

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Regional Maintenance Facility

"A Partnership for Success"
From a vision to a reality.....

MBCI History

- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) is the only federally recognized American Indian Tribal government in the State of Mississippi; exercising tribal jurisdiction over 35,000 acres of Choctaw Indian reservation lands mainly in East Central Mississippi for 32 years. The Tribal Council, which is the legislative branch of the tribal government, chartered the Choctaw Transit Program through Tribal Ordinance 22, enacted on September 8, 1981.

Regional Concept- The Vision

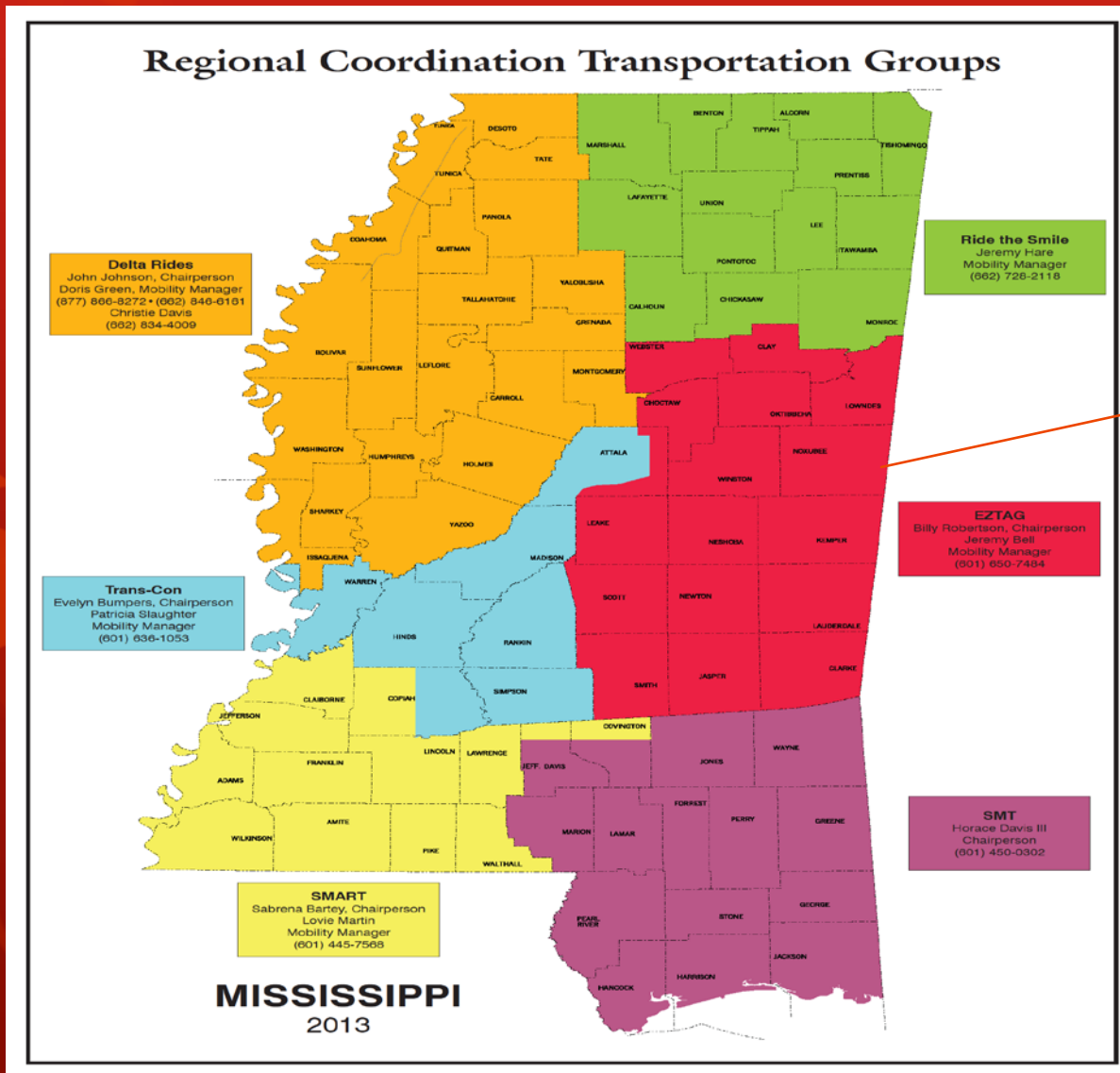
“Regional coordination is the keystone concept for developing innovative service arrangements. ”

