



LWI REGION 6 WATERSHED PLAN

Managing Water. Reducing Risk. Strengthening Resilience in Our Region.

BTNEP Management Conference

Thursday, August 13, 2026

9:30am – 12:00pm

Presenters

Alex Gelpi Carter, AICP, President & CEO, Desire Line

Tara Lambeth, PhD, AICP, CFM, Planning & Floodplain Management Director, Desire Line

Presentation Overview

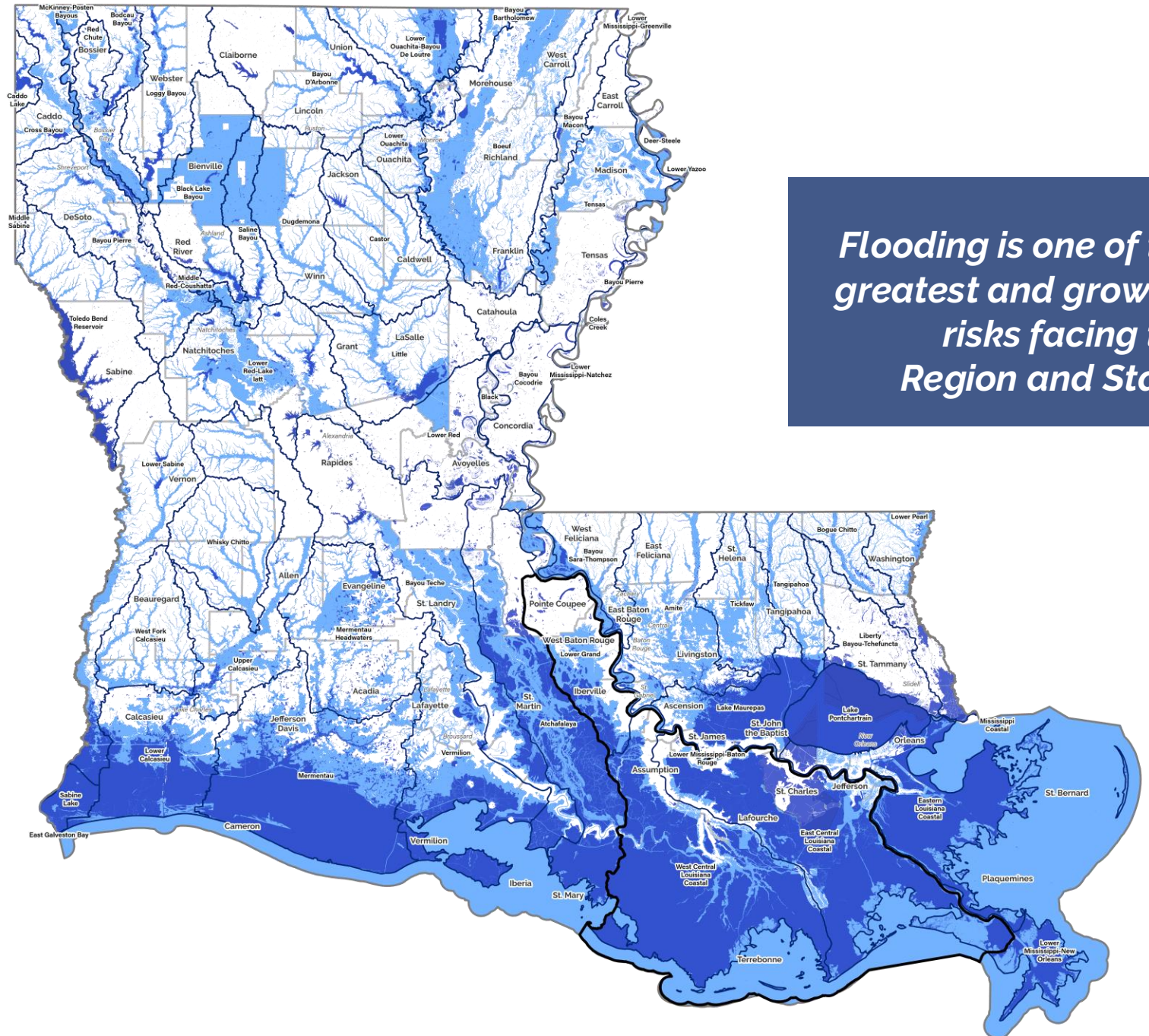
- Plan Background and Vision
- Framework
- Key Recommendations
- Review Modeled Projects and Funding Opportunities
- Plan Implementation Activities Underway

Where is Region 6?

Why does this plan Matter?

Flood Risk is Increasing Across Region 6

- Multiple flood risks: rainfall, river, coastal
- Increasing impacts from storms, land loss, and development
- Flooding often occurs outside mapped flood zones
- Impacts: housing, infrastructure, economy, insurance



What are we working towards long term?

- Reduced flood risk over time.
- Stronger communities and protected infrastructure.
- Stable insurance markets.
- Growth in safer, lower-risk areas.



THE VISION *Where We Are Going*

**Region 6 is insurable,
investable, and
resilient.**

A Shift in Approach

From Fragmented to Coordinated

“One region. One water system.”

Today:

- Parish-by-parish decisions
- Reactive investments
- Limited coordination

This Plan:

