Presented by MAS and MACE

County Transportation System in Mississippi: Past, Present and Future
Responsibility

- Transportation infrastructure is a core responsibility of county government.
  - Counties maintain approximately 52,000 road miles
    - 19,000 miles eligible for federal and state aid funding
    - 33,000 miles on local system
  - Counties maintain approximately 9,865 bridges
History of Transportation Funding

1932 • Counties begin receiving portion of tax collections for road and bridge improvements

1949 • Legislature created Office of State Aid Road Construction

1994 • Legislature created Local System Bridge Program (LSBP)

2001 • Legislature created Local System Road Program (LSRP)
Where are counties now?

52,000 Road Miles
- 76% need pavement maintenance
- 46% in poor or very poor condition

9,865 Bridges
- 30% deficient or posted; cannot carry legal weight loads
- 146 closed to all traffic
Revenue streams have remained flat since 1987

Current Funding Structure

Counties (Direct)  
- $41 Million from state petroleum tax

State Aid Fund  
- $48 Million from state petroleum tax
- $3 Million from petroleum-related sales tax

LSBP/LSRP  
- LSBP: $20 Million allocation from Legislature (since 2004)
- LSRP: Not funded
Petroleum Tax Collections (FY2012)

- MDOT: $287,964,437 (68%)
- State Aid: $52,719,800 (12%)
- Counties: $41,555,057 (10%)

Source: MDOR “State Tax Collections for Mississippi Roads” dated June 13, 2013
Consumer Price Index (CPI)

CPI has increased 112% since 1987.
I think it is pretty mad to think that a state agency can operate on the same budget [it was] working with in 1987.”

Mississippi Today “Tax fears doomed highway spending push” dated July 5, 2016
Recommended Funding Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Current Level</th>
<th>Adjusted for CPI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Road &amp; Bridge (Direct)</td>
<td>$41</td>
<td>$87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of State Aid</td>
<td>$51</td>
<td>$108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local System Bridge Program</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCREASE TO MATCH CPI
Impact of Inflation: Real World Example

  - Bridge Replacement w/ Box Culvert $ 99,708
  - Bridge Replacement w/ Box Culvert $ 187,449
  - Reseal (46.813 miles) $ 981,250
  - Overlay (8.902 miles in 3 projects) $ 802,285
  - Grade, Drain & Surface (1.754 miles) $ 496,959
  - **TOTAL:** $2,567,649

- **Board Term (2016 – 2019)**
  - Reseal (43.21 miles) $ 3,024,700

3.34x increase
Preservation vs. Reconstruction

Condition

Age (Years)
If inadequate funding is not reversed:

- Vehicle operating costs increase
- Fatality rate increases
- Failure of transportation system!
Man suggests county pay for car damaged by bad road

By RECARDO THOMAS
Staff Reporter

Skidmore Road resident Jimmy Harris is not happy about the condition of the county thoroughfare he takes to get home.

Harris said its deplorable condition has caused him a great deal of money in vehicle repairs and he is fed up.

"I'm finin' to spend $10,000 out of my pocket, but I'm finin' to turn it in to somebody with the county," Harris said. "I am a taxpayer, and somebody needs to be held accountable, especially when I've got a truck I just put in the shop eight months ago."

He said since then he's had to spend another $1,000 on vehicle repairs, and it would have been more if the auto parts dealer hadn't stood behind the warranty on the parts he bought previously.

District 4 Supervisor Anthony Clark said he has spoken to several citizens in that area and specifically on South Wade Road about a possible solution.

"We've got an answer to your problem. Zip it up," Clark said. "But they don't want it zipped!"

"Zipping" a road involves grading up a paved road and converting it to a gravel road, which is easier and cheaper to maintain using a road grader.

Clark said they're opposed to that because they are taxpayers and want good roads.

"But I'm going to tell you right now, a zipped road would be better than what we have right now; dirt would be better than what we've got right now," Harris said. "The fields are better than the roads."

Clark injected, "We just don't have the money to put that road in the shape they want it in."

He continued to explain that they had been attempting to repair the roads and patches. Harris rebuked that he believes they are just waiting taxpayer money trying to repair and fix the potholes in the road because it doesn't last.

Harris has been aware of the condition of the road since around February, but the resident said zipping the road would cause too much dust.

Harris then posed an alternate solution. "The county maintains my vehicle, leave the road like it is and when my vehicle needs a front end up under it, you agree that you all can have it fixed at the shop that may be a little cheaper for you."

Board Attorney Johnny McWilliams spoke up saying the board had authority to zip a road whether the resident approved or not.

"But," he said, "We don't have the authority to fix your vehicle."

"Dirt would be better than what we've got right now. The fields are better than the roads, " Jimmy Harris

Harris reiterated that somebody needs to be held accountable, after which, a discussion ensued with Supervisor Wiley Fox explaining his disbelief that nothing could be done to get the money to fix the road properly. He mentioned information he heard in a meeting with U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson and inquired of County Engineer Ron Cassada about grant funds. After clarifying the stipulations for State Aid road money and county road money, Cassada suggested contacting state legislators to get them to pass legislation and the state Association of Supervisors to get support for additional funds.

