



MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

125 West North Street • Post Office Box 608
Canton, Mississippi 39046
601-855-5500 • Facsimile 601-855-5759
www.madison-co.com

April 4, 2022

Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Madison County, Mississippi - Infrastructure Development Program

Dear Congressman Thompson:

On behalf of the Madison County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) and the residents of Madison County (“County”), thank you for your continuing efforts to address infrastructure needs and advance economic development in the State of Mississippi and our County. We are confident that investments made as a result of the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will allow Madison County to continue to be at the forefront of economic development as it has been in the State of Mississippi for the past 40 years. The recently announced Nissan electric vehicle facility, and previous investments by L3Vector Aviation, Nissan-Canton, and Amazon Fulfillment Center in Madison County all demonstrate that Madison County is more and more the epicenter of high technology job creation in Mississippi.

We are writing you today to provide an updated summary of the high priority initiatives for which we have previously requested federal assistance including the Bozeman-Reunion Transportation Network, the Madison County Comprehensive Watershed Management Program, and our ongoing initiative to expand high quality broadband service into the underserved and rural portions of the County.

Transportation

As previously communicated in our July 20, 2021, letter (see Tab 1), the Madison County Board of Supervisors continues its ambitious effort to modernize and expand the capacity of the local arterial transportation system along with access to I-55 between the City of Madison and the City of Gluckstadt through the Reunion Parkway Crossing, a \$32 million roadway and interchange,

which is the primary and critical element of the \$90 million Reunion-Bozeman Transportation Network (see Tab 2). The Reunion Parkway Crossing will result in significant safety enhancements for the motoring public through reductions in congestion on local arterials and on I-55, resulting in improved fuel efficiency, fewer traffic accidents, and reduced adverse air quality impacts. The Reunion Parkway Crossing also includes a contemporary Park-and-Ride center, with electric vehicle charging stations and access to pedestrian and bike trails, which provide elements of “smart growth” policy to the region.

Confirming the significance of this undertaking, the Mississippi Legislature and the MPO have provided initial partial funding to which we seek to add federal assistance. The Board of Supervisors also continues to pursue various federal funding opportunities for the Reunion Parkway Crossing. In collaboration with MDOT, the Board has submitted applications for funding through both the BUILD and RAISE Grant programs over the past 3 years. This effort has produced a “highly recommended” application, but we have come up short in the final analysis as to gaining approval for vitally needed federal funding, even as the County has increased the level of local funding to \$20 million. The Board is very appreciative of the efforts regarding a favorable designated funding provision in the still pending FY 2022 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill (THUD), which includes \$4 million for the Bozeman-Reunion Crossing Interconnectivity System and represents an opportunity to expedite construction of these vital transportation improvements in an expedited time frame. To augment the current state and local funding in place and the pending FY 2022 THUD provision, we request your support for designated funding in the amount of \$10 million in the FY 2023 THUD bill in furtherance of the Reunion-Bozeman Transportation Network.

Comprehensive Watershed Management

The Madison County Comprehensive Watershed Management Program is working collaboratively with various federal and state agencies to create a systematic, holistic approach to implementing systems of best management practices and preventative planning, management, and engineering to provide the foundation for the present corrections of stormwater system deficiencies, while paving the way for future management practices and facilities to mitigate or avert the cause of watershed deterioration at its origin, rather than at its point of destruction or damage.

Based on the initial findings of this work, several critical areas warrant priority attention through the involvement and assistance of the Natural Resources Development Service (NRCS), including the Upper Bear Creek Watershed, Bear Creek-Little Bear Creek Watershed, and the Tilda Bogue Creek Watershed (see Tab 4). The Upper Bear Creek Watershed encompasses the headwaters of Bear Creek between Madison and Canton along the I-55 corridor. The Bear Creek-Little Bear Creek Watershed is located southeast and inclusive of Canton. The Tilda Bogue Creek Watershed is situated northeast of Canton and east of US Hwy 51 and encompasses the upper reaches and headwaters of Tilda Bogue. These watersheds are experiencing streambank erosion due to high velocity runoff that creates downstream sediment and debris. This in turn obstructs proper drainage flow resulting in localized flooding, associated property damage, and disruption of public services.

Madison County is seeking NRCS funding through USDA (see tab 4) and has met with Dr. Homer Wilkes, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA and Kurt Readus, Director of NRCS in Mississippi, to garner support for the watershed program implementation. The Board is appreciative of the inclusion of \$8.4 million dollars in the pending Senate version of the FY 2022 Agriculture Appropriations bills for various Mississippi counties in support for continued USDA NRCS Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations work to reduce flooding, erosion, and sediment damages in various authorized watersheds. Given the size and scope of this initiative, Madison County seeks a designated funding provision in the amount of \$10 million in the FY 2023 Agriculture Appropriations Bill for this NRCS account. We look forward to the opportunity to present, in more detail, the ongoing developments of this comprehensive watershed management program to you and your staff and to gain your input and guidance in support of the most appropriate and effective path forward to success in a timely efficient manner.