- Watershed-based approach
- Regional coordination
- Data-driven investment

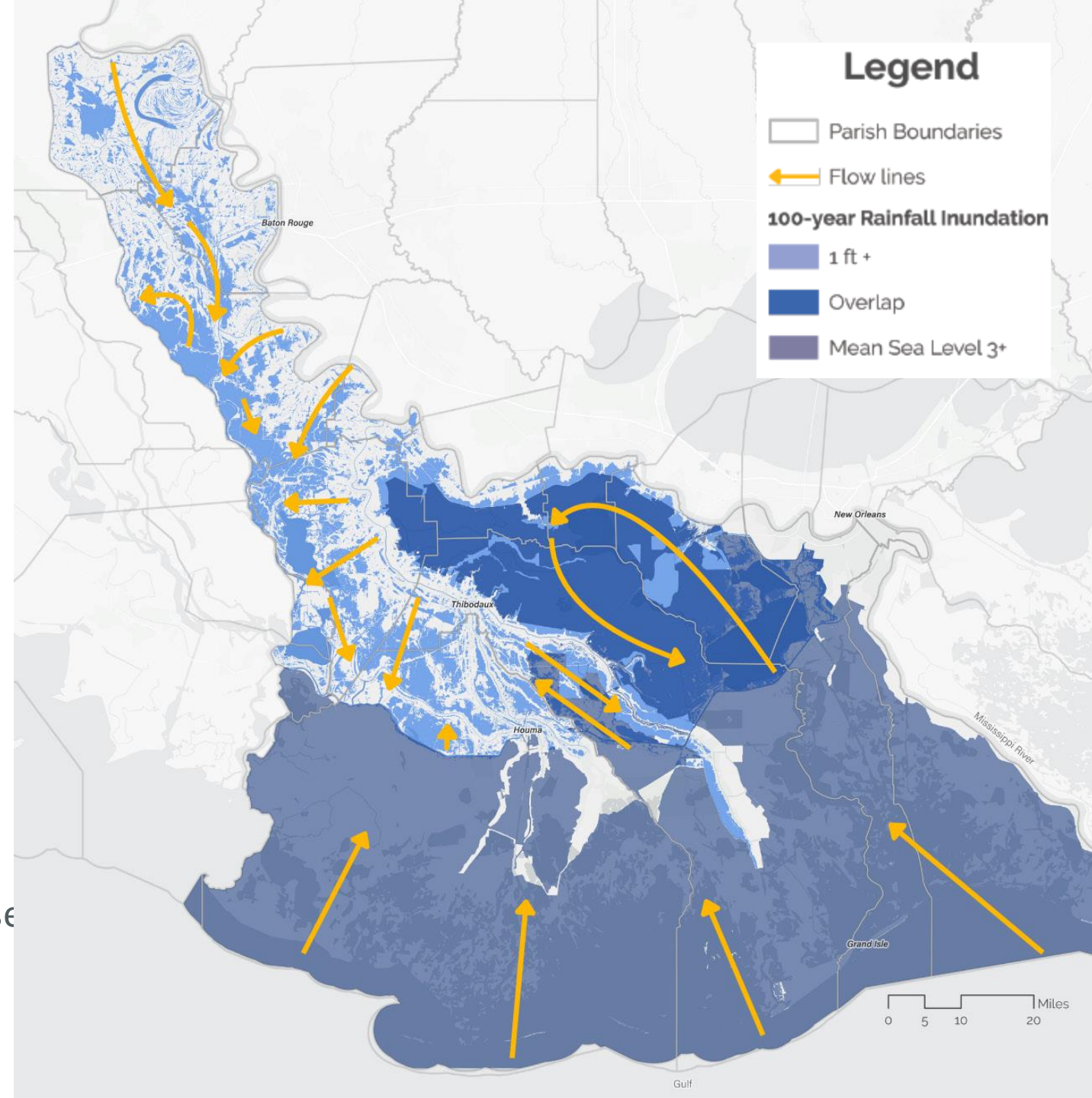
What We Found

Water is Managed – But Not as an Integrated System

- Every parish is managing water
- Efforts are largely independent
- Capacity and standards vary
- Infrastructure systems are under strain

Implication:

- Projects can shift risk
- Opportunities for regional benefit are missed



Why Regional Coordination Matters

- Flood risk crosses boundaries
- Systems are interconnected
- Local actions affect regional outcomes

“Flood risk is regional – our solutions must be too.”

