

14 April 2022

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
Clarence E. Thigpen, Pastor
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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590 0001

Subject: FY 2022 DOT—Approval/Endorsement/Support of the Riverside Road Project (RAISE Application) Quitman County, Mississippi

Secretary Buttigieg:

It has come to the attention of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and its members that Velma Benson-Wilson, Quitman County Economic Development and Tourism Director, will soon re-submit a proposal for a grant to fund the Riverside Road Project (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity). The collaborative plan of action calls for the construction of a new road which will begin at East Main and Riverside Streets in the Marks city limits and continue southward and intersect with Highway 322 East of Lambert.

This organized plan of measure can be viewed through multiple lenses as a key benefit for transportation and road improvement in Quitman County. If awarded these funds, the Riverside Road Project will have an instrumental end result for travelers/tourists/sightseers en route to the Booker Cemetery, the Shady Grove Church, the Sacred Indian Burial Mound, and the Morning Star Church—all aligned in a path adjacent to Riverside Road.

The Morning Star Church, one of the last, rural, historical churches in Quitman County, was erected in 1912 (110 years old and the original structure still stands). It is located alongside Riverside Road near Highway 322. Most notably, this Riverside Road Project will be an artery that will replace the aging infrastructure of the old road to and from the church and will provide a greater transportation route between the City of Marks and Highway 322.

The Morning Star Church family fully supports the funding application for the Riverside Road Project (RAISE) with complete consideration in accordance of established policies and procedures.

The “improvement proposal” is for a better Marks and more prosperous Quitman County. We love Quitman County, and we strive to serve for the greater good. “Thank You” with all our faithful support.

Blessings!



Charles E. Gates, Keeper of Records and Finance