



THE CITY OF STARKVILLE

Mayor's Office

CITY HALL, 110 W. MAIN STREET
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39759

D. LYNN SPRUILL
Mayor

Phone: 662-323-2525 Ext.3100
Fax: 662-323-4143

April 19, 2022

Congressman Michael Guest
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Guest,

I am writing to request your support in receiving funding from the fiscal year 2023 appropriations for the City of Starkville. We are committed to transform our downtown Main Street into a premiere example of what an SEC university town should be. The distinct advantages that we have as the home of the best university in the State of Mississippi and arguably in many categories the best in the country must be leveraged into excellence. We only do that when we are the best that we can be and this project will be a culmination in how we are perceived and how we move forward.

The project for which the city is seeking funding does just that. Our Board of Aldermen have already committed to the project and we have received not just conceptual support but economic support from the State of Mississippi and the local economic development authority, Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority (OCEDA).

We have begun the process through the use of a nationally known company, Kimley-Horn, to guide us in how best to make the path to the University and back a well-traveled one, that brings our local businesses a thriving population of students, faculty and staff as well as drawing other businesses to an area that is currently and arguably not at its highest and best use.

I believe that this project will be one that will absolutely alter the face of our downtown and its ability to compete with our fellow universities around the south as we work to attract and retain the best and brightest to our city. This is a project that sets the tone for our future.

Respectfully,

D. Lynn Spruill
Mayor, City of Starkville



New Capitol
Post Office Box 1018
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901 Lynn Lane
Starkville, MS 39759
bwilliams@senate.ms.gov

Mississippi State Senate

SENATOR BART WILLIAMS

District 15

Choctaw, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, and Webster Counties

11 April 2022

Congressman Michael Guest
3rd Congressional District Mississippi
600 Russell Street Suite 600
Starkville, MS 39759

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing to request support for the Starkville downtown Main Street redesign project. The Main Street project will not only benefit local businesses and residents but will also increase the experience of the many visitors that come to Starkville participate in the many attractants the community offers.

The design is an intricate part of Starkville's forward thinking as they want to increase the visibility of the community following the National Championship season of the MSU Baseball team this past year.

Thank you for your consideration of project funding for the Starkville downtown Main Street redesign project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bart Williams
State Senator
District 15



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY®

April 7, 2022

Congressman Michael Guest
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman,

I write in support of the Community Project funding request submitted by the City of Starkville for its Main Street redevelopment and redesign initiative. I know how hard Mayor Lynn Spruill and our city's leadership have worked in developing this plan, and I believe it would enhance the downtown experience for residents, businesses, our Mississippi State University family, and our many campus and community visitors every year.

This project would boost the downtown corridor from city hall to Montgomery Street, adding new lighting, decorative paving and other pedestrian-friendly features. More outdoor seating areas would encourage additional restaurant development and would serve to brand the area as a vibrant new gathering place for visitors of all ages. This project would also serve as a catalyst for new business investment and employment opportunities. I believe it will boost the overall student experience at MSU and strengthen our university's ability to attract the best faculty and staff to the community. It would also offer an even more inviting and vibrant atmosphere for MSU alumni and friends.

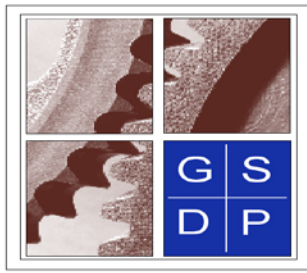
We appreciate the close working relationship MSU has with the City of Starkville and are eager to support each other on initiatives that will be mutually beneficial. We believe this project fits that objective. We hope you can give it every consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Keenum
President

Office of the President

4000 Lee Hall • P. O. Box 6018 • Mississippi State, MS 39762-6018 • Phone: 662-325-3221 • president@msstate.edu



OKTIBBEHA
COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

April 8, 2022

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States Representative
3rd Congressional District
State of Mississippi
600 Russell Street, Suite 160
Starkville, MS 39759

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing in support of the City of Starkville in its efforts to obtain assistance in funding a Main Street redesign and redevelopment project.

