Mississippi Cyber and Technology Center Initiative which in total is a $34.2 million project. Senate Bill 2951 of the 2021 Mississippi Legislative Session through the MS Gulf Coast Restoration Fund appropriated $13,500,000 to assist Mississippi State University with the continuation of the Mississippi Cyber and Technology Center Initiative. The Gulf Coast Workforce Connect facility will bring together businesses, community college, universities, and high schools to create a new economic landscape in the area.

The initial phase will advance the goals of the MCI which include promoting economic development for the Gulf Coast region and the State, providing cyber workforce training and education, enhancing the Mississippi State University, promoting economic development, and increasing public awareness through outreach. The initial phase has been defined as a new space for equipment and evaluating the procurement process. The initial phase will constitute $1,000,000 which should be matched by an additional $1,000,000 in local, state, or federal matching funds.

The construction of the Center will be funded through a combination of local, state, and federal resources, and it will be an economic driver for the region. The Center will provide a secure and controlled environment for the training of cyber professionals and will support the development of the cybersecurity workforce in the region. The Center will be a long-term economic driver that will create jobs and growth for the region.

The Mississippi Aquarium's goal is to build and open a state-of-the-art turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and education center that serves as an epicenter for the Gulf Coast turtle education, rescue, and rehabilitation efforts. The Center will be modeled after the successful Georgia Sea Turtle Center located on Jekyll Island, Georgia, Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach, Florida, and The Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Florida.

The Construction of the TRC will be a support facility for the Aquarium to provide regional and national rehabilitation for turtles – a need that NOAA and US Fish & Wildlife have identified. The TRC will complement existing facilities and serve as an educational and outreach center for the Gulf Coast region.

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The programming will range from hands-on experiences to training for the most in-demand technical positions, including advanced manufacturing technology, cybersecurity, and software engineering. The facility will be housed on a 10-acre site in the heart of Ocean Springs.

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The far-reaching effects of completing the $8,500,000 Mississippi Coast Model Railroad Museum project has the potential to have a positive impact on the community. The museum currently has new merchants move into Gulfport, property values should begin to increase the tax base in that area for the city.

A member of the Pass Road Merchants’ Association, the staff will be collaboratively working with other merchant members to ensure a consistent flow of traffic. This process will also encourage new merchants to locate to Pass Road. Once begun, the changes will also encourage new merchants to locate to Pass Road. Then as the museum property and improve intersections for pedestrians. The parking lot of the Museum has been drawn to include green spaces while adding attractive outdoor lighting, and hardscapes that will include new sidewalks bordering it.

The Railroad Museum Project is designed to also serve as a catalyst for community revitalization of Pass Road, an area that has seen a significant amount of decay. The staff is already working with the City of Gulfport to provide missing sidewalks around the Museum. Through building partnerships with other community professionals, the overall budget of the Museum is projected to send almost $700,000 back into the local economy during the first year of operation.

It is projected that this construction project has been privately underwritten by community donors, Richard Mueller and Glenn Harrison. Mueller has made contributions to the Museum via the Mississippi Tourism Foundation (MTF) and Harrison is the owner of the Parametric Design model railroad company, which recently brought a new and exciting model railroad to the Coast of Mississippi. Mueller and Harrison have also contributed to the development of the Museum.

The Mississippi Coast Model Railroad Museum project is being developed at the intersection of Hewes Avenue and Pass Road on a 4.27-acre site. The site was once a plats #8-18 in the neighborhood of Manhattan Addition, established in 1905. The project supports the Mississippi Tourism Foundation (MTF) and Harrison’s Parametric Design model railroad company.

The current property at 615 Pass Road sits mostly in the Pat Harrison Waterway in Harrison County on the corner of the Hewes Avenue. As a result of the model railroad museum project, the area is expected to attract new traffic, which will also improve the overall property values. The museum will also provide a new destination for the coast of South Mississippi that will bring new tourists and revenue. The museum currently has no funding support from the federal government, and the project is expected to cost approximately $10 million.

The museum will be designed to attract tourists and locals alike. No other funding sources have been secured to date. The museum will present landmarks that move, light up, or spin across the display found from historical sources. The museum will also provide educational elements that build scientific knowledge grown through model railroad display. The museum will also provide an attraction that brings families together to laugh and learn: parents and children, grandparents and children, and teachers and students.

The Mississippi Coast Model Railroad Museum will also impact economic development in South Mississippi when it opens in 2023. If guests that want to create their own model railroad displays at home, they can also attend “Rail Classes” at the museum. Additionally, the museum will provide a new destination for the coast of South Mississippi. The museum will also provide educational elements that build scientific knowledge grown through model railroad display. The museum will also provide educational elements that build scientific knowledge grown through model railroad display.