but Plain Dealing operate a backup. Should all of the units in north Bossier be utilized simultaneously, the south Bossier units would rotate temporarily. The dividing line for this purpose is IH 220.

There are three key issues relevant to this service. The first concerns the availability of the service to residents in the MPC Planning Area. Many believe they are better off transporting themselves or family members to the emergency room, but in fact, the Parish EMS system, being based in strategic locations, generally responds much faster. Secondly, there is only one emergency room facility in Bossier City. When this facility is full, no additional patients are accepted, forcing the deferral of the patient to facilities in Shreveport and adding as much as 15 to 20 minutes to response times. Finally, as population continues to grow over the long term, additional ambulances may be necessary to maintain the current levels of service.

#### *Communications*

The Bossier Parish Communications District #1 facilitates Emergency 911 (E-911) communications on a parishwide basis. The facility is located at 4601 Palmetto near Benton. It has been at this location since 1996. Eight full-time call takers accept over 150 calls per day that are disseminated to 17 agencies. Eight backup call takers support them. Wireless calls account for nearly 40 percent of incoming calls. The district also functions to monitor the subdivision process parishwide to prevent the duplication of street names and maintain up to date mapping. Revenues are collected through telephone billings.

## **Bossier Parish Library System**

The library system that serves the MPC Planning Area is a function of parish government, which is standard throughout Louisiana. The Bossier Parish Central Library is located in Bossier City, and seven branches are located throughout the parish. The Central, East 80 and Aulds South Bossier branches are situated within the MPC Planning Area as shown in Figure 11.1 – Public Facilities. Public access to information concerning various aspects of the system is readily available through a user-friendly Web site. The mission of the system is: “Libraries are for People. They are not a warehouse for books.”

### **Bossier Parish Central Library**

As the flagship facility within the Parish’s library system, Central has over 18,000 square feet of space dedicated to the Parish’s principal collection of reference materials, periodicals, and workstations for public use. Constructed in 1988, the facility is located at 2206 Beckett Street in Bossier City, within walking distance from the Municipal Complex. The inviting, modern structure replaced the former main branch facility on the same property. Consisting of an additional 6,000 square feet, the older building is now used as Technical Service space. The facility is also complimented by Bossier Parish Library Historical Center, a wing consisting of 7,500 square feet. Hours of operation, story hours and availability of computers and meeting facilities vary by branch but remain fairly equitable as evidenced in **Table 11.2 - Bossier MPC Planning Area Library Attributes**.

A master plan for the Central Library was completed in 2001. The *Bossier Central Library Master Plan 2001* details future expansion plans for the facility. All components of the facility would be positively impacted. The expanded facility would result in over 78,000 square feet of space.

### **East 80 Branch Library**

Located at 1050 Bellevue Road, the East 80 Branch has been open since 1987. The facility has approximately 6,700 square feet. Significant expansion is slated for 2006 that will increase book capacity, seating areas and the number of computers available for public use.

### **Aulds South Bossier Branch Library**

Constructed in 1970, the Aulds branch is located at 3950 Wayne Avenue. Improvements to this facility literally

**Table 11.2**  
**Bossier MPC Planning Area Library Attributes**

	Central	East 80	Aulds South Bossier
Hours	9-9 M-Th (9-8 Summers) 9-6 Friday 9-5 Saturday 2-5 Sunday	9-8 M-Th (Summer) 9-6 Thur/Fri 9-5 Saturday 2-5 Sunday	9-8 M-Th 9-6 Friday 9-5 Saturday 2-5 Sunday
Computers	16 Internet 6 Word Processing	4 Internet/ Word Processing 1 Internet	4 Internet/Word Processing 1 Stand Alone WP/CD databases
Story Hours	10:00 am Wednesdays September - May Ages 3-5	10:30 am Tuesdays September - May Ages 3-5	10:00 am Tuesdays September - May Ages 3-5
Meeting Facilities	Board Room (Capacity 20) History Center (Capacity 80)	Capacity 40 No Charge	Capacity 75 No Charge