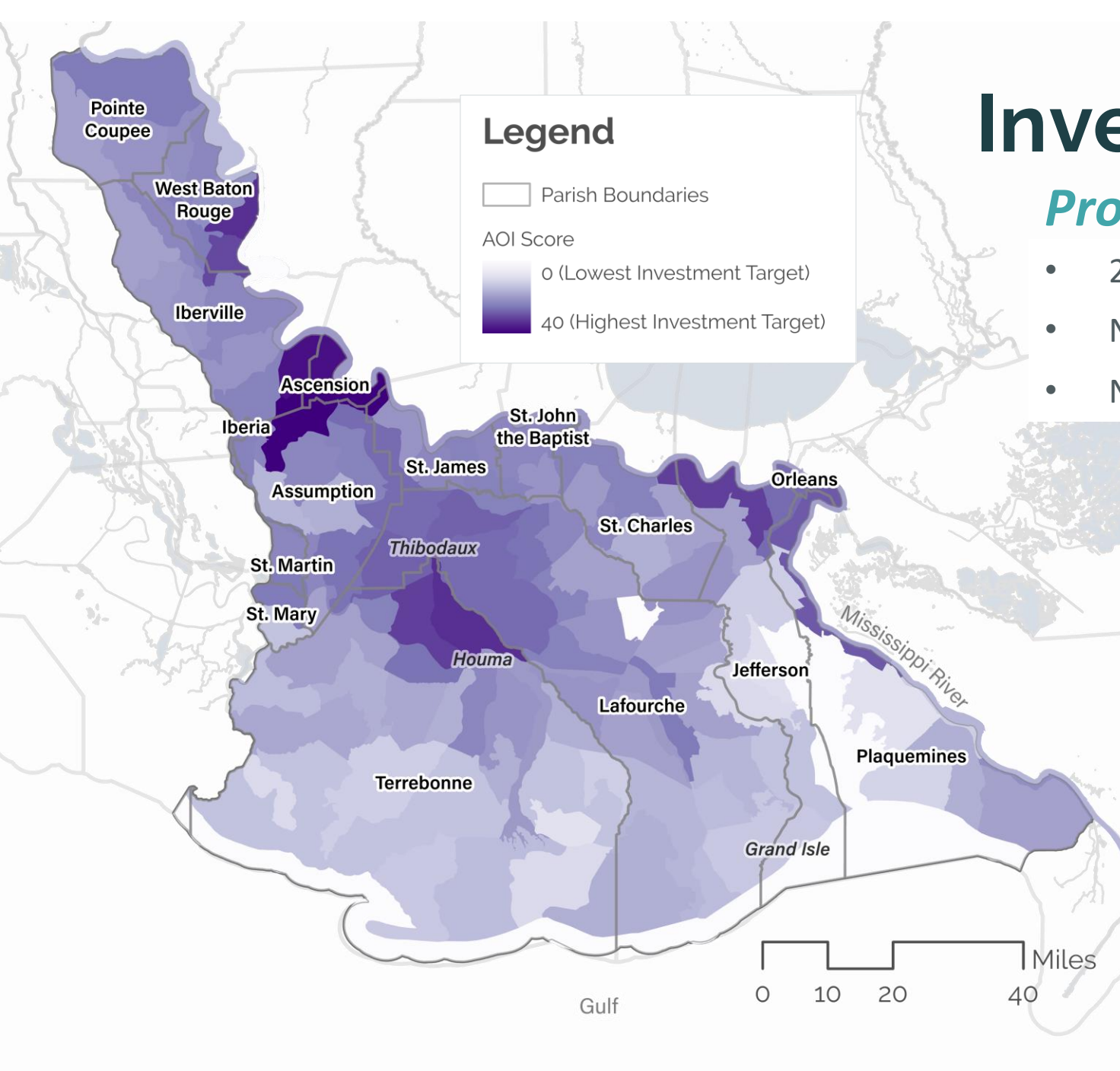
The Regional Framework

How the Plan Works

- **RSC:** Coordination, prioritization, alignment
- **Local Governments:** Implementation, O&M, development decisions
- **Data & Modeling:** Shared foundation for decisions

Outcome: A connected system – not isolated actions





Investing in What Works

Project Prioritization Framework

- 200+ projects identified
- Not all projects deliver equal benefit
- Need to focus on highest impact investments

Framework evaluates:

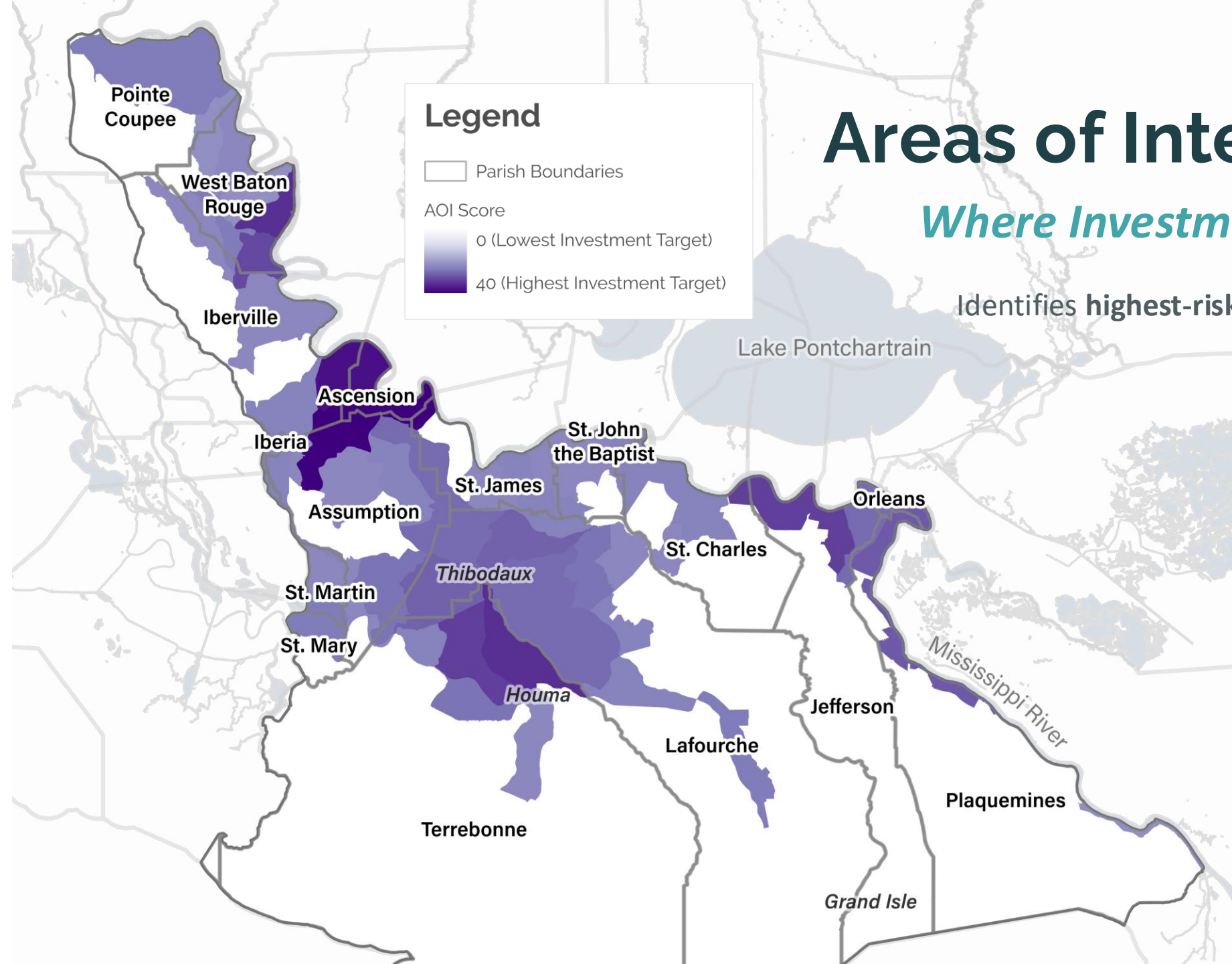
- Risk reduction
- People and infrastructure protected
- System performance
- Feasibility

Areas of Interest (AOIs)

Where Investment Matters Most

Identifies **highest-risk, highest-impact** areas based on:

