



News Release

Contact: Gene McGee, Mayor
601.856.7113 (Office) / 601.856.7819 (Fax)
Mayor.McGee@RidgelandMS.org

City of Ridgeland Reports on Progress of Lake Harbour Drive Extension

Ridgeland, Mississippi (Sept. 8, 2016) – Take a drive over to the intersection of Lake Harbour Drive and Highway 51, and you will see piles of broken concrete. It's not an attractive sight to the eye, but to Ridgeland city officials it means that a long-awaited road project is moving forward.

Demolition of buildings in the project area began this past spring. Now, demolition of the former businesses' concrete slabs is underway. It is the next step in the construction project of Lake Harbour Drive Extension, a new roadway that will provide an east-west corridor that connects Madison and Rankin Counties. The extension of Lake Harbour Drive will permit motorists to travel from Highway 51, the current endpoint of Lake Harbour Drive, across the Illinois Central Railroad and over I-55 to Highland Colony Parkway.

According to city officials, this is a large and complex project that includes an at-grade railroad crossing, culvert replacement, multiple utility relocations, connection to a state highway, and an interstate bridge. City officials have found ways to save money on the project in spite of its complexity.

"For example," said Chris Bryson, city engineer, "the contractor for the concrete demolition and removal, Hemphill Construction, will be salvaging the crushed concrete for their own use. Because of this, they are not charging the city for their work. What would have cost as much as \$160,000 is costing the city \$0."

After the concrete is cleared from the site, the city will be working with a contractor to replace the 100-year old Illinois Central box culvert which passes Purple Creek under the railroad track. "The new roadway will cross the Illinois Central Railroad at grade," said Bryson, "similar to the crossing on Jackson Street in Ridgeland."

Utility poles as well as underground gas lines including a major interstate gas transmission line, Gulf South Pipeline, will need to be moved to make room for the new roadway. Bryson anticipates that utility relocation and box culvert replacement will be the next construction items completed.

For more information about the Lake Harbour Drive Extension project, please call Chris Bryson at 601-853-2027 or Mayor Gene McGee at 601-856-7113. For more information about the City of Ridgeland, visit www.RidgelandMS.org.

###

mailing address: p.o. box 217 • ridgeland, ms 39158
street address: 304 highway 51 • ridgeland, ms 39157
ph: 601.856.7113 • www.ridgelandms.org

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

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