Source: Bossier Parish Library

Approximately 90 percent of library funding is generated through an 8.31 mill property tax. The tax is subject to the Louisiana Homestead Exemption. The State of Louisiana contributes nearly \$200,000 through revenue sharing, book funding and data lines. The remaining revenues are generated from copy machine fees, overdue book fines, and accrued interest. In 2000, the library system as a whole received nearly \$2.6 million in total operating

surrounded the original Aulds branch, which was converted into meeting space and incorporated into a new 5,800 square foot library addition, creating a total square footage of 7,200. Another building expansion is anticipated in 2005 or 2006. This proposed improvement would serve to increase book capacity, computers, study seating and an expanded children's area.

*Library Development Standards*

Standards provide a measure for determining the nature of library facilities and services necessary to satisfy current and projected demands. Standards for public libraries in Louisiana were published by the Louisiana Library Association in 1964 with updates in 1975, 1987 and 1995. *Standards for Louisiana Public Libraries 1995* should set the bar for the Bossier Parish Library System. **Table 11.3 - Bossier Parish Library Rankings in Louisiana** depicts the system's rankings as compared to 64 other library systems in Louisiana.

*Governance and Funding*

As provided in LRS 25:214, the Bossier Parish Police Jury utilizes a Bossier Parish Library Board of Control, consisting of five appointed Parish residents, to provide management oversight for the library system. The duties of the board entail review and approval of budgets, services, facilities and staff. As a public board, all meetings are open to the public and must be advertised appropriately. As the Library Board's appointing authority, the Bossier Parish Police Jury owns all of the facilities and property within the library system.

income according to data available through the State Library of Louisiana.



The East 80 Branch of the Bossier Parish Library System is slated for significant expansion in 2006.

*Space Needs*

The Louisiana Library Association (LLA) advocates facility sizes using a ratio of building square footage to population that ranges from 0.6 to 1.0. Dependence on various electronic equipment and media for data access would require the higher ratio.

Data from the 2000 Census show that the population of the MPC Planning Area was 74,836 persons, resulting in collective space requirements of 44,901 to 74,836 square feet based on the LLA guideline. Together, the three

library system facilities within the Planning Area represent 45,100 square feet. Therefore, based on the Year 2000 population within the Planning Area, the space requirements are narrowly met at the low end of the Louisiana Library Association range.

**Table 11.3  
Bossier Parish Library Rankings in Louisiana**

Bossier Parish	Ranking/65
Book Collection	60
Serial Collection	21
Total Collection	58
Patron Visits	7
Reference Transactions	12
Electronic Resource Users	12
FTE MLS Librarian	29
FTE Staff	33
Circulation Total	10
Circulation Per Capita	18
Circulation - Children's	44
Income - Local Taxes	18
Total Income	21
Personnel Expenditures	59
Collection Expenditures	38
Total Expenditures	20

Source: Public Libraries in Louisiana Statistical Report, 2000

Expansions previously discussed in this chapter should be adequate to better satisfy current needs. However, when considering the projected 2020 population of 96,000 persons, the collective space requirements of the Planning Area's library facilities jump to a range of 57,600 to 96,000 square feet.

*Library Resources*

Collections development is an ongoing, costly process. A modern library's collection should consist of a variety of formats and media types. To assist library staff and administrators, the LLA has developed guidelines for resources per ratio of population. For an adequate supply of books, 2.5 per capita is recommended and 3.5 per capita is considered superior. Six to 10 periodicals per 1,000 persons should also be maintained. Parishwide, the system maintains 1.85 total volumes per capita. This places Bossier 58<sup>th</sup> out of 65 parishes in Louisiana.

*Staffing*

The Louisiana Library Association mandates that each library be administered by a library professional, or one who is a graduate of an accredited program in library science, with designated staff responsible for planning, organizing, coordinating and administering functions. Bossier's library director is state certified as required by LRS 25:222. According to statistics maintained by the State Library of Louisiana, the entire Parish library system employs seven full time equivalents with accredited degrees plus 71 staff.