- MBCI the lead agency of the East Central Transit Action Group (EZTAG) Regional Group that represent public/private, specialized transit providers and human service organizations. In 2008, the MBCI identified a need for a new maintenance facility to enable it to consolidate its maintenance and vehicle storage operations and to better serve the transportation needs of the Choctaw Transit System, as well as other local entities.
- Construction of a 13,960 square foot comprehensive regional maintenance center on tribal lands. The facility provides services for tribally-owned transit vehicles, tribal fleet vehicles, and other public/specialized transit operated vehicles located in the East Mississippi Transit Region. The facility is a multi-funded project using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funds, Tribal Transit ARRA, and State Multimodal Funds.

Funding Scenario

Funding Sources		
Source	Amount	Percentage
FTA ARRA Grant MS-86-X001-02 (Construction)	\$2,000,000	
FTA ARRA Grant MS-86-X001-02 (Shop Equipment)	\$185,000	
FTA ARRA Grant MS-86-X001-02 (A&E Services)	\$80,000	
MDOT Multimodal Funds (A&E Services)	\$67,522	
Tribal Transit ARRA Grant MS-86-X002	\$192,000	
Total	\$2,524,522	100%

Map of Regions



EZTAG Region

Site Aerial View (Concrete Parking Lot)



First Building Sketch



Project Management Overview - Successes

- Foresight of FTA to contract and assign Project Management Consultants to oversee the MS construction projects.
- Leadership and collaborative relationship with MBCI top management-the majority of meetings onsite administrative staff from the Chief's office was in attendance.
- Partnering with MDOT's Construction and Local Public Agency Division to oversee the project-Utilizing their guidance from managing highway construction related projects.
- Establishment of Chain of Command – Construction Organization Chart
- Development of a Buy America Verification Plan.
- Hiring of Construction Engineer to oversee Buy America compliance on the ground.
- Establishing a specific schedule with vendors to bring materials/supplies to site to ensure every items that hit the ground were inspected (with pictures taken) for Buy America compliance.
- Established weekly conference calls between MDOT, MBCI and construction project management team for updates, problems, concerns, questions.

Challenges

- First PMOC meetings did not win the PMOC team's confidence that the MBCI construction management staff had the capability to administer the project –
"Silence does not signify knowledge-Who will be King?"
- Working through the Tribal Government internal processes to expedite the project – time was critical.

Challenges – Contd.

- MDOT issued a Letter of Concurrence on September 21, 2012, and the MBCI advertised the project for bid the following day.
- Bids were received and opened on October 22, 2012, as planned, and all bids were within 10 percent of the engineer's estimate.
- After review of the bids, the MBCI took exception to the apparent low bidder and indicated that it will not approve award of the contract to that company.
- This led to the MBCI, in an already tighten timeline for the project, initiating the process to debar the low bidder, the company, and owner.
- Consequently, a Notice of Award was not issued in October 2012. All bid were rejected and the project was rebid.
- With a projected completion date of mid-September 2013, it was unlikely that all ARRA funds will be drawn down by late September 2013 as proposed.

Ground Breaking Ceremony

Media Release Excerpt

CHOCTAW, Miss. Friday, April 5, 2013– The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Choctaw Regional Maintenance Facility on Thursday, April 4, at 2 p.m. behind the Choctaw Hospitality Institute in Choctaw, Miss. The ceremony featured remarks by Tribal Chief Phyllis J. Anderson and Central District Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall.

The RED clay of Choctaw, MS



Center of Picture: Choctaw Princess, Chief Phyllis Anderson and MDOT
Commissioner Dick Hall
Members of the EZTAG Regional Group were well represented at the
groundbreaking ceremony

Construction Begins

● ARRA Sign





AND IT RAINED!!!



















Progress Made



3



Inside View – Safety First







Buy America Verification At Work







FTA Love- Project Management Oversight Visit



Thanks FTA for all your assistance!





Ribbon Cutting Pictures











Innovative MBCI Bus Shelter – Design by
MS State University – Architect Department



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