

Quitman County Board of Supervisors

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www.quitmancountymss.org



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The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Congressman
U.S. House of Representative
2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 2402

Dear Congressman Thompson:

RE: FY2021 DOT: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RISE) Application: Quitman County, Mississippi

The Quitman County Board of Supervisors is submitting an FY2021 RISE application for funding to improve the infrastructure on Riverside Road and we are requesting a letter of support for our project. *(See attached estimated cost)*

Riverside Road is over fifty percent gravel. It is approximately 22 feet wide running northerly from Mississippi Highway 322 for 5.3 miles to the City Limits of Marks, Mississippi. This is a major thoroughfare connecting the cities of Marks and Lambert. For most of the 5.3 miles, the Coldwater River runs parallel and adjacent on the east side of Riverside Road. This road is subject to annual spring floods. In preparation to prevent flooding, over the years, levees have been constructed, but that has not solved this problem. The proposed improvements; include improving the existing drainage structures and adding additional needed structures. The subgrade will be raised approximately 3 feet and a clay gravel base paved with 3 inches of Hot Mix Asphalt for the surface.

The project also proposes a multi-purpose cultural bike-walking trail along the river. The Shady Grove Indian Mound, which is a national historic site; two historic African American churches, and the Morning Star Cutoff; which leads to the National Wildlife Refuge are located on Riverside Road. These sites, along the route as well as the natural beauty of the ecosystem of the Coldwater River, makes an ideal recreational trail to help promote fitness and health.

An improved Riverside Road has regional economic implications for growth and tourism. Additionally, the safety benefits to the improved infrastructure of this road could serve as an alternative evacuation route for residents living on the east side of the Canadian National Railway tracks in the event of a train derailment.

Quitman County is a small rural underserved community with a poverty rate of 35 percent. Our roads and bridges are not in good repair. The improvements to Riverside Road would alleviate future flooding, loss of property, reduce the county's road maintenance expense and most importantly help stimulate economic growth.

The Board thanks you in advance for considering our request for a letter of support. Please address letter to the U. S. Secretary of Transportation. His address is listed below, and email your letter to attention: Velamjeanwilson@gmail.com.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590 0001

If you have any questions regarding the Board's request, please contact our County's Economic & Development Director, Velma Wilson at 662.388.1550.

Sincerely,



President
Quitman County Board of Supervisors