*Operations and Programming*

Each of the libraries within the Planning Area operates consistent with recommendations given by the LLA for hours of operation. For populations over 10,000, a range of 52-68 hours is suggested, where each library is open at least 64 hours per week. Each branch offers story time for children ages 3 to 5. Each facility also has meeting space that is well used, primarily by area non-profit agencies.

*Future Needs*

As the population within the MPC Planning Area continues to grow, so too must the Library System to maintain and improve the current level of service. Expansions are already proposed on a pay-as-you-go basis, contingent on the renewal of the 8.31 mill property tax in 2005. The following is an assessment of whether the proposed expansions will be adequate based on the projected 2020 population, or if another facility is needed.

- ◆ Aulds South Bossier Branch expansion is proposed for 2003-04 to add 2,600 square feet.
- ◆ East 80 Branch expansion is proposed for 2005-06 to add approximately 4,500 square feet.
- ◆ Central expansion would more than double the facility to 78,600 square feet. This proposal will not materialize until such time (2010-2015) that property values and public sentiment would support funding for construction and operation.
- ◆ The expansions will result in approximately 99,600 square feet of library facility space.

Although outside of the MPC Planning Area, a new Benton Branch Library is proposed in 2005-06 consisting of nearly 10,000 square feet. With continued growth in north

Bossier, such a facility could provide relief to other area facilities.

When new facilities become necessary, certain considerations should be evaluated to select the most appropriate site. According to recommendations by the LLA, “accessibility, visibility, and security are essential factors”. As with any public facility, site selection should also consider flood hazards, elevation, and drainage. LLA further recommends that “the spacing of branches within a system has a significant impact on the overall viability of the system... (and) should relate directly to the demographic data available on the service area, and outlets shall be planned that address the socioeconomic status of users with the targeted region.”

### Public Buildings and Facilities

Public buildings and facilities serve a vital function in every community. They provide common ground for residents to gather for civic meetings, obtain services, or pursue hobbies and other recreational activities. Therefore, it is important to assess what public facilities are available to current and future residents of the Bossier area. The facilities are categorized by government, assembly and health care. The presence of each type has a tremendous positive impact on the economy and livability of the Planning Area.

#### Government

##### *Bossier City*

City Hall is one of several functions housed in the Municipal Complex located on Benton Road.

##### *Bossier Parish*

In addition to the Parish-owned facilities already cited in this chapter, the Police Jury has several other facilities within the MPC Planning Area. A juvenile detention facility is located at 4482 Shed Road, and the Bossier Parish Office Complex is located at Old Minden and Industrial. The complex houses the Health Unit, Section 8 Housing office, Truancy and Juvenile Drug Court. The Caddo-Bossier Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) is located on Doctors Drive. The Bossier Parish Tax Assessor’s office is on Benton Drive adjacent to the Municipal Complex.

##### *State of Louisiana*

Although facilities owned and occupied by the State are not under the purview of the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan

Planning Commission, policies should be developed and sufficient coordination achieved to ensure that site selection procedures result in a desirable location for the services rendered to the community.

Bossier Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) - The Bossier OMV is located at 3802 Kilpatrick Boulevard near Troop G Headquarters. The facility is centrally located within the MPC Planning Area. It is the sole location in the Parish for citizens to renew driver’s licenses and auto registration.

##### *Federal Facilities*

Barksdale Air Force Base - As the largest U.S. Air Force installation in the country, Barksdale is practically a city unto itself. On base are many of the same public facilities described in this chapter, such as a library, post office, and medical facilities. Not all personnel live on base, and many likely patronize facilities throughout the MPC Planning Area. Barksdale does not have any educational facilities for dependents; they attend Bossier schools or a private school of their choice.

