



Exhibit A – Executive Summary

Shelby County, Tennessee

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Shelby County, TN is the heart of a major domestic and international transportation and logistics network that is interconnected by land, air, and waterways. Home to the world's second largest air-cargo airport, served by five Class I Railroads, Shelby County has over 400 trucking companies, and contains the nation's fourth-largest inland water port.

Shelby County's critical importance to the nation's transportation and logistics was never more evident than following the April 2011 storms (the Qualified Disaster). Three separate storms struck Shelby County on April 4, 25, and 27, bringing flooding, tornados, and straight-line winds to the region. Shelby County sustained widespread damages, with the greatest impacts being to infrastructure, with the loss of electrical service to more than 345,000 customers, and flood damage to the Raleigh-Millington Road Bridge, an important connection between the cities of Memphis and Millington. The natural environment was a victim as well. Most notably, President's Island in Memphis experienced severe shoreline erosion, resulting in the loss of critical wildlife habitat, jeopardized farming operations, and threats to close off the harbor entrance of the International Port of Memphis. The Port serves over 150 industries, has an annual economic impact of \$5.56B and employs 13,000 people directly and indirectly. Additional environmental damages were seen in Germantown, Bartlett, and Collierville where high water velocities in creeks and streams caused scouring to river banks and the lowering of beds, both of which threaten public infrastructure and private property. Furthermore, Shelby County's housing stock sustained damages, the majority of which was due to flooding in single family homes. Post-disaster, Shelby County undertook a number of recovery projects to restore the region and better prepare it for future events. However, recovery needs still remain in all sectors: an estimated \$9 million is needed to address direct impacts and prevent secondary erosion on President's Island and over \$4 million to address stream damage; over \$650,000 is needed to



restore the Raleigh-Millington Road Bridge, and damages to 80 homes remain unaddressed due to lack of funding needed for repairs.

Concurrent to the county's recovery from the 2011 storms and the impacts of the disasters and risks facing the region (i.e. flooding and severe storms), the tri-state area of Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas (or Mid-South region) embarked on a comprehensive planning endeavor. The resulting plan, *GREENPRINT 2015/2040*, or the Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan ("Greenprint"), is designed to enhance sustainability through a unified vision for a regional network of green infrastructure. The plan includes a concept map of 500 miles of green space connections and a strategic framework addressing improvements to recreation, transportation choices, health, housing and neighborhoods, environmental quality, economic development, quality of life, and equity. Truly regional, the plan involves 18 municipalities and 4 counties across Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

Shelby County will use the vision and strategic directions of the Greenprint as a foundation for resilience by incorporating green infrastructure and flood mitigation strategies, to connect communities, enhance economic opportunities, and improve health. Through the creation of low lying areas for flood water storage and flood prevention, the county is committed to the concept of "making room for the river." Exhibit E and [Attachment E](#) provides details of this concept.

The Greenprint's eight strategic directions are the cornerstone of Shelby County's application to the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) envisioning a region that prioritizes accessibility, equity, and connectivity. Shelby County is committed not only to continuing its recovery from the 2011 disasters, but to do so in coordination with a comprehensive plan that emphasizes the principles of resilience, affords rapid, more efficient recovery in the event of future disasters, and minimizes damage from future events.