- Risk
- Population
- Vulnerability
- Future conditions



From 209 Projects to 4 Modeled

Focused, High-Impact Projects

209 initial projects

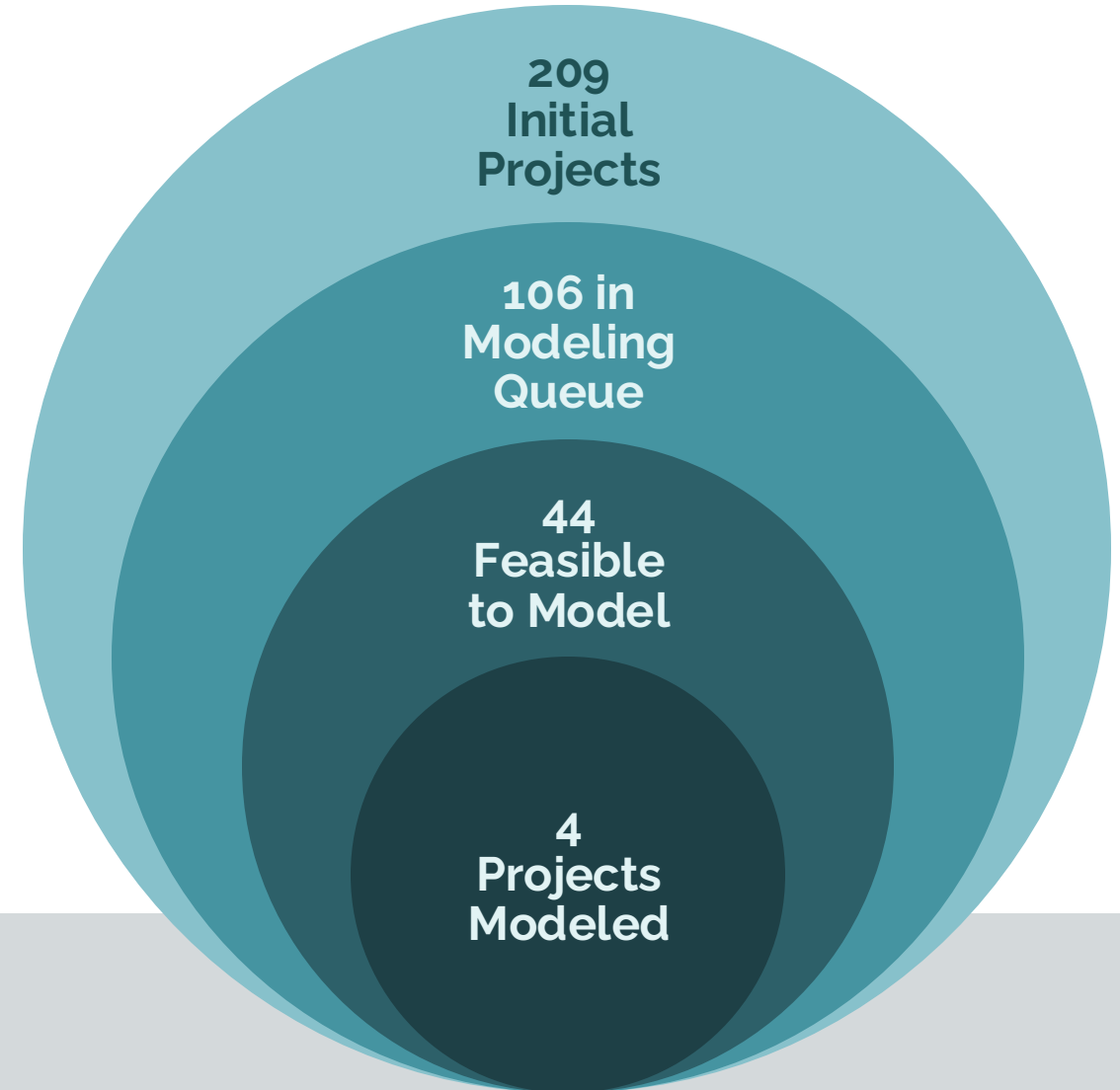
106 screened for modeling

44 feasible to be

4 projects modeled based on:

- Regional benefit
- Risk reduction potential
- Readiness
- Local support and O&M commitment

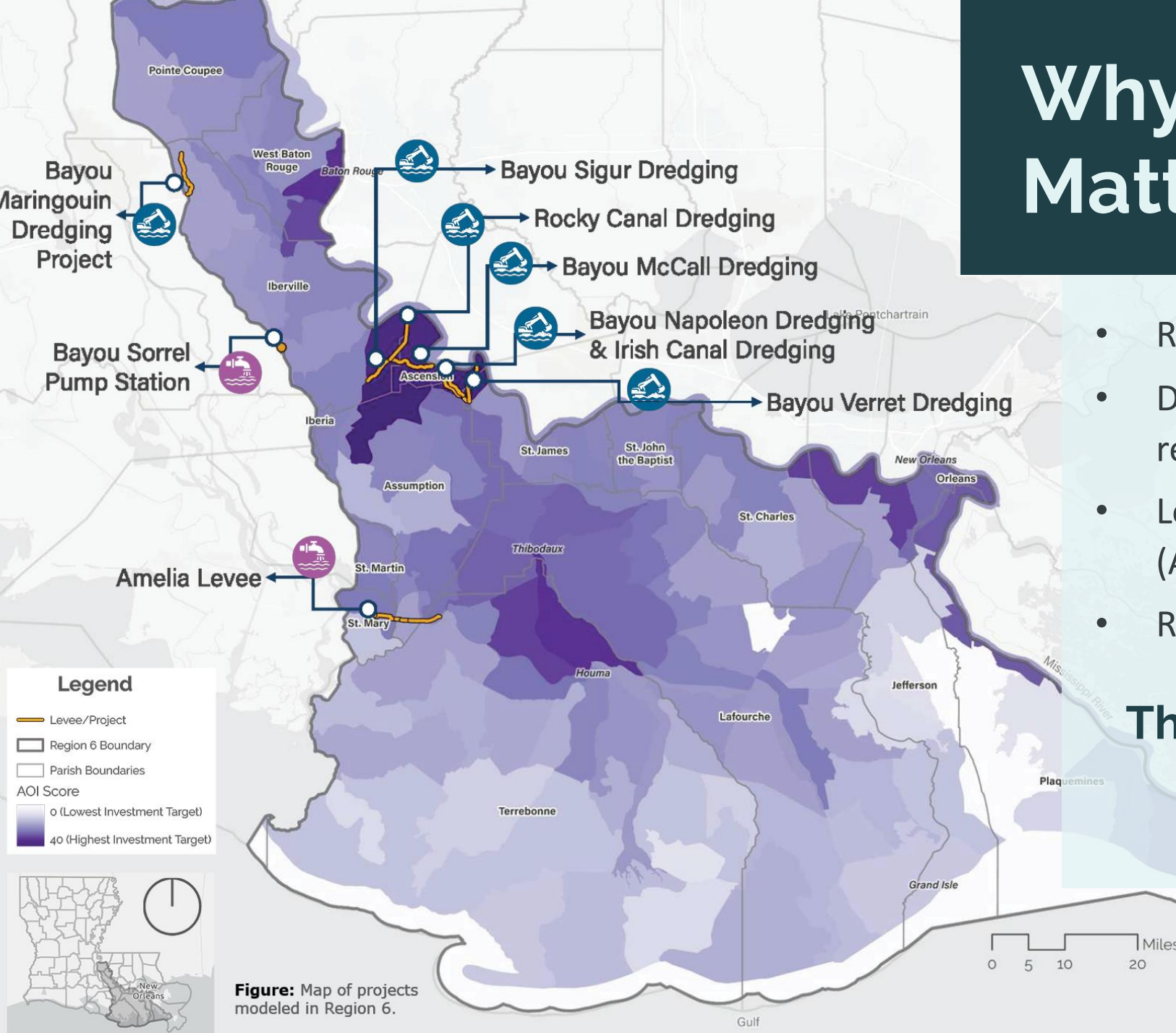
“Projects selected for impact, readiness, and partnership.”