US Post Office Facilities - Three postal facilities are located within the MPC Planning Area as shown in Figure 11.1:

- ◆ Barksdale Air Force Base, 50 Vandenberg Avenue, Suite 135
- ◆ Bossier City, 150 Benton Road
- ◆ Plantation Station, 4310 Barksdale Boulevard

#### Assembly

##### *Bossier Civic Center*

Located within the Bossier Municipal Complex on Benton Road, the Civic Center hosted more than 220 events in 2001, with over 378 use days. The facility was constructed following a successful bond issue in the 1960s and was completed in 1987. With capacity for 3,000 and a parking area of 438 spaces, parking is an issue, but generally only for weekday events when city employee and customer parking spaces are occupied. The complex is surrounded by open space that is underutilized and could be developed with additional surface parking lots if necessary.

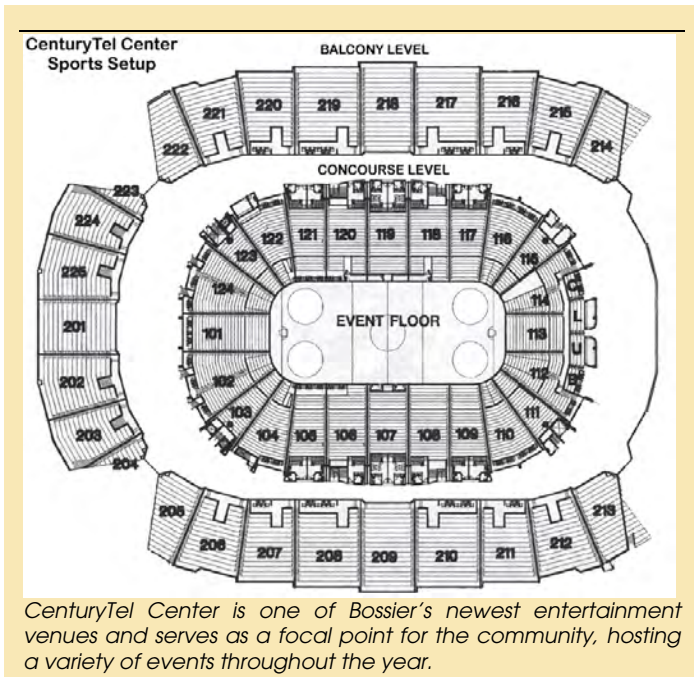
Approximately 90 percent of Civic Center business is derived from repeat customers. With no marketing staff, bookings are dependent on word of mouth. The recent

opening of the CenturyTel Center has not negatively impacted the Civic Center, primarily because they attract different types of events.

*CenturyTel Center*

Owned by the City of Bossier City and managed by SMG, the CenturyTel Center was completed in 2000. It is located in South Bossier at 2000 CenturyTel Center Drive. The 270,000 square foot facility seats 14,000 and is the home of two professional sports teams. The seating may be configured to host a variety of events, including rodeo, concerts, conventions and a variety of other functions.

Together, the Civic Center and CenturyTel Center represent a tremendous investment by Bossier City for the future of the Ark-La-Tex. The facilities generate tremendous sales tax revenues directly and indirectly from patrons at restaurants, hotels and retail outlets.



*CenturyTel Center is one of Bossier's newest entertainment venues and serves as a focal point for the community, hosting a variety of events throughout the year.*

**Health Care**

Medical facilities within the MPC Planning Area are generally clustered in northwest Bossier near Interstate 220. As specialized operations, most such medical facilities tend to serve larger regions. Christus Schumpert Bossier, Summit Hospital and Willis-Knighton (WK) Bossier Health Center are located in Bossier City and highlighted below. However, it should be noted that additional facilities are located in

Shreveport that would in most circumstances include Bossier in their service areas, including the LSU Medical Center.

*Christus Schumpert Bossier*

Formerly known as the Bossier Medical Center, the facility was owned by the City of Bossier City until 1999. As an acute care hospital, it has 169 beds. Among the services provided are emergency care and other general medical services and procedures. An Intensive Care Unit and Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit are on premises. The facility is located at 2105 Airline Drive near Interstate 220.

*Summit Hospital of Northwest Louisiana*

Summit Hospital is located at 4900 Medical Drive in southern Bossier City.