It is of great importance to Oktibbeha County and the City of Starkville as its county seat that the central business district and the county administration buildings reflect the best of our community and its potential. As proof of the value that the Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority (OCEDA), we have committed to a \$1,000,000 support of this project.

The proposal that the City of Starkville has for the Main Street corridor will greatly impact our ability to attract and recruit businesses, their management teams and their employees to our community. A vibrant downtown is a key to the success of any town and especially to a small more rural community.

Having a distinct and desirable core to your city is fundamental to those who are making the decisions on where to locate their businesses on behalf of their employees and their families. It is a recruitment tool that is ranked highly to those who value quality of life and a strong business community in deciding where to relocate.

As the president of the Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority, I am requesting your positive consideration and support of this project as a valuable tool for the future of one of Mississippi's most relevant small cities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Spruill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

D. L. Spruill
President, OCEDA Board

200 EAST MAIN STREET, STARKVILLE, MS 39759 PH: 662.323.3322 FAX: 662.323.5815

www.starkville.ms.gov

April 10, 2022

Congressman Michael Guest
3rd Congressional District
State of Mississippi
600 Russell Street
Suite 160
Starkville, MS 39759

Dear Congressman Michael Guest,

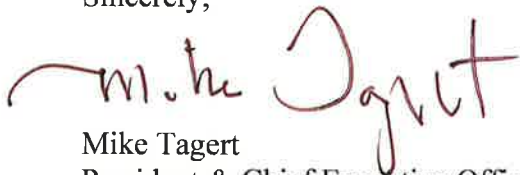
I am writing this letter on behalf of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership to request support for Congressional community project funding for the Starkville downtown Main Street redesign project.

The Main Street redesign project will benefit businesses, residents, and visitors by creating a more vibrant and attractive downtown. The plan allows for increased lighting, enhanced landscaping and walkability, as well as outdoor dining areas for restaurants. This project and the proposed enhancements will add to the sustainability and economic development opportunities for downtown Starkville. The economic impact of a project such as this will increase the quality of life and build on further successes of Mississippi's College Town. Additionally, the revitalized Main Street will improve the visitor experience and enhance Starkville's destination marketing efforts.

This redesign plan is critical to furthering our image as home to the College World Series National Champions and as one of the Southeastern Conference's premier destinations. The redesign plan further encourages local businesses and entrepreneurs to create a sense of space and belonging, incorporating the many standards which can combat Mississippi's brain drain.

The overall impact of this project is invaluable for generations to come of all who live, work, and choose to visit Starkville: Mississippi's College Town. Thank you for your consideration of Congressional community project funding for the Starkville downtown Main Street redesign plan.

Sincerely,



Mike Tagert
President & Chief Executive Officer

April 8, 2022
Congressional Michael Guest
3rd Congressional District
State of Mississippi
600 Russell Street
Suite 160
Starkville, MS 39759

Dear Congressman Michael Guest,

I write this letter to show my support of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership and to request support for Congressional community project funding for Starkville downtown Main Street redesign project. The Mississippi Legislature has seen the impact of this project and has appropriated \$1,250,000 for this development to move forward. The project will motivate economic development as well as benefit current entrepreneurship in Starkville.

The Main Street redesign project will benefit businesses, residents, and visitors by creating a more vibrant and attractive downtown. The plan allows for increased lighting, enhanced landscaping, and walkability, as well as outdoor dining areas for restaurants. This project and the proposed enhancements will add to the sustainability and economic development opportunities for downtown Starkville. The economic impact of a project such as this will increase the quality of life and build on further successes of Mississippi's College Town. Additionally, the revitalized Main Street will improve the visitor experience and enhance Starkville's destination marketing efforts.

This redesign plan is critical to our image as home to the College World Series National Champions and as one of the Southeastern Conference's premier destinations. The redesign plan further encourages local businesses and entrepreneurs to create a sense of space and belonging, incorporating the many standards which can combat Mississippi's brain drain.

