

**City of Ridgeland
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PRESS RELEASE

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Multi-Use Trail Extension Going to Bid in Ridgeland

Ridgeland, MS, Friday, January 16, 2007 – Ridgeland has received authority from the Mississippi Department of Transportation to bid the Multi-Use Trail construction project from Highway 51 to Highland Colony Parkway. This 2.15 mile segment will extend the existing Multi-Use Trail that was built in 2001 by the City of Ridgeland.

Approximately 5 miles of Multi-Use Trail currently exist in Ridgeland. A portion of the existing trail was built in cooperation with the National Park Service from the Mississippi Craft Center to an endpoint near Fire Station #3 on Rice Road. Other sections of the trail were built along Pear Orchard Road, north from Towne Center Boulevard; Lake Harbour Road from Pear Orchard to Friendship Park; Old Canton Road from Lake Harbour to the Natchez Trace; and from the Mississippi Craft Center west along Rice Road and north along Highway 51 to Jackson Street.

With the addition of the new segment, the Multi-Use Trail in Ridgeland will be over 7 miles long. Mayor Gene McGee said, “The City of Ridgeland is proud to offer more bicycling and walking/jogging opportunities. Recreation and parks are important to the quality of life here in Ridgeland. Currently, we have an extensive network of trails along with access to the Natchez Trace Parkway, a designated bike route. We will continue to move forward with the expansion of our trail system in Ridgeland through support of private projects and additional public projects.”

The Multi-Use Trail will travel through Natchez Trace Park property in a primarily wooded area. One interesting feature of the Trail will be a bridge over Madison Avenue and the railroad. When the Trail approaches the vicinity of Sunnybrook Road it will split with one section heading north and the primary trail continuing west. The trail will go over Interstate 55 in a bike lane on the Natchez Trace Parkway. The Trail will end at Highland Colony Parkway, a popular bike route.

The Trail will also include construction of a segment along Sunnybrook Road. It will connect with the Multi-Use Trail on Natchez Trace Park property, cross Jackson Street and end at Steed Road. It will be constructed on the east side of Sunnybrook Road in front of Olde Towne Middle School, Sunnybrook Children’s Village and Holmes Community College. The location of this trail segment will allow for alternative modes of transportation to Ridgeland’s middle school and Holmes.

Advertising for bids will occur on January 18 and 25. Construction may start as early as March, 2007 and be completed by March, 2008. The project will take approximately 12 months.

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