



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jackson Street Trail Project Planned in Ridgeland

(Ridgeland, Mississippi – Jan. 2, 2013) The City of Ridgeland will be constructing an extension to the multiuse trail system in Ridgeland, Mississippi. Trace Ridge subdivision will be connected to an existing trail located on the east side of Highway 51 at Jackson Street. An asphalt path will be built along the south side of Jackson Street adjacent to Trace Station Shopping Center and extend 1/3 mile to Trace Ridge Drive.

“This multiuse path will link Trace Ridge subdivision with existing paths that run west toward Jackson Street’s pedestrian friendly market area. Avid riders will enjoy connecting at Highway 51 and Jackson Street and riding along a scenic route that parallels the Natchez Trace Parkway to connect with local attractions such as the Mississippi Craft Center and Ross Barnett Reservoir,” said Chris Bryson, Engineer, City of Ridgeland.

On Oct. 9, 2012, the Mississippi Transportation Commission (MTC) approved up to \$300,000 in Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds to be used toward City of Ridgeland projects. The City has chosen to apply this funding to the construction of the Jackson Street multiuse path along the south side of Jackson Street.

According to Bryson, this project is part of the “2035 Jackson Urbanized Area Transportation Plan, Volume III Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan.” The total estimated cost for this project is \$293,050. The associated federal funds will be administered to the City through MDOT’s Local Public Agency program.

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Gene F. McGee, cmo - mayor • Paula W. Tierce, phr – human resources director/city clerk

board of aldermen: D.I. Smith - at - large • Ken Heard, cmo - ward 1 • Chuck Gautier - ward 2 • Kevin Holder - ward 3
Brian P. Ramsey - ward 4 • Scott Jones, mayor pro tempore - ward 5 • Wesley Hamlin - ward 6



Residents of Trace Ridge subdivision in Ridgeland who use the existing multiuse path express their interest in the project. "As an avid user of the trace trail, I welcome the new trail extension," said Doug Cowart. "I typically enjoy jogging on the trail 2 to 4 times per week. Having safe access to the main trail is great for all that live in the Trace Ridge subdivision."

Melinda Simmons said, "As a frequent user of the multiuse trails and a resident of Trace Ridge, I couldn't be happier about the extension of the trail to Trace Ridge neighborhood. Running or cycling even that short stretch of Jackson Street during times of traffic or after dark has always made me a little bit nervous. This project is a great solution! It is already so convenient to have the trails nearby, and now, with a special trail to link the neighborhood, it will be safer for everyone to connect to and enjoy the trails."

"My family and I would be very excited to have easier access to the trails," said resident Lori Held. "Right now we have to drive and park to use the trails because I don't want my 3 and 4-year-old walking or riding their bikes on Jackson Street. It would be very nice and much safer to have the trail extend from Highway 51 over to the entrance to our subdivision."

Construction on the Jackson Street multiuse path is estimated to begin in the summer of 2014 and finish by spring 2015.

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