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March 25, 2024

Congressman Michael Guest
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Congressman Guest:

As the Mayor of the City of Flowood, and on behalf of all of the citizens and Board of Aldermen for the city of Flowood, I would like to express the city's profound gratitude for your continued support of our pursuit of funding for important projects such as this. They are critical to the success of our citizens, and funds such as these are paramount in maintaining the quality of life the residents of the City of Flowood and Rankin County have come to enjoy.

Both the City of Flowood and Rankin County have experienced tremendous growth over the past 10 years, and this continued growth continues at a rapid pace. Rankin County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Mississippi, and much of this growth is occurring along the MS Hwy 25 corridor, in and just north of the City of Flowood corporate limits. Because of this growth, much of our roadway network is experiencing traffic volumes well in excess of their capacity. These traffic volumes are causing serious delays in travel time, decreasing safety, and potentially inhibiting future development for our area.

The City of Flowood is requesting funding for the Fannye Cook Parkway located in the City of Flowood and Rankin County to assist with the planning and environmental stages of the project. The city, County, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) have all met and reviewed this project and believe that this project could have significant positive impacts to the traffic in this region. This project would provide another major thoroughfare connecting Spillway Road, Old Fannin Road, Airport Road, and MS Hwy 25 and be a great benefit to the daily lives of the citizens of the City of Flowood, Rankin County, and the commuters from surrounding Counties such as Madison, Hinds, Scott, and Leake who travel these roads daily.

I am thankful for your willingness to serve as an elected official and your continued work to help improve the counties in which you serve. More specifically, I am grateful for your support for the City of Flowood and Rankin County and would greatly appreciate your support of this important project.

Sincerely,


Gary Rhoads, Mayor



March 22, 2024

The Honorable Michael Guest
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20531

RE: FY 2025 Community Project Funding Request – Flowood, MS

Dear Congressman Guest:

It is with great enthusiasm to write you expressing our full support for the City of Flowood's FY 2025 Community Project Funding Request for the Fannye Cook Parkway. The City of Flowood has heavily invested in this area, and we are excited to support the continued investment needed to meet the transportation needs of Flowood and Rankin County.

Rankin County is one of the fastest growing counties in Mississippi, and this area is no exception. Due to this growth, the City of Flowood has continued to experience increases in traffic and travel times. This is evident on any given day, as one can experience by traveling on Old Fannin or Flowood Drive through Flowood. This connector would reduce congestion in a heavily used commuter corridor and would increase the safety and quality of life for our residents and surrounding neighbors.

Rankin First believes that this project is not only vital to meeting the needs associated with this past, present, and future growth, but also to providing our citizens the quality of life they deserve.

Thank you for considering the City of Flowood's application for funding. We offer our fullest and strongest support to the successful funding of this project. If you have any questions or would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 601-825-5335

Sincerely,

Tom Troxler

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Troxler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Executive Director, Rankin First



March 22, 2024

The Honorable Michael Guest
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20531

RE: FY 2025 Community Project Funding Request – Brandon, MS

Dear Congressman Guest:

On behalf of the Flowood Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, we write to express our full organizational and board support for the City of Flowood's FY 2025 Community Project Funding Request for the Fannye Cook Parkway. We are appreciative of the continued investment required to meet the transportation needs of Flowood and Rankin County.

The City of Flowood is the heart of the fastest growing counties in the state. We represent almost 700 member businesses in our Chamber who directly contribute to that growth. The daytime traffic triples over our growing residential population. Largely this is due to the number of business travelers and the many people who travel to Flowood for services from our thriving Medical Parkway. This connector would greatly reduce congestion on the heavily traveled Old Fannin Road and would increase the safety and quality of life for our residents and surrounding neighbors. This alternate route would provide safer access and walkability to the award-winning Winner's Circle Park and Flowood Nature Trail as well as the public library and elementary school.

Flowood is also thriving and growing in the area of Sports Tourism. This new transportation development would directly connect two areas used regionally for Sports Tourism and provide safer travel for thousands of families each year.

We believe this Parkway will also contribute to the quality of life of Flowood residents and will expose many visitors to the Fanny Cook Preservation. We believe this investment is vital and will continue to identify Flowood as a place where people find safety and refuge and opportunities for good, clean fun.

Thank you for considering the City of Flowood's application for funding. We offer our fullest and strongest support to the successful funding of this project. If you have any questions or would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 601-932-8007.