Why These Projects Matter

- Represent different solution types
- Demonstrate measurable risk reduction
- Located in priority Areas of Interest (AOIs)
- Ready to advance toward funding

These are implementation-ready opportunities



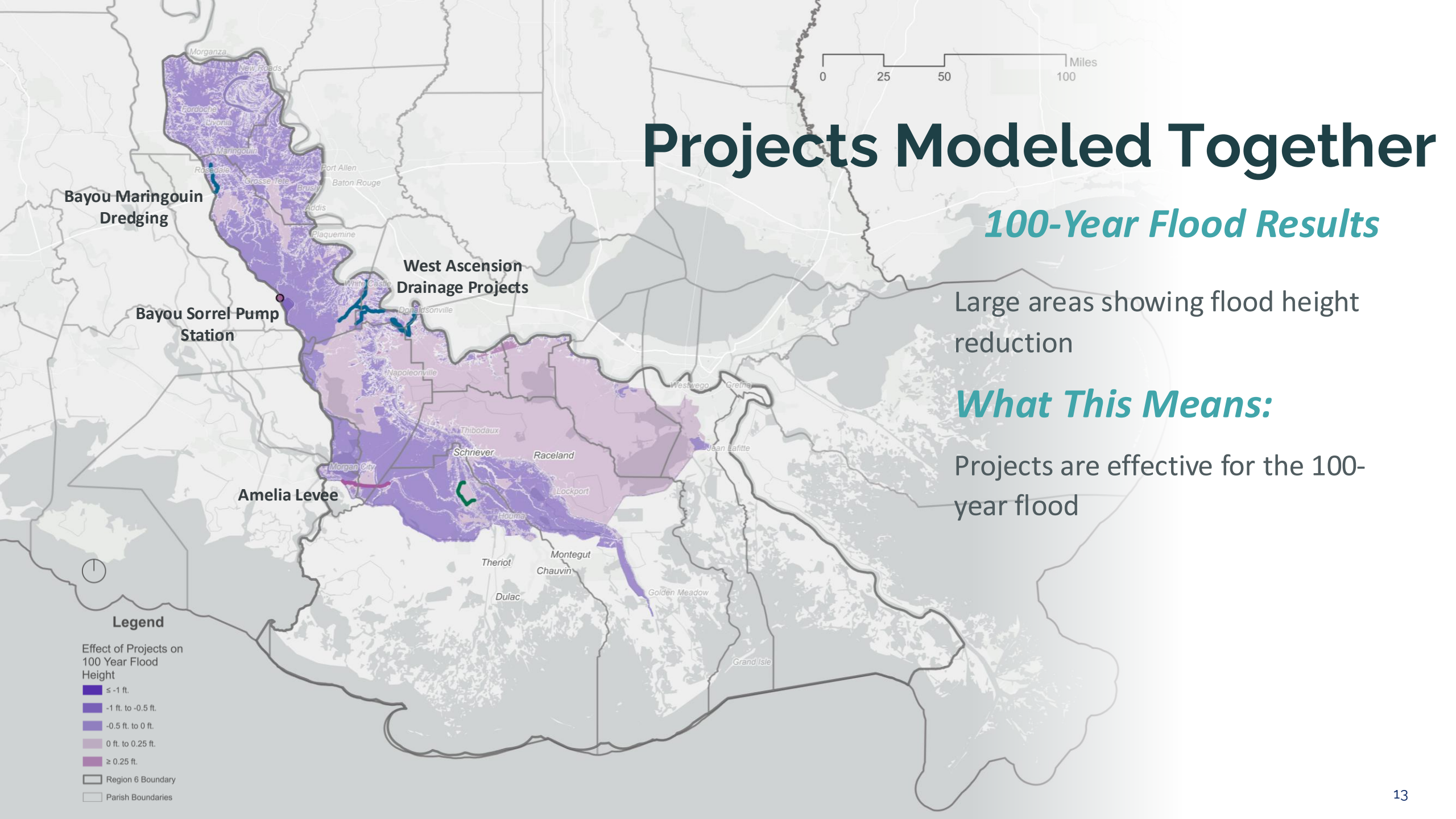
Projects Modeled Together

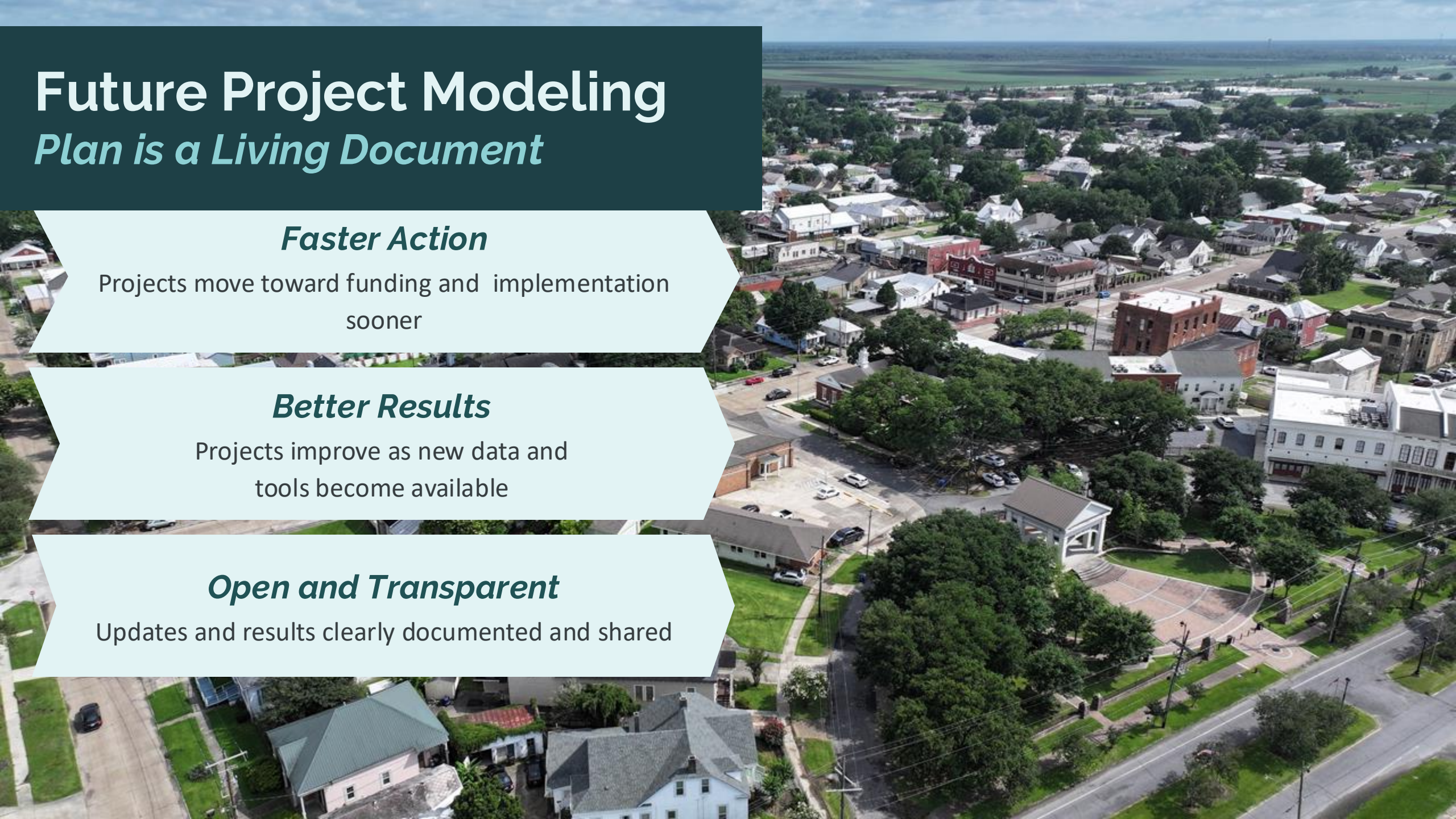
100-Year Flood Results

Large areas showing flood height reduction

What This Means:

Projects are effective for the 100-year flood



An aerial photograph of a town, likely in the South, showing a mix of residential and commercial buildings. A large, white, classical-style building with a portico is prominent in the lower right. A park with a large tree and a paved area is visible in the center. The town is surrounded by green fields and a body of water in the distance.

