

Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church

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Rev. Larry L. Smith, Pastor
Brenda Hopson, Secretary
Shirley Rayford, Treasurer

April 12, 2022

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

RE: FY2022 DOT: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
Application: Quitman County, Mississippi

Honorable Secretary:

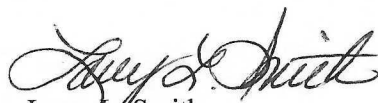
As Pastor, and on behalf of the Officers and Board of Deacons, I am submitting this letter of support for the Quitman County's 2022 RAISE application for the improvements to the infrastructure to Riverside Road. The improvements to Riverside Road include 5.3 miles of improved storm drainage inlets, mobilization, and asphalt paving. These improvements to Riverside Road will produce a safer route and improve traffic flow impacting Quitman County's two most populated communities, Marks and Lambert, Mississippi, and the membership of Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Riverside Road 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. Along this road lies Booker Cemetery, the largest community cemetery in Quitman County. The poor condition of this road has led to numerous accidents and continuous damage to motor vehicles. This road is also subject to annual spring floods. In efforts to prevent flooding, over the years, city and county officials have worked together to build levees and invested in pumps, but these efforts proved ineffective.

Improvements to Riverside Road will have both local and regional economic implications for growth and tourism, along with safety benefits.

I, along with the membership, deacons, and officers, hope the committee will give every consideration to funding Quitman County's application. My mother walked this same muddy road to school and church as a girl during the 1930's; let this not be the legacy awaiting our children and grandchildren nearly one-hundred years later.

Sincerely,


Larry L. Smith
Pastor