

## Improvement Project Funding, Nissan Altima Awarded Best In Class/Initial Quality, New Fire Station on Highway 603, Second Annual SEUS-CP Alliance Conference

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### MDA Awards Funding for Six Improvement Projects in State

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded CDBG Community Self-Help and CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding for six improvement projects located throughout the state. CDBG Community Self-Help funds are designed to address local community needs such as water, wastewater, downtown improvements and recreation. In order to receive CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. The six awards, which total nearly \$515,000, include:

- **CDBG Community Self-Help**
  - Town of Plantersville - \$99,945 to renovate the local community center and add new playground equipment
- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**
  - City of Lexington - \$100,000 for sewer repairs
  - Marion County - \$71,705 for water improvements
  - Town of New Hebron - \$45,500 for drainage improvements
  - Town of Shubuta - \$97,500 for emergency sewer improvements
  - Warren County - \$100,000 for road improvements

To learn more about the funding programs available through the Community Services Division, please visit [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org), and select

the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

### **Nissan Altima, Produced in Canton, Receives Best In Class/Initial Quality Award from J.D. Power and Associates**

The Nissan Altima, which is manufactured at Nissan's Canton, Miss., facility, was recently presented the 2009 Best In Class/Initial Quality Award for Mid-Size Cars by J.D. Power and Associates, a global marketing information firm that conducts independent and unbiased surveys of customer satisfaction, product quality and buyer behavior. According to [www.jdpower.com](http://www.jdpower.com), the definition of "initial quality" includes design factors such as the usability of various features, as well as problems such as parts not working right or loose-fitting parts.

MDA Existing Industry and Business Division Director Chandler Russ stated that the overwhelming success of Nissan in Mississippi is astounding, and the quality, productivity and creativity of this workforce - one that had previously never manufactured a vehicle - are leading factors in their success.

Nissan's Canton facility first began manufacturing vehicles in May 2003. Today, the facility manufactures the Altima, along with Nissan's first full-size truck, the Titan, and its first full-size SUVs, the Armada and its Infiniti counterpart. The plant is currently undergoing construction as part of a \$118 million expansion to prepare for production of commercial vehicles.

### **Bay St. Louis Officials Praised for Beginning Construction of New Fire Station on Highway 603**

Governor Haley Barbour recently praised Bay St. Louis officials for continuing their rebuilding efforts with the construction of a new fire station, which will serve a newly-annexed area of the city. To protect it from a possible storm surge, the 4,000 square foot fire station will be elevated, and its Highway 603 location will allow for emergency rescue in the annexed area should another hurricane affect the Coast. The fire station is being funded with \$1.4 million of the \$5.4 billion the state received in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds following Hurricane Katrina. State and local leaders broke ground on the project on June 22.

According to MDA Disaster Recovery Division COO Jon Mabry, Bay St. Louis did not possess the resources to build the fire station, as the city's tax base was depleted by Hurricane Katrina. Mabry added that the station is another locally-identified and locally-prioritized need that is being met through Mississippi's comprehensive Katrina recovery fund.

To learn more about Mississippi's disaster recovery efforts, please visit [www.msdisasterrecovery.com](http://www.msdisasterrecovery.com).

**Mississippi Businesses Looking for Trade Opportunities in Canada Encouraged to Attend Second Annual SEUS-CP Alliance Conference July 26-28 in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada**

On July 26, a delegation of Mississippi business and community leaders will descend upon St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada for the Second Annual Southeast U.S. - Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Alliance Conference. Officially formed in 2007, the alliance promotes trade, investment, tourism, education and friendship between the participating Canadian provinces and Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Member provinces include: Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

The conference will provide networking and working opportunities for Mississippi economic development professionals and their counterparts from around the Southeast. It will highlight three key industry sectors: advanced manufacturing, ocean technologies and energy.

MDA executive director Gray Swoope said that Mississippi's participation in SEUS-CP is another component of the ongoing strategy to position the state as a viable trade partner in the global market. Mississippi businesses interested in discovering trade opportunities in Canada are encouraged to join the Mississippi delegation at the event. For more information, please contact Liz Cleveland, Vickie Watters or Marsha Hamilton at (601) 359-3155. To learn more about SEUS-CP and to view a complete conference agenda, please visit [www.seuscp.org](http://www.seuscp.org).

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