Future Project Modeling

Plan is a Living Document

Faster Action

Projects move toward funding and implementation sooner

Better Results

Projects improve as new data and tools become available

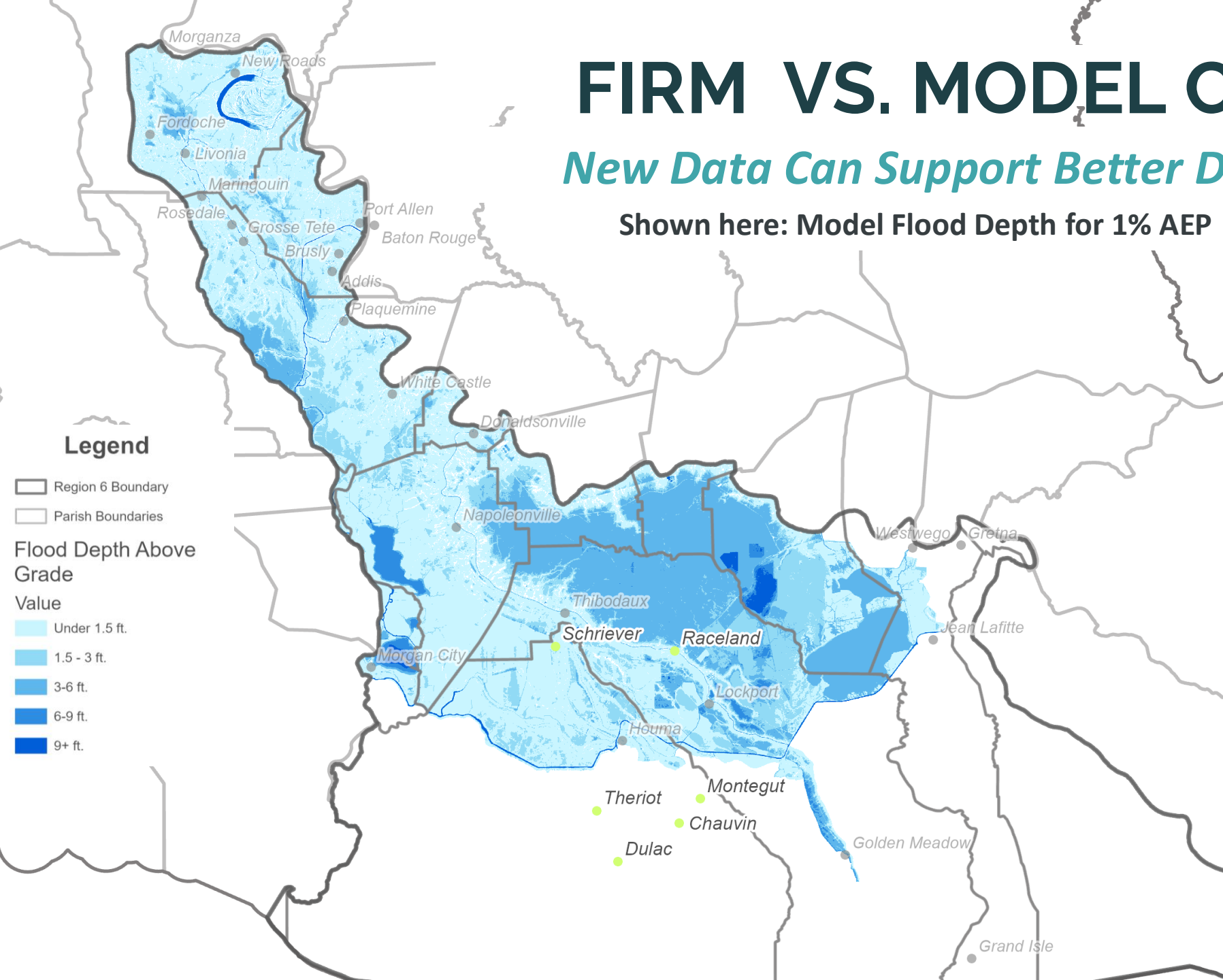
Open and Transparent

Updates and results clearly documented and shared

FIRM VS. MODEL COMPARISON

New Data Can Support Better Decision-making today

Shown here: Model Flood Depth for 1% AEP



- Some areas show flood risk reduction due to improved modeling of flood control systems and elevation
- More detailed shapefiles than FIRMS provide
- Can zoom in to parishes and lots
- Can support Parish LOMRs

Managing Future Floodplains

