



Delivering Prosperity Through Economic Development Opportunities

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> Whit Hughes Mississippi Development Authority



Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) Economic Development Strategy



- ▶ MDA Background, Context, Perspective
- Market-Driven Guiding Principles
 - Fiscal Responsibility
 - Acknowledgement of Global Economy
 - Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration
 - Innovative Thinking
 - Consultative Selling
 - Relentless Continuous Improvement



Mississippi's Strategic Location



- Logistics
- Speed to Market
- Connectivity
- Value Proposition









Mississippi Connectivity





MSPA at Gulfport



"I believe twenty-five years from now people will look back on the Port of Gulfport Restoration Project and say, 'That was the biggest economic development project in the history of Mississippi."



- Governor Haley Barbour











MSPA at Gulfport



Considering the "What Ifs"

- Authority and Funding
- Program Goals
- Timelines and Measurables
- Stakeholders

Ongoing Challenges

- Avoiding Einstein's Definition of Insanity
- Maintenance of Coordination and Communication
- Balance Vision with Reality
- Sustainability Planning







All Successful Economic Development is a Team Sport

- Gather the Cold, Hard Facts
- Think Regionally
- Prepare Your Product
- Demand Grade-A Execution
- Continuously Improve
- Recognize Revenue Generation Opportunities
- Respect Confidentiality
- Good Policy = Good Politics

Leadership Matters

Thank You!















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