Clark assured Harris that he would meet with the road managers and the other supervisors and devise a plan and get back with him.

The board also:
\[Voted unanimously to help for propane and equipment rental costs for the upcoming year.\]
\[Voted to accept bids for work on the new building.\]
\[Voted to look into the possibility of buying a new dodge.\]
When’s our road fix coming?

More residents petition about treacherous potholes

By RECARDO THOMAS
Staff Reporter

The Sunflower County Board of Supervisors is hiring two independent contractors to train road equipment operators in response to continued citizen complaints about poor driving conditions.

William Fonville, Janice Davis and Carl Watson came to Monday’s meeting representing residents of the Drew Ruleville Road and Wayne Parks for the Schillings and Lenhardy Road, about the lack of attention being given their roads. “There are potholes in the road that are about a foot deep; there are spots in the road that if you don’t know how to get over you’ll bottom your car out,” Fonville said. “I have done it before.”

He said the holes are getting deeper and that he’s seen roads that no one lives on that are in better shape than their road. See COUNTY, Back Page

From left, Wayne Parks, William Fonville and Carl Watson present a unified front as they ask the Sunflower County Board of Supervisors Monday to fix the deplorable conditions of the roads in their communities on the north end of the county. “There are so many holes you can’t dodge them,” Fonville told the board.

All prices plus tax. See store for details.

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SR# D01547 W.A.C.
SR# J13155 W.A.C.
SR# J13015 W.A.C.
Fatalities

Oktibbeha County (Aug. 2013)

Fatal accidents are $4 \frac{1}{2}$ times higher on MS’s rural roads than all other roads (per mile traveled)
Failure
Finally...

T. Bert Lance, Director of the Office of Management and Budget:

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!”

Source: http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/if-it-aint-broke-dont-fix-it.html
FAQs

How can the Office of State Aid Road Construction be more efficient?

Currently, State Aid’s administrative costs comprise only 2% of its annual budget.

How much does it cost to reseal a county road or replace a county bridge?

The average cost to reseal one mile of two-lane county road is $50,000.

The average cost to replace a typical county bridge is $500,000.
Why not just repair or retrofit bridges instead of replacing them? Bridges are repaired or retrofitted quite often to stretch funding as much as possible.

Why not just adopt a lesser standard for construction in order to save money?

The Office of State Aid’s current requirements are the minimum standards published by AASHTO.
What if the Office of State Aid was dissolved and MDOT handled the road system?

Being a small agency, State Aid operates efficiently on a minimal budget while maintaining a hands-on working relationship.

Other states are looking at Mississippi’s State Aid program as a model for their own systems.
What does the county transportation system look like?
What does a Posted Bridge mean?

As of 11/15/16:

- **2,036** Posted bridges (yellow)
- **146** Closed bridges (red)

Source: [http://www.msstateaidroads.us/br_maps/post_map.htm](http://www.msstateaidroads.us/br_maps/post_map.htm)
Dangerous to cross posted bridges!

Log Truck – 80,000 + lbs.

School Bus 28,000 – 33,000 lbs.

Garbage Truck 40,000 – 64,000 lbs.

18 Wheeler – 80,000 lbs.
Yet...

“PEER identified instances in all eleven of the selected school districts in which school bus routes were utilizing bridges posted for single axle vehicles of 20,000 pounds or posted for vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 33,000 pounds.”

Source: PEER’s Report to the Mississippi Legislature #599 “Effects of Deficient Bridges on Selected Mississippi Public School District’s Bus Routes” dated 11-17-2015
Local Examples

KEMP RD – SUNFLOWER COUNTY
Local Examples

EAST MINOT RD – SUNFLOWER COUNTY
Local Examples

GWINN LIPNICK RD – SUNFLOWER COUNTY
Local Examples

OLD PEAVINE RD – BOLIVAR COUNTY

SMITH ROAD – BOLIVAR COUNTY
Local Examples

PETE WOOD RD – WASHINGTON COUNTY
Local Examples

FONTENOT ROAD – WASHINGTON COUNTY
Local Examples

HIGHLAND RD – WASHINGTON COUNTY

PETE’S DUMP RD – WASHINGTON COUNTY
Local Examples
Video
For more information:

- TRIP Report, March 2016
- MEC’s Blueprint Mississippi, December 2015
- MDOR’s “Sales Tax Collections for Mississippi Roads” dated June 13, 2013
- SR7 Highway Study Committee Report, January 22, 2014
- “A History of the State Aid Program,” Mississippi Supervisor, December 1984
- Legislative Audit Committee Report on State Aid Road Division, July 28, 1978
- Mississippi’s Office of State Aid Road Construction website