Map of potential expansion in FEMA Flood Zones (SFHA) if Region 6 models were used to update FEMA maps; focus area Ascension Parish.

Legend

100 yr
Flood Depth
Above
Grade

Under 1 ft.

1 ft. - 3 ft.

3 ft. - 6 ft.

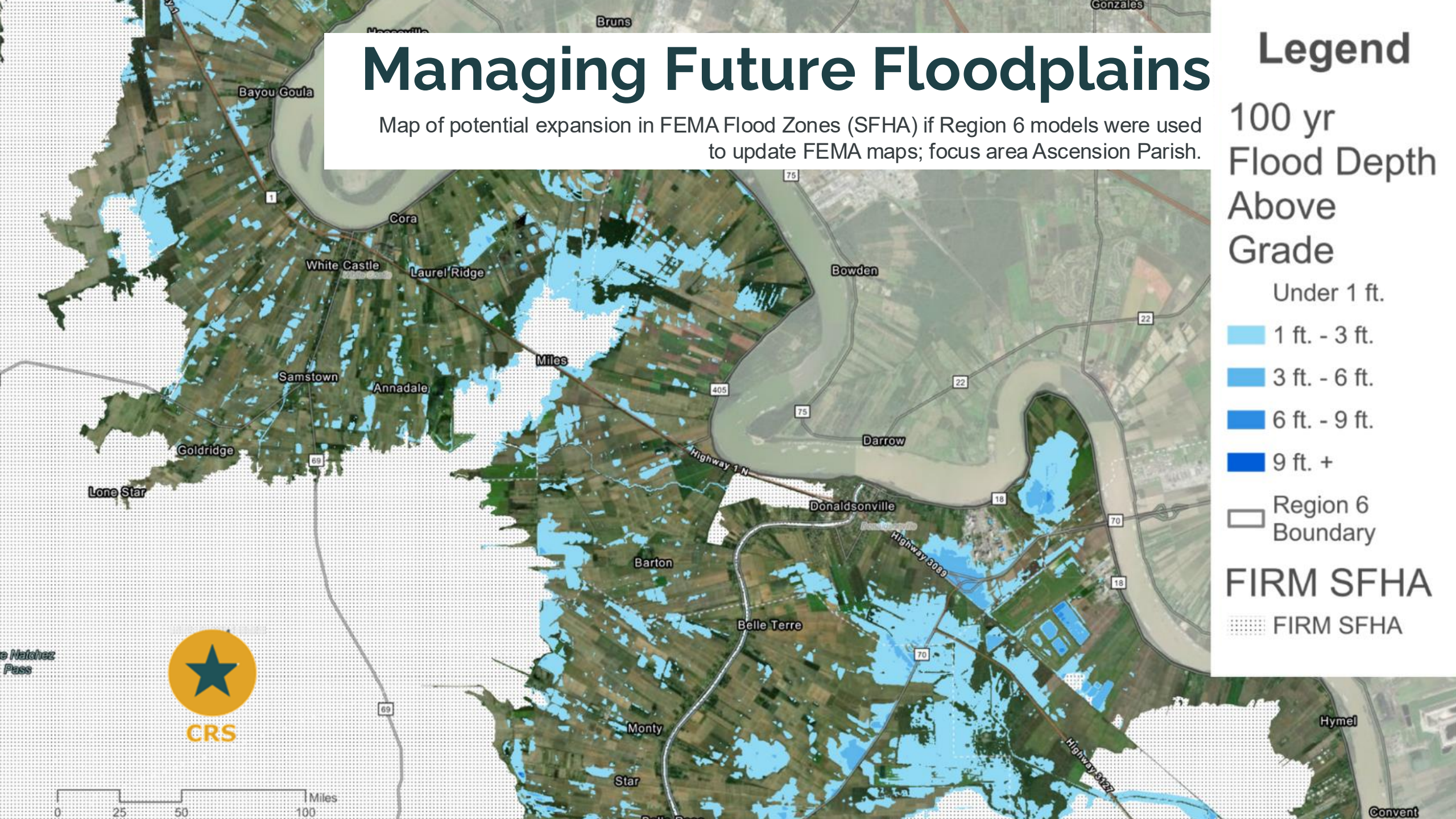
6 ft. - 9 ft.

9 ft. +

Region 6
Boundary

FIRM SFHA

FIRM SFHA



Key Plan Recommendations

What We Need to Do

- Strengthen regional coordination (RSC)
- Implement prioritization framework
- Advance priority projects and funding
- Improve O&M and system performance
- Align development to reduce future risk
- Strengthen local capacity and compliance
- Track progress, measure, and communicate results

Why this matters to locals...

