

December 12, 2000

Mayor Eddie Lee Smith
City of Holly Springs
160 South Memphis Street
Holly Springs, MS 38635

Dear Mayor Smith:

For the past several months, Dr. Mabel Murphree, Director of the Appalachian Regional Office in Tupelo, has kept me informed of the facts and findings related to the Holly Springs Access Road project that was funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission in 1993. After reviewing the information on the ARC, I believe this is a viable project and the road can be built in accordance to the approved project plan.

- The Board of Aldermen for the City of Holly Springs signed a resolution stating the City will put additional funds of \$250,000 into the project.
- The Marshall County Board of Supervisors signed an agreement the county will add \$250,000 to the project.
- The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) with the assistance of the Federal Highway Commission has earmarked \$1.5 million of FY2001 Surface Transportation Funds to be used to complete Phase II.
- The grade separation road design has been accepted by MDOT.

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I approve construction to begin accordingly on this project. Dr. Murphree will contact ARC-Washington and inform them the Holly Springs Access Road is indeed a viable project. It is imperative that construction begins as soon as possible on Phase I, and Phase II, which can begin as soon as funds are made available during FY2001.

To ensure the Holly Springs Access Road is completed in a timely manner, it would be helpful if Holly Springs submit quarterly reports to the ARC-Tupelo outlining the progress/activities taking place to bring this project to conclusion. These reports will be shared with ARC-Washington, State Aid, MDOT and the Federal Highway Commission so all partners may be kept updated on the progress being made. It will also give partners the opportunity to communicate regarding this project. This should keep construction of the access road on schedule.

The Appalachian Regional Commission encourages and promotes the spirit for all entities to work together by providing our communities, region and state with resources to make this possible. Congratulations to each of you for coming together and working in a cooperative spirit to bring the Holly Springs Access Road Project to reality.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Murphree at the Appalachian Regional Office in Tupelo. I wish you and the citizens of Holly Springs and Marshall County the best as you work together to complete this project.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

Cc: Dr. David Cole, ARC Alternate
Dr. Mabel M. Murphree, ARC Director
Mr. Floyd Kirk, State Aid
Mr. Jimmy Dickerson, MDOT
Mr. Robert Sims, President, Marshall County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Larry Hall, Administrator for Marshall County
Mr. Mike Cribb, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Ed Terry, ARC-Washington
Senator Trent Lott
Congressman Roger Wicker
Mr. Larry Britt, Elliott and Britt Engineering
Mr. Don Elder, Northeast Mississippi Planning & Development District

Governor Musgrove Announces ARC Funds To Be Used To Complete Holly Springs Access Road

Jackson, Miss. – In 1993, the Appalachian Regional Commission allocated \$4,092,968 from a special access road program to fund the construction of the North Holly Springs Industrial Park access road to Marshall County. During a seven-year period this road project has not been brought to construction, and the ARC-Mississippi was in jeopardy of losing the funds. Through the Appalachian Regional Office in Tupelo, Governor Ronnie Musgrove was instrumental in providing leadership to secure commitments from the cooperating agencies so the access road can be brought to completion.

This project will provide direct access from the industrial park to US Highway 78, providing better access to markets in Memphis and making the industrial park more competitive. This access road will provide easy access from Highway 4 to Highway 78, providing easier access for ambulance services to the major medical centers in the region. The access road is near the railroad and contains large tracts of land that can be developed for light and heavy industrial use.

“We are working together, seeing beyond the politics of self-imposed borders to make Mississippi an even better place to live and work,” said Governor Musgrove. “The access road can enhance the economic and industrial growth of Holly Springs and Marshall County.”

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