Sincerely,

Janet Reihle
Executive Director
Chamber of Flowood & Visitor Center

business enterprises serving together

2200 Refuge Boulevard • Flowood, Mississippi 39232 • Phone: 601.932.8007
P. O. Box 320927 • Flowood, Mississippi 39232
www.flowoodchamber.com



Please except the full support of our Board of Directors:

Roman Malone, President
Malone Roofing

Shane' Dubois, Vice-President
Community Bank

Casey Callais, Treasurer
Sheraton Flowood the Refuge Resort & Conference Center

Daniel Lang, Secretary
City of Flowood

Malcolm Houston, Past President
State Farm Agency

Jeff Bedford
Mississippi Sports Medicine

Rigo Cedeno
International Futbol Club of Mississippi, F5 Fitness

John Chesney
Puckett Machinery

Jennifer Drake
Novo Nordisk

Angela Reynolds
Northwest Rankin High School

Amy Walker
Ergon

business enterprises serving together

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P. O. Box 320927 • Flowood, Mississippi 39232
www.flowoodchamber.com



1030 River Oaks Drive
Flowood, MS 39232
Phone: 601-932-1030
www.MyMeritHealth.com

March 25, 2024

The Honorable Michael Guest
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20531

RE: FY 2025 Community Project Funding Request- Brandon, MS

Dear Congressman Guest:

On behalf of Merit Health, we write to express our full organizational and board support for the City of Flowood's FY 2025 Community Funding Request for the Fannye Cook Parkway. We appreciate the continued investment required to meet the transportation needs of Flowood and Rankin County.

As Flowood continues to attract the ever growing healthcare industry, the daytime traffic triples due to patients and employees traveling to the medical facilities in our area. This connector would greatly reduce congestion on the heavily traveled Old Fannin Road and would provide increased safety and better quality of life for the residents, employees, and visitors in the Flowood area. As Flowood continues to grow and increase access to more healthcare services than ever before, this transportation development would provide easier access to all of Flowood residents, as well as provide safer travel for thousands of families each year.

We believe that this investment will expose many visitors to the Fannye Cook Preservation. We also believe that this investment is vital and will continue to show that Flowood is a safe place for residents as well as visitors.

Thank you for considering the City of Flowood's application for funding. We offer our fullest and strongest support to the successful funding of this project. If you have any questions or would like any more information, Please do not hesitate to contact me at 601-936-2389.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Dean", is written over a horizontal line.

Sam Dean
Market CEO Merit Health Jackson

Brad White
Executive Director
Jeff Ely, P.E.
Chief of Staff



Earl Glenn, Jr., P.E.
Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Lisa M. Hancock, CPA
Deputy Executive Director/Administration

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States Congress
450 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: FY 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending
Fannye Cook Parkway, Flowood, Mississippi

Dear Congressman Guest:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) has reviewed the City of Flowood's FY 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending proposal for the Fannye Cook Parkway project. This letter is to confirm:

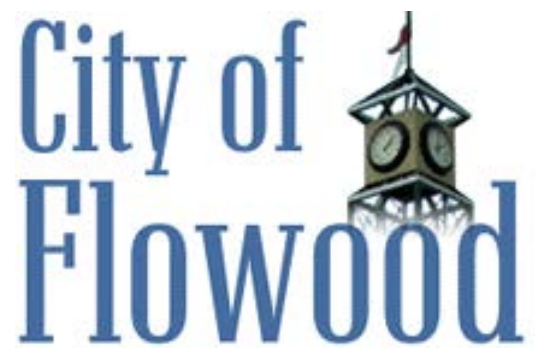
1. The project is eligible for federal-aid highway funding under title 23, United States Code;
2. MDOT is willing to provide oversight of the project, carried out by the LPA, in accordance with federal regulations if funding is enacted; and
3. The project will be included in the STIP if funding is enacted.

Thank you for your consideration of this project and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad White
Executive Director



FANNYE COOK PARKWAY

RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Prepared on Behalf of:
City of Flowood
2101 Airport Road
Flowood, MS 39232

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Flowood, in conjunction with the Rankin County Board of Supervisors and the Mississippi Department of Transportation proposes to construct a new primary roadway in the heart of the City of Flowood and Rankin County. The proposed project's location is shown on the General Location Map (**Exhibit 1**). The proposed primary roadway would provide a new, 4-lane connection between MS Highway 25 and Old Fannin Road. The new primary roadway would be named Fannye Cook Parkway (FCP) after Fannye A. Cook, an early leader in Mississippi conservation and the namesake for The Fannye Cooke Natural Area, which is located adjacent to the proposed parkway. The Fannye Cook Natural Area, once completed, will be the largest urban natural area in the state of Mississippi and will be three times larger than Central Park. Additional connector roads are proposed to spur off of FCP and tie to Lakeland Drive at Treetops Blvd and also tie to Spillway Road at the northern end of the project. A portion of the primary and secondary roads being proposed would run inside or along the boundary of The Fannye Cook Natural Area (**Exhibit 2**).