The overall impact of this project is invaluable for generations to come of all who live, work, and choose to visit Starkville: Mississippi's College Town. Thank you for your consideration of Congressional community project funding for Starkville's downtown Main Street redesign plan.

Sincerely,

Rob Roberson



April 12, 2022

Congressman Michael Guest
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20531

RE: FY 2023 Community Project Funding Request – Starkville, MS

Dear Congressman Guest:

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we write to you to offer full support for the City of Starkville's application for funding for the Main Street Infrastructure Improvement project through the FY 2023 Community Project Funding Request opportunity.

Rural downtowns are experiencing a renewed sense of importance post-pandemic. As work and commuting patterns shift and members of the workforce have more choices with work from home options, young professionals, families, and retirees are choosing to live, work, and play in communities with a vibrant downtown and ideal quality of life.

Starkville has invested time, effort, and financial resources into their downtown for years, and as a result, private investment peaked, residential development became a reality, and events and programming happen regularly to connect residents and visitors with downtown serving as their meeting place.

Now, the City of Starkville has embarked on a new level on investment by aiming to enhance the built environment to improve connectivity, walkability, outdoor dining, and overall economic vitality. We commend these efforts and applaud the City for embarking on a progressive and community-minded project.

Thank you for considering the City of Starkville application for funding, and we offer our strongest support for this project and the successful funding thereof. Please feel free to contact me with questions or for additional information at jgregory@retailstrategies.com or 662.617.1711.

Sincerely,

Jenn Gregory
President, Downtown Strategies
Retail Strategies





April 11, 2022

Congressman Michael Guest
3rd Congressional District
State of Mississippi
600 Russell Street
Suite 160
Starkville, MS 39759

Dear Congressman Michael Guest,

I am writing on behalf of Eat Local Starkville to request support for Congressional community project funding for the Starkville downtown Main Street redesign project.

Eat Local Starkville operates Restaurant Tyler and The Guest Room on Starkville's Main Street along with Humble Taco and Bin 612 on Starkville's University Drive leading into the Mississippi State University campus. The outdoor dining areas featured in the redesign will greatly benefit small businesses such as ours and the improvements in lighting, landscaping and walkability will make downtown Starkville a destination for our citizens, students and visitors alike. The Main Street redesign will be an integral part of Starkville's continued growth.

The revitalization of Starkville's Main Street will have a positive impact on the quality of life that Starkville has to offer for generations to come, enticing more people to live and play in Starkvegas. This project will be a lasting legacy for all involved in bringing it to fruition. Thank you for your consideration of Congressional community project funding for Starkville downtown Main Street redesign plan.

Very Truly Yours,

Chef Ty Thames
100 E Main Street
Starkville, MS 39759
662.324.8422
eatlocalstarkville@yahoo.com
eatlocalstarkville.com



April 11, 2022

Congressman Michael Guest
Mississippi 3rd Congressional District
600 Russell Street, Suite 160
Starkville, MS 39759

Re: Starkville Main Street project

Dear Congressman Guest:

I am submitting my request for support for Congressional community project funding for the Starkville Downtown Main Street redesign project. I have been a member of this special community for over 25 years and over the years my small business has grown to support 6 employees and their families.

It does not require us to look very far to see the significant impact that a creative and forward-thinking project can have on our economy. The recent renovation to Dudy Noble on the Mississippi State University campus turned what was already a special place into a nationally recognized showpiece. This in turned was soon parlayed into Mississippi State's first National Championship in baseball. It transformed the local spirit and national exposure of this area. Simply put, that means jobs for our area. I have no doubt that funding for the Main Street project will have a similar, if not greater, impact on our region based on the leadership and potential this community enjoys.

I am proud to support such a worthwhile endeavor and excited to see what the future holds for such an amazing Mississippi city. Feel free to call on me if I can assist. Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,



Austin Vollor

