## OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR

**FROM:** RILEY

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON HIGHWAY 72 ENGINEERING (WILLARD SPARKS LETTER - ATTACHED)

**DATE:** 4/25/2001

CC: FILE

I contacted MDOT to inquire as to plans for the segment of Highway 72 from Mt. Pleasant to the Tennessee state line. I did not identify Mr. Sparks, rather I stated that I was responding to a constituency inquiry.

I spoke to Ray Balentine in MDOT's Planning Division. MDOT does have a project to add two additional lanes in this segment, so that when completed the section is four-laned. According to Balentine, MDOT is already in the preliminary engineering stage, which includes preliminary designs and environmental studies. MDOT is scheduled to begin right-of-way acquisition in January of 2002, with the construction contract scheduled to be let in October of 2005.