



**MINUTES**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**January 7, 2017**  
**11:30 AM**  
**Jackson Marriott**

**Participants**

CHAIR, Joe F. Sanderson, Jr. – Sanderson Farms, Inc.

James Compton – South Mississippi Electric Power Association

Tommy Dulaney – Structural Steel Services, Inc.

Walton Gresham, III – Gresham Petroleum Company

Ed Holland – Mississippi Power

Matt Holleman, III – Galaxie Corp

Bill Lampton – Ergon, Inc.

Mark Leggett – Mississippi Poultry Association

Mike McCormick – Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

Jay Moon – Mississippi Manufacturers Association

Chip Morgan – Delta Council

Bill Sones – Bank of Brookhaven

Derrick Surette – Mississippi Association of Supervisors

Lex Taylor – Taylor Machine Works, Inc.

Shari Veazey – Mississippi Municipal League

Charlie Williams – Butler Snow LLP

Blake Wilson – Mississippi Economic Council

William Yates - Yates Construction

**GUESTS**

Dallas Breen – MSU Stennis Institute

Eddie French – MSU Stennis Institute

Samantha Newman – Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

Judy Phillips – MSU Stennis Institute

Tulio Sulbaran, Ph.D. – USM

**STAFF**

Scott Waller – Mississippi Economic Council

Christi Kilroy – Mississippi Economic Council

- I. Welcome - Chair Joe Sanderson, Jr. called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.
- II. Funding Overview
  - a. MDOT – Scott Waller provided an overview of MDOT including their current inventory, Infrastructure Improvements, FY2016 projected revenues, budget, pavement needs and projected pavement needs and the impact of deficient bridges in the state.
  - b. Christi Kilroy reviewed details of funding in the State Aid Road System and The Local System Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program.
    - i. Because the State Aid Road System must fund each county based on formula and not by project, they cannot provide a shortfall number.
    - ii. The Local System Bridge program currently has a \$36 million surplus. Procuring right of way and tougher federal requirements for bridges have slowed down project. December '14, however, the pace has picked up with 18 bid lettings.
  - c. County and City Funding Issues – Securing accurate funding needs estimates from cities and counties have been problematic as there is not a single standard for capturing this information.
    - i. Supervisors Association has done surveys in the past, but they are not always completed by all counties. Mark Leggett will be meeting with the County Engineers to see what information they can provide.
    - ii. Some states that have appointed (rather than elected commissioners) which gives the Governor the ability to direct funding on a broad scale.
    - iii. Derrick Surette with the Mississippi Association of Supervisors will be able to provide county by county information on dollars spent on roads and bridges.
    - iv. Other income sources for cities and counties include property taxes and severance tax where available.
    - v. Shari Veazy with the Mississippi Municipal League reported that cities also receive a small amount of fuel tax.
- III. MSU presented information on 2013 – 14 comparable state transportation funding legislation that was enacted or is pending in other southern states. They also presented the 2014 state transportation funding initiatives. They pointed out that what may work in one part of the country, may not in others. Their work going forward will be to research funding methods and their applicability to Mississippi's funding needs.
- IV. Discussion
  - a. The group discussed the suggestion that perhaps a raise in the fuel tax would be appropriate in this legislative session as gas prices were very low. Because the research is not yet complete and because it is an election year, it was decided that next year would be a better one to propose a long-term funding solution for the state.
  - b. Chairman Sanderson also pointed out that the research should include investigation into MDOT's numbers so that we are clear how they arrived at their figures.

- V. Stakeholders meeting
- a. The first transportation infrastructure stakeholders meeting will be held at 1:30 PM. This is important to let others know the process that the task force is using to come up with a long-term funding solution for transportation infrastructure.
  - b. Those in the meeting will provide feedback through electronic surveying. Additionally, there will be a survey sent to them on February 10, 2015 to get their input on their priority and transportation needs.

VI. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Christi Kilroy  
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