



10/07/13
THIS LETTER WILL NOT BE RECORDED

State of Mississippi
MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER DICK HALL
CENTRAL DISTRICT

October 7, 2013

The Honorable Tate Reeves
Lieutenant Governor, State of Mississippi
Post Office Box 1018
Jackson, Mississippi 39215

Dear Lt. Governor Reeves:

It has recently come to my attention that the City of Flowood has lobbied to administer the \$4.9 million dollars you earmarked for the Highway 25 Improvements in this year's bond bill. After our last conversation it was my understanding that you and I agreed that the funds and project would be administered by the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

As you know the Mississippi Department of Transportation has already spent time, manpower, and money to get this project moving. As you requested I instructed our Director and her staff to engage in the design and planning of the project, which is now well underway. Furthermore, our right of way agents have already been contacting land owners prior to the writing of this letter.

The City of Flowood and their consultants cannot administer this project as efficiently or cost-effectively as MDOT. Their involvement adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy only to serve as a 'middleman' in a project the staff at MDOT is fully capable of completing. Even if the City were involved MDOT would still have to provide oversight on the project as it is still a State Highway, and MDOT is charged with providing the safest route possible for the traveling public in a cost efficient manner – responsibilities that a consultant may not highly prioritize. I think you would agree that having the City of Flowood involved in this manner is not the best and most efficient use of taxpayer funds.

The fact that this route is located in the district I represent as Commissioner brings another facet in to play with this issue – Accountability. You, our affected constituents, and the City of Flowood can hold me directly accountable in making sure this project is done efficiently, expediently and with the best use of the taxpayers' dollar. I want this project completed just as much as everyone else. This portion of Highway 25 is a vital corridor that needs our immediate attention. I think we would all agree on that. Having a 'middleman' in this process will only slow the project down and cost more money for the taxpayers.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter. And I hope you'll continue to agree that we at the Mississippi Department of Transportation are best suited to administer all aspects of this project.

If I or my staff may ever be of assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Hall". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Dick Hall
Commissioner, Central District
Mississippi Transportation Commission

CC: The Honorable Gary Rhoads, Mayor of Flowood
Ms. Melinda McGrath, P.E., Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation