

## Road Funds for Ridgeland at Risk

*Thank you, Mike Smith, Dinsmor HOA Board member and City of Ridgeland Community Awareness Committee member, for writing this letter regarding concerns about the allocation of road funds by Madison County.*

Dear Residents,

**As you may be aware, our City of Ridgeland will lose \$8,068,500 in road funds because of the recent tactics employed by 4 members of the Madison County Board of Supervisors.**

The Ridgeland Road Projects affected are as follows:

- \* South Highland Colony mill and overlay work - \$3.5 million. This includes the area south of Natchez Trace to the Dinsmor South entrance and proceeding to County Line Road.
- \* Wheatley Road will lose \$100,000 for mill and overlay work.
- \* Rehab plans for six other Ridgeland streets will lose an additional \$100,000.
- \* The \$1.9 million that has been promised for years by the county toward the Lake Harbor project [but delayed at every opportunity] will be delayed yet again.
- \* Forfeiture of the \$40,000 that Ridgeland has paid for design studies for south Highland Colony, \$215,000 in federal funding lost, and \$3,500 the county was to reimburse Ridgeland under a Memo of Understanding also lost.
- \* Loss or delay of project funds due to Madison County not being in compliance for State Aid funding under the watch of the current county engineer: \$1,500,000 for Rice Road and Pear Orchard; \$470,000 for Livingston Road; and \$240,000 in additional costs that would be paid with State Aid funding.

**The grand total is a staggering \$8,068,500 loss for Ridgeland roads.**

This is astounding when you consider that Ridgeland pays 35% of the budget for Madison County according to Ridgeland officials but receives less than 5% of county road funding.

So what happened? Four Supervisors, Karl Banks, Paul Griffith, John Bell Crosby and Ronnie Lott, voted to remove these funds from Supervisor Gerald Steen's predominately Ridgeland district in a purely political play.

Thankfully, Highway Commissioner Dick Hall has taken a public stand against the Board of Supervisors stripping road money away from Ridgeland. Mr. Hall has demonstrated that he supports fair and honest government, and our citizens need to urge him to continue to speak out for Ridgeland.

**Now is the time for you to become involved by letting your voices be heard by the officials involved.**

First, please send an email to Dick Hall thanking him for his support of Ridgeland and for not taking part in these petty politics. Ask him to continue to represent you as Ridgeland residents and voters in getting our **fair share** of road funds.

You can contact him at:

Dick Hall, Central District Commissioner

MS Transportation Commission

401 N. West Street Jackson, MS 39215

601-359-7000

**[dhall@mdot.state.ms.us](mailto:dhall@mdot.state.ms.us)**

Additionally, voice your outrage and disappointment to the following supervisors who voted to take these funds from Ridgeland:

**John Bell Crosby**, District 3 Supervisor

Madison County Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 608 Canton, MS 39046-0608

601-874-5618 (Office) 601-946-4362 (Cell)

**[johnbellcrosby@comcast.net](mailto:johnbellcrosby@comcast.net)**

**Ronny Lott**, District 2 Supervisor

Madison County Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 608 Canton, MS 39046-0608

601-855-5500 (Office) 601-906-4303 (Cell)

**[Ronny.lott@madison-co.com](mailto:Ronny.lott@madison-co.com)**

Ridgeland needs your help. Please take a minute and be heard. Again, don't forget our friends like Commissioner Dick Hall who has supported fairness during this affair and remember those like Lott and Crosby whose votes have shown that they aren't interested in Ridgeland or our streets.