*Willis-Knighton (WK) Bossier Health Center*

The Willis-Knighton Health System operates this facility located at 2400 Hospital Drive adjacent to Interstate 220. The hospital has announced plans for expansion, which include a two-story addition to more than double the number of intensive care beds and provide additional space for support services.

Recently, the Bossier Health Center became the only facility in Bossier Parish with an emergency room. The facility has already been put on "drive by" status, forcing patients to go elsewhere. This is of significant concern to Bossier residents, who deserve quality critical care services. It is anticipated that the expansion of the ICU will relieve pressure on the demand for critical care beds. However, with only one emergency room facility in the Parish, steps should be taken to mitigate the need for future diversions.

*Bossier Parish Health Unit*

Located at 3022 Old Minden Road in the Bossier Parish Office Complex, the "Health Unit" is a key component of public health and indigent health care for the area. It is administered by the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals - Office of Public Health. The facility provides a range of services, including family planning, maternity services, child health services, immunizations, WIC program, and others. Birth/death records, sanitarian services and water sampling are other program examples. As a result, it is crucial for this facility to be accessible to

the entire community. As population in the Parish continues to grow and shift geographically, an additional facility may be deemed necessary.

## Education

Overall, Bossier Parish has the 11<sup>th</sup> largest public school enrollment in Louisiana, with a total of 18,800 students as of October 1, 1999. Of this total, 13,662 students were in grades PK thru 8, and 5,138 were in grades 9 thru 12. Approximately two-thirds were white. Comparatively few (205 students) were enrolled in non-public schools. These students were predominately white and attending grades PK thru 8.

### Bossier Parish School Board

The Bossier Parish School Board (BPSB) administrative offices are located in Benton, the Parish seat, which is north of the MPC Planning Area. The location of BPSB and other educational facilities within the MPC boundary is shown in Figure 11.1 – Public Facilities. At the end of this chapter, **Table 11.4 - Education Facilities** identifies each school and education facility in the Planning Area.

The State of Louisiana defines a school as “an institution for the teaching of children, consisting of an adequate physical plant, whether owned or leased, instructional staff members, and students.” All schools, public or non-public, are required to be in session at least 180 days each year. The statutes also recognize home schooling as a viable alternative so long as it offers “sustained curriculum” of at least equal quality to that offered by public schools.

### Funding

In 1995, Parish voters approved a \$17 million bond issue for the construction of two new school facilities. The bonds have a 15-year debt service period with a millage of 4.70. This is one example of the support that Bossier taxpayers have offered to continuously improve the Parish school system.

Funding for the Bossier Parish schools is derived from local, state and federal sources. Local funding sources account for 38 percent of the general fund revenue. In addition to the millage noted above, three renewable millages and one Constitutional millage are leveraged for various purposes. Bossier property owners are assessed 54.64 mills each year, which generated more than \$17 million in 2000-2001. This rate is subject to the Homestead Exemption, which is \$75,000. Thus, owner-occupied residential properties where the

property assessment does not exceed this \$75,000 threshold are relieved of any property taxes allocated to the School Board. While the Homestead Exemption is not unique to Louisiana, the maximum value exceeds most other states, particularly in the South.

The maximum allowable local sales tax rate is 4.5 percent. The state sales tax rate is 4 percent, for a maximum total of 8.5 percent. The school district has a 1.5 percent Parish-wide sales tax, which generated approximately \$22 million in 2000-2001. State funding accounted for 60 percent of the general fund, and federal sources yielded another two percent.

Of all general fund expenditures, 82 percent was allocated to salaries and benefits. As a whole, Louisiana has historically struggled with teacher pay compared to the Southern Regional Average. National averages are even higher.

### Guidelines for the Development of Schools

The State of Louisiana sets many of the parameters by which the School Board must operate, including the provision of facilities and related issues. Section 17.151 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes states, “Parish...school boards may establish such public schools as they deem necessary to provide adequate school facilities for the children of the parish, and also trade schools, evening schools, schools for adults, schools and classes for exceptional children, and such other schools or classes as may be necessary to meet all special or exceptional requirements.” The section further states that high schools may also be established but require the sanction of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Part B of the section limits class sizes to a system-wide pupil-classroom teacher ratio of 20:1 for grades K through 3.