The City of Flowood is in central Mississippi and is bordered on the west by the Pearl River which serves as the divider between Flowood and the City of Jackson, bordered on the north and east by Rankin County and bordered to the south by the City of Pearl. MS Highway 25 runs from I-55 northward to the Tennessee state line and connects the state capital to: Louisville, MS; Starkville, MS; the main campus of Mississippi State University; Columbus, MS; and a host of other cities along the route (**Exhibit 3**). The section of MS Highway 25 running through Flowood from MS Highway 471 to I-55 is also known as Lakeland Drive and will be referred to as Lakeland Drive in the remainder of this document.

Lakeland Drive is the main thoroughfare through Flowood with an average daily traffic (ADT) count of 45,000 vehicles (2022) and is classified as a Principal Arterial. By definition, a Principal Arterial delivers traffic between collector roads and freeways and between urban centers at the highest level of service possible. For the last 25-30 years, Lakeland Drive has been the main thoroughfare for residents, commuters from Rankin, Madison, Hinds, Scott, Leake and other adjacent Counties, commercial shoppers, and travelers to the north central areas of the State. Due to the dramatic growth of the City of Flowood and surrounding areas over that time and the limited

access points to I-55 and the City of Jackson, Lakeland Drive has become one of the most congested stretches of roadway in the State of Mississippi.

The proposed primary route (FCP) would make improvements to the intersection of Liberty Road/Airport Road and Lakeland Drive and route north, widening the existing Liberty Road prior to turning north and hugging the boundary of the Fannye Cook Nature Area behind existing neighborhoods. It would then tie back to Old Fannin Road (also a Principal Arterial, 30,000 ADT, 2022) near the Vernon Jones/Farmington Blvd intersection. The additional proposed roadways would make additional connections to other highly traveled roadways in the area and are also shown in **Exhibit 2**.

Multi-purpose trails are proposed along each side of the new roadways. The trails will be 8'-10' in width and have an 8'-10' buffer between the edge of travel lane and the edge of the trail. The trails will connect to existing trails and in the process will enhance and expand the overall trail network of the area between multiple governmental entities following the local master plans for multi-purpose trails.

The City of Flowood has asked the Mississippi State Legislators to vote to dedicate \$3,000,000 of State funding to this project in the 2024 session. The City anticipates that these funds will be appropriated. Letters of support from different local agencies are provided in **Appendix A**.