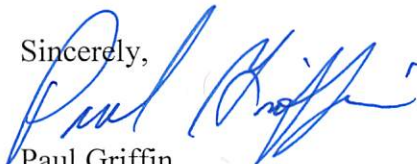
Broadband

Since we last communicated with you the Board has undertaken and completed a comprehensive assessment of broadband needs in Madison County. The first of three stages will require approximately \$35 million to service the underserved rural areas of northeast Madison County (see Tab 5) including areas in immediate proximity to the excellent public schools, Velma Jackson, High School, Camden Elementary School, Shirley D. Simmons Middle School, and Luther Branson Elementary School. While we anticipate structuring this program to work with the prospective Mississippi broadband commission once it is established, we are currently in the process of procuring a private sector partner as a service provider. It is anticipated that Madison County and our private sector partner can leverage our combined resources to compete for funding through the State of Mississippi's ARPA allocation process. At the local level, as an illustration of the County's commitment to the broadband program, the Board has designated \$10 million, or one-half of its entire ARPA allocation to broadband.

As the Board continues to develop stages 2 and 3 of the Madison County Broadband Program, we request your support, assistance, and guidance for the approvable \$25 million through the USDA ReConnect program, which provides federal assistance in the form of grants and low-interest loans to aid construction of the physical broadband network. It is our hope that we can elevate the entire level of broadband service, business opportunity and quality of life to the residents who support the incredible, industrial manufacturing base that has been created in the County.

We thank you once again for your service to Madison County, the State of Mississippi, and our nation, and we look forward to the opportunity in the near future to meet and discuss these needs and specific requests for assistance in more detail.

Sincerely,



Paul Griffin
District 5 Supervisor



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April 4, 2022

The Honorable Michael Guest
U.S. House of Representatives
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Madison County, Mississippi - Infrastructure Development Program

Dear Congressman Guest:

On behalf of the Madison County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) and the residents of Madison County (“County”), thank you for your continuing efforts to address infrastructure needs and advance economic development in the State of Mississippi and our County. We are confident that investments made as a result of the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will allow Madison County to continue to be at the forefront of economic development as it has been in the State of Mississippi for the past 40 years. The recently announced Nissan electric vehicle facility, and previous investments by L3Vector Aviation, Nissan-Canton, and Amazon Fulfillment Center in Madison County all demonstrate that Madison County is more and more the epicenter of high technology job creation in Mississippi.

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Network (see Tab 2). The Reunion Parkway Crossing will result in significant safety enhancements for the motoring public through reductions in congestion on local arterials and on I-55, resulting in improved fuel efficiency, fewer traffic accidents, and reduced adverse air quality impacts. The Reunion Parkway Crossing also includes a contemporary Park-and-Ride center, with electric vehicle charging stations and access to pedestrian and bike trails, which provide elements of “smart growth” policy to the region.

Confirming the significance of this undertaking, the Mississippi Legislature and the MPO have provided initial partial funding to which we seek to add federal assistance. The Board of Supervisors also continues to pursue various federal funding opportunities for the Reunion Parkway Crossing. In collaboration with MDOT, the Board has submitted applications for funding through both the BUILD and RAISE Grant programs over the past 3 years. This effort has produced a “highly recommended” application, but we have come up short in the final analysis as to gaining approval for vitally needed federal funding, even as the County has increased the level of local funding to \$20 million. The Board is very appreciative of the efforts regarding a favorable designated funding provision in the still pending FY 2022 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill (THUD), which includes \$4 million for the Bozeman-Reunion Crossing Interconnectivity System and represents an opportunity to expedite construction of these vital transportation improvements in an expedited time frame. To augment the current state and local funding in place and the pending FY 2022 THUD provision, we request your support for designated funding in the amount of \$10 million in the FY 2023 THUD bill in furtherance of the Reunion-Bozeman Transportation Network.

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Based on the initial findings of this work, several critical areas warrant priority attention through the involvement and assistance of the Natural Resources Development Service (NRCS), including the Upper Bear Creek Watershed, Bear Creek-Little Bear Creek Watershed, and the Tilda Bogue Creek Watershed (see Tab 4). The Upper Bear Creek Watershed encompasses the headwaters of Bear Creek between Madison and Canton along the I-55 corridor. The Bear Creek-Little Bear Creek Watershed is located southeast and inclusive of Canton. The Tilda Bogue Creek Watershed is situated northeast of Canton and east of US Hwy 51 and encompasses the upper reaches and headwaters of Tilda Bogue. These watersheds are experiencing streambank erosion due to high velocity runoff that creates downstream sediment and debris. This in turn obstructs proper drainage flow resulting in localized flooding, associated property damage, and disruption of public services.

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Broadband

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We thank you once again for your service to Madison County, the State of Mississippi, and our nation, and we look forward to the opportunity in the near future to meet and discuss these needs and specific requests for assistance in more detail.

Sincerely,

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Paul Griffin
District 5 Supervisor



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April 4, 2022

Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Madison County, Mississippi - Infrastructure Development Program

Dear Senator Hyde-Smith:

On behalf of the Madison County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) and the residents of Madison County (“County”), thank you for your continuing efforts to address infrastructure needs and advance economic development in the State of Mississippi and our County. We are confident that investments made as a result of the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will allow Madison County to continue to be at the forefront of economic development as it has been in the State of Mississippi for the past 40 years. The recently announced Nissan electric vehicle facility, and previous investments by L3Vector Aviation, Nissan-Canton, and Amazon Fulfillment Center in Madison County all demonstrate that Madison County is more and more the epicenter of high technology job creation in Mississippi.

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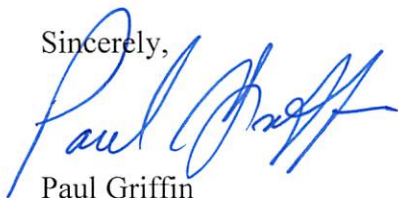
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Paul Griffin
District 5 Supervisor