In order to properly implement such provisions, a facilities planning process should be established. As a guide, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) offers recommendations for this process that includes four program elements, planning, approach, project initiation, and project activity. Each element consists of at least one mission, responsibility, and deliverable as referenced in **Table 11.5 - Facilities Planning Process** at the end of this chapter.

The Council for Educational Facility Planners, International has developed standards for determining the amount of each type of space that a school district will need in the *Guide for Planning Educational Facilities*. The Guide focuses on the following factors:

- ◆ enrollment levels;
- ◆ programs offered by the district, and the enrollments in each type of program;
- ◆ estimates of space demands by each program at each school; and,
- ◆ efficiency with which each school district plans to use its facilities.

**Table 11.4**  
**Education Facilities and Attendance, 2001**

School	Grade Configuration	Faculty	Population	Class Size (%)			Capacity*
				1-20	21-26	27+	
<b>Elementary</b>							
Apollo	K-5	49	836	24	49	27	825
Bellaire	K-3	26	422	45	55	0	625
Bossier	PK, K-3	27	294	100	0	0	640
Butler	4-6	15	148	29	52	19	215
Central Park	PK, K-5	34	429	68	29	3	515
Curtis	4-5	29	537	4	12	84	770
Kerr, R.V.	K-5	38	580	55	45	0	660
Meadowview	PK, K-5	43	614	59	41	0	665
Plantation Park	PK, K-5	38	542	68	32	0	695
Platt	3-5	50	854	15	68	17	720
Rodes, T.L.	K-2	56	877	35	65	0	725
Sun City	K-3	40	598	40	60	0	665
Waller	PK, K-5	46	705	24	76	0	830
<b>Middle/Jr. High</b>							
Cope	6-8	34	563	28	45	27	860
Elm Grove	6-8	43	828	7	29	63	930
Greenacres	6-8	44	681	26	41	32	750
Rusheon	6-8	52	778	28	47	25	950
<b>High Schools</b>							
Airline	9-12	82	1,335	31	35	34	1,425
Bossier Achievement Center	7-12	10	151	94	4	2	170
Bossier	9-12	50	786	40	36	24	830
Parkway	9-12	58	1,003	40	26	33	1,280
<b>Combination</b>							
Bossier Parish Alternative	5-12	14	58	100	0	0	
Bossier Parish Technical	NG	13					
Jones Youth Shelter	K-12	1	18	100			
Life Skill Center	NG	6					
<b>BPSB Total</b>		<b>1,205</b>	<b>18,674</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>Louisiana Total</b>		<b>49,298</b>	<b>766,274</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	

\* Capacity is measured by 2002 while student and faculty population figures represent 2001. No schools were noted as over-capacity in 2002.

**Table 11.5  
Facilities Planning Process**

Mission	Responsibilities	Deliverables
<b>Planning</b>		
Needs Assessment	Identify current and future needs	Demographics, facilities survey, boundary, funding, education program, market, staff capability and transportation analysis
Scope	Outline required building areas, develop schedule and costs	Programming, cost estimating, scheduling, cost analysis
Strategy	Identify structure	Facilities project list, master schedule, budget plan, organization plan, marketing plan
Public approval	Implement public relations campaign	Public and media relations
<b>Approach</b>		
Management Plan	Detail roles, responsibilities and procedures	Program management plan and systems
Program strategy	Review and refine details	Detailed delivery strategy
Program guidelines		Educational specifications, design guidelines, CADD standards
<b>Project Initiation</b>		
Mobilize team	Include all project participants	Site selection and acquisition, facility program, project educational program, environmental impact report, preliminary budget approval
<b>Project Activity</b>		
Design documentation	Conformance to program plan	Construction document final acceptance
Award contracts	Bidding, contract and procurement procedures	Notice to proceed
Construction	Monitor the progress of construction	Occupancy permit
Post construction		Facility ready

Source: Texas Education Agency