Economic & Insurance Benefits

- Lower risk ■■■▶ lower losses
- Lower losses ■■■▶ improved insurance availability
- Improved insurance ■■■▶ stronger housing and economy

Outcomes

- Increased insurance participation
- Greater investment confidence
- More stable housing market

Recent Region 6 Activity Timeline

- **May 8:** Webinar to present Draft Plan
- **May 8 – June 8:** Public Comment period (complete)
- **June 18:** RSC Final Plan review
- **June 25:** RSC Submitted BRIC applications to the State
- **July 23:** State submitted BRIC applications
- **August 12:** RSC Final Plan review and acceptance
- **August – December:** Present to State agencies; Local plan adoption and implementation (adopted by individual Parishes by standalone ordinance)
- **January:** Advocacy for Long-Term Funding Support



Closing: Moving Forward – *Together*

This Plan connects:

- Planning
- Projects
- Funding
- Implementation

Positions Region 6 to:

- Reduce risk
- Strengthen communities
- Stabilize insurance

Plan Implementation Activities Underway

- Submit Plan to OCD
- BRIC Applications
- Plan Adoption Support for CRS Credit
- Advocacy for Long-Term Funding Support for Plan Use, Implementation, and Updates (Beginning January 2027)
- Present Plan to CPRA and DOTD CURRENT Authority

BRIC Applications

- Bayou Sorrel Flood Protection Project
- Submitted to GOHSEP and FEMA
- Prepping BCAs for next year

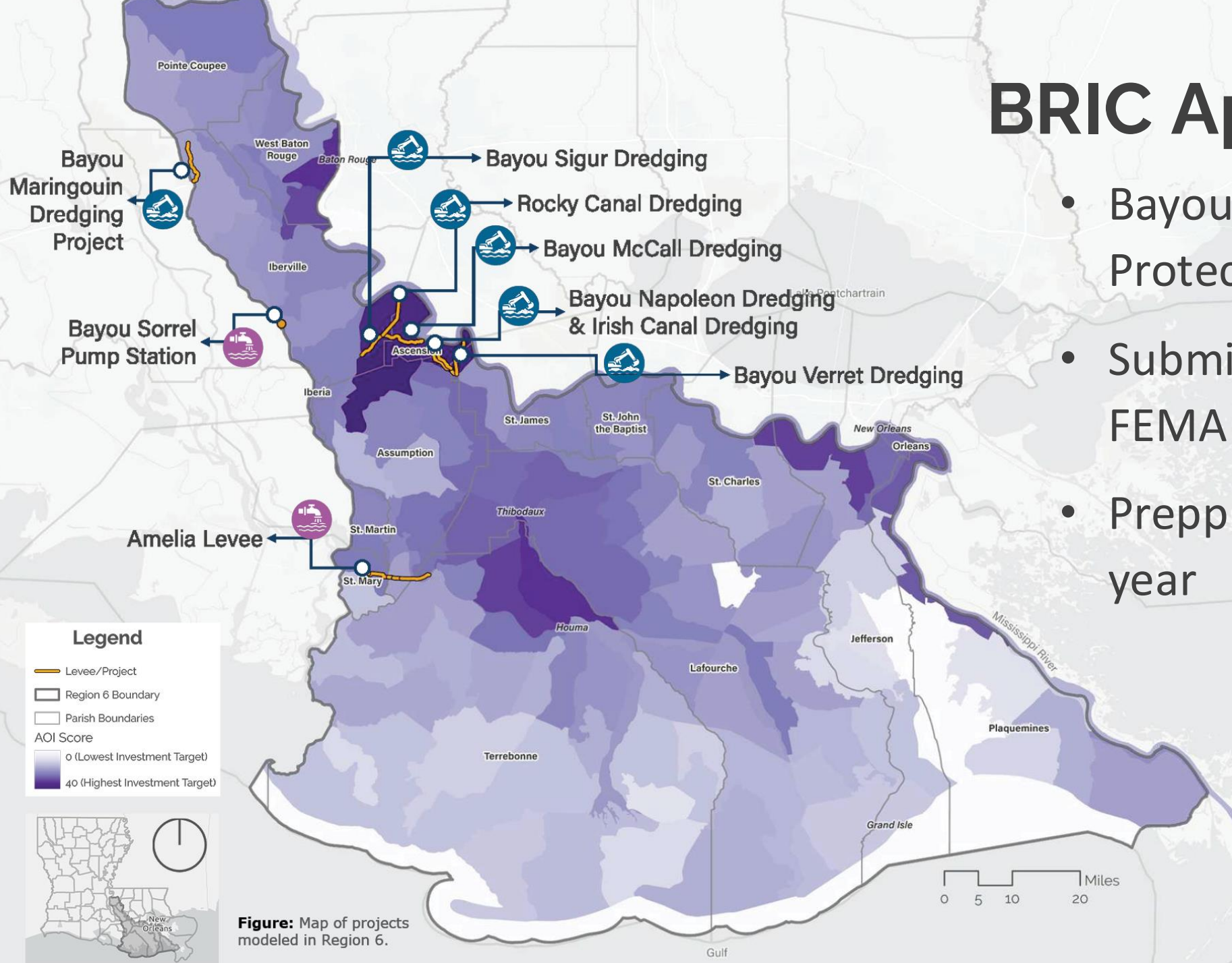


Figure: Map of projects modeled in Region 6.

Advocacy for Long-Term Funding Support

- 2027 Legislative Session and Budgeting
 - Request for funding for a statewide watershed management program to track and measure risk reduction metrics and progress
 - Permanent framework for disaster readiness and recovery
 - Continued partnership with state and federal agencies
- Share request with relevant committees and subcommittees



Project website:

<https://www.r6watershedplan.com/>



An aerial photograph of a town, likely in the Midwest, featuring a mix of residential houses, commercial buildings, and a large park area with a gazebo. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The word "Questions?" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Questions?

THANK YOU!

SCPDC
South Central Planning &
Development Commission

DESIRE LINE



moFFatt & nichol



thompson watermark
ENGINEERING



DESIGN



meyer
ENGINEERS + ARCHITECTS