

Department of Engineering
Tim Bryan, P.E., County Engineer

3137 South Liberty Street, Canton, MS 39046
Office (601) 790-2525 FAX (601) 859-3430

MEMORANDUM

January 13, 2021

To: Sheila Jones, Supervisor, District I
Trey Baxter, Supervisor, District II
Gerald Steen, Supervisor, District III
Karl Banks, Supervisor, District IV
Paul Griffin, Supervisor, District V

From: Tim Bryan, P.E.
County Engineer

Re: Request for Time Extension
Bozeman Road and Reunion Parkway Phase 3

The Engineering Department requests permission for the Board President to sign the attached letters to the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District requesting a one-year time extension for the right-of-way acquisition phase of the above referenced projects due to unforeseen issues that have made the acquisitions take longer than expected.

SHEILA JONES
District One

TREY BAXTER
District Two

GERALD STEEN
District Three

KARL BANKS
District Four

PAUL GRIFFIN
District Five

Department of Engineering
Tim Bryan, P.E., County Engineer

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January 19, 2021

Attention: Lesley Callender
Central MS Planning and Development District
1020 Centre Pointe Blvd.
Pearl, MS 39208

Re: Request for Time Extension
Bozeman Road Improvements
PROJECT NO: STP-6985-00(001)LPA/106993-701000
COUNTY: Madison

Dear Mrs. Callender:

Madison County has passed a resolution agreeing to comply with the deadlines set forth by the Central MS Planning and Development District for the referenced project. Madison County has previously requested and been granted a one-year extension to perform the Right-of-Way phase for this project. To date Madison County Board of Supervisors has approved disbursement of approximately \$1,570,000 for Right-of-Way. Currently all appraisal work has been completed, and 38 of the 51 parcels have been acquired, submitted for payment, or have signed agreements. Also, 5 of the remaining parcels are in negotiations, 7 will be submitted for approval for Just Compensation in February, and 1 parcel is in the condemnation process.

Due to extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have encountered unprecedented delays. Specific delays include several appraisal team members testing positive, the acquisition agent testing positive, positive tests within team members' households, quarantine requirements, delayed landowner responses to initial contact, landowners being seemingly apprehensive about property meetings, reworking processes and procedures for presentation of valuations for establishment of just compensation and administrative adjustments, managing a multi-disciplinary team remotely, and practical day-to-day matters (team members working remotely, team members managing risk, team members managing work hours due to school closures, etc.). Additionally, we anticipate delays within the court system for placement on the hearing docket due to backlogs, new processes and procedures, and social distancing requirements.

Madison County has engaged MDOT Right of Way LPA Coordinator, Sharen Willis since the inception of the Right of Way phase. Mrs. Willis has stated "The Right of Way Acquisition team for the Bozeman Road project is working diligently and expeditiously to acquire all parcels necessary for the project. As the statewide MDOT Right of Way LPA Coordinator, I have been providing oversight and attending virtual conference meetings to ensure that this project keeps moving forward during the many constraints that have arisen during this pandemic. They are making excellent progress considering these constraints.... This team is focused and determined to acquire all parcels as expeditiously as possible and they are doing excellent work in compliance with federal and state regulations." Based on the project schedule for the remaining work for the Right-of-Way phase, we feel it is possible to have all Right-of-Way acquired by August 31, 2021. At this time, we hope to make this deadline but would like to request a one-year extension, which is February 28, 2022, in case we run into additional unforeseen issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Madison County is confident that the plan of action set forth should be sufficient to accommodate the extended MPO's deadline. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (601) 790-2520. We look forward to continuing to work with the Jackson MPO on this project.

Sincerely,

Karl Banks, President
Madison County Board of Supervisors

pc: Lee Frederick, State LPA Engineer

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Department of Engineering
Tim Bryan, P.E., County Engineer

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January 19, 2021

Attention: Lesley Callender
Central MS Planning and Development District
1020 Centre Pointe Blvd.
Pearl, MS 39208

Re: Request for Time Extension
Reunion Parkway Phase 3
PROJECT NO: STP-6988-00(003)LPA/106992-701000
COUNTY: Madison

Dear Mrs. Callender:

Madison County has passed a resolution agreeing to comply with the deadlines set forth by the Central MS Planning and Development District for the referenced project. Madison County has previously requested and been granted a one-year extension to perform the Right-of-Way phase for this project. To date Madison County has acquired 10 of the 13 parcels required, disbursing close to \$800,000. Due to extraordinary circumstances related the COVID-19 pandemic, we have encountered issued contacting and meeting with property owners. Also, the remaining 3 parcels we are working to acquired are currently in the condemnation process with one property owner refusing to sell. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused delays in the court filings and appearances process.

The plans and documents have been revised and updated to reflect comments, etc. and Office Review plans have been prepared and are ready for submittal, however the Office Review cannot be held until such time as all the properties have been acquired. Based on the project schedule for the referenced project, we are to have all Right-of-Way acquired by February 28, 2021. At this time, we hope to make this deadline but would like to request a six-month extension in case we continue to run into unforeseen issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madison County is confident that the plan of action set forth should be sufficient to accommodate the extended MPO's deadline. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (601) 790-2520. We look forward to continuing to work with the Jackson MPO on this project.

Sincerely,

Tim Bryan, P.E., PTOE
Madison County Engineer

pc:
Lee Frederick, State LPA Engineer
Brad Engels, Stantec

SHEILA JONES
District One

TREY BAXTER
District Two

GERALD STEEN
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District Five