PUBLIC BENEFIT & IMPACT

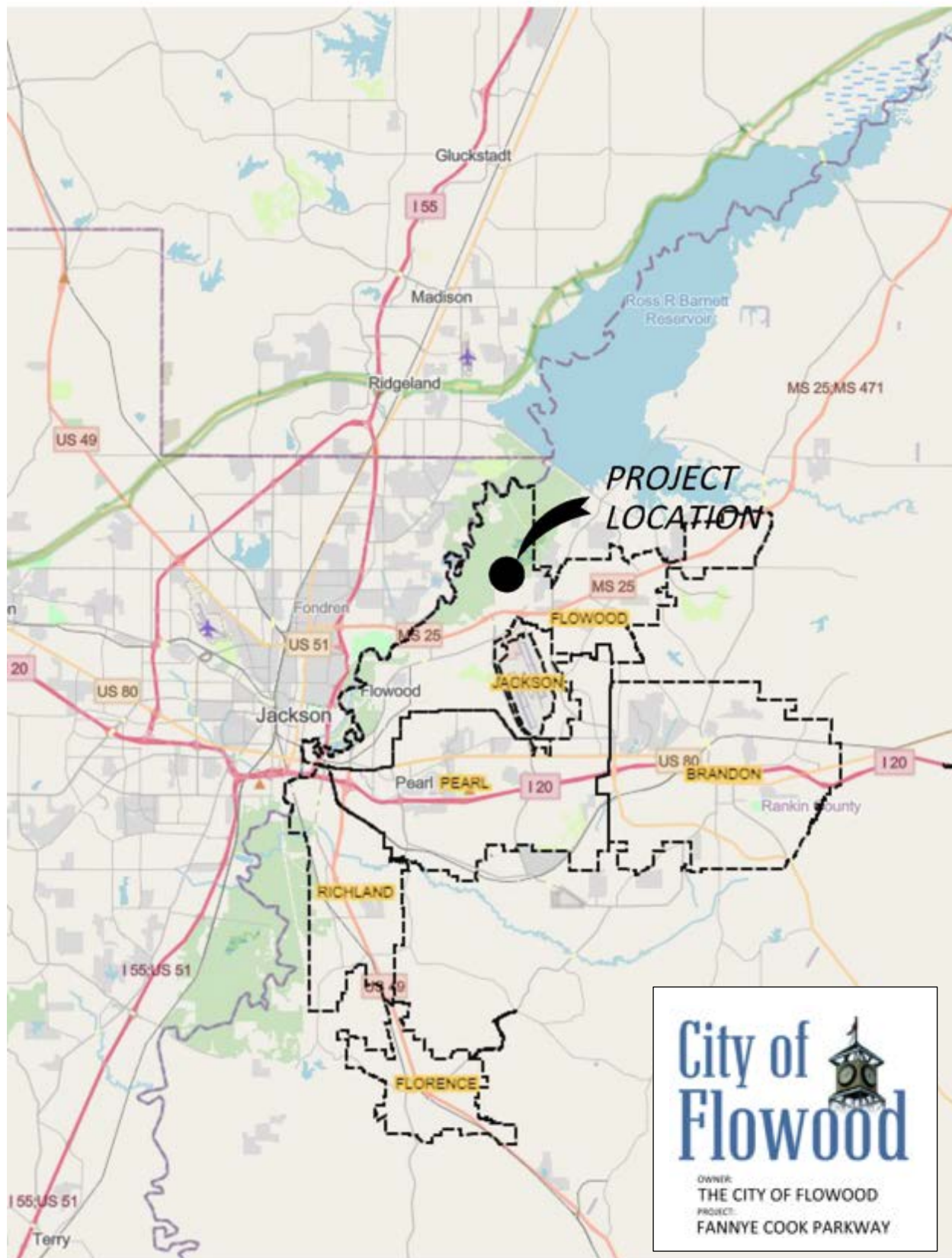
The Fannye Cook Parkway and the new associated roadways that are proposed will provide the public with numerous benefits once completed. As stated previously, the relief to traffic congestion provided by this project will not only impact the citizens of Flowood but also residents of Hinds, Rankin, Madison, Scott, Leake, and other surrounding counties. Users will have shorter travel distances or travel times, reduced vehicular operating costs, spend less time in their vehicles each day, while the project also improves safety on all the surrounding roadways, and generally makes travel through this corridor more convenient.

Old Fannin Road is at or close to its maximum capacity and has numerous uncontrolled access points. At peak traffic times, these uncontrolled access points are very dangerous for travelers. To gain access to Old Fannin Road often requires Old Fannin Road motorists to stop traffic and allow other motorists to “cut in”. As Old Fannin Road is a 5-lane roadway, this can be very dangerous and the cause of vehicular accidents.

An additional benefit is the fact that the roadway can be constructed with minimum impact to traffic during construction. Roadway construction projects can of course take years to complete, and performing roadway construction under traffic conditions increases construction time, increases costs, is much more dangerous for the construction workers, and is a major inconvenience for the public traveling these roadways throughout construction.

As mentioned in the introduction, the project is proposing multi-purpose trails along each side of the newly constructed roadways. The City of Flowood is currently planning a multi-purpose trail that will connect to the trails along East Metro Parkway, run under Lakeland Drive and tie to the existing trail along Liberty Road. The trails installed along FCP will provide a connection that would provide pedestrians with a continuous path from the City of Brandon through the City of Flowood to the City of Ridgeland and the trails around the Ross-Barnett Reservoir. This would be a great benefit to the citizens of Rankin and Madison County. Currently, Old Fannin

Road has bike lanes striped out within the paved roadway section providing pedestrians access along Old Fannin Road to Spillway Road. These bike lanes do not connect directly to the trail along Liberty Road and can be very dangerous for the users due to their proximity to the adjacent traffic. Sadly, there have been fatal accidents involving users of the Old Fannin Road bike paths in the past so minimizing the use of these paths and less traffic on this road would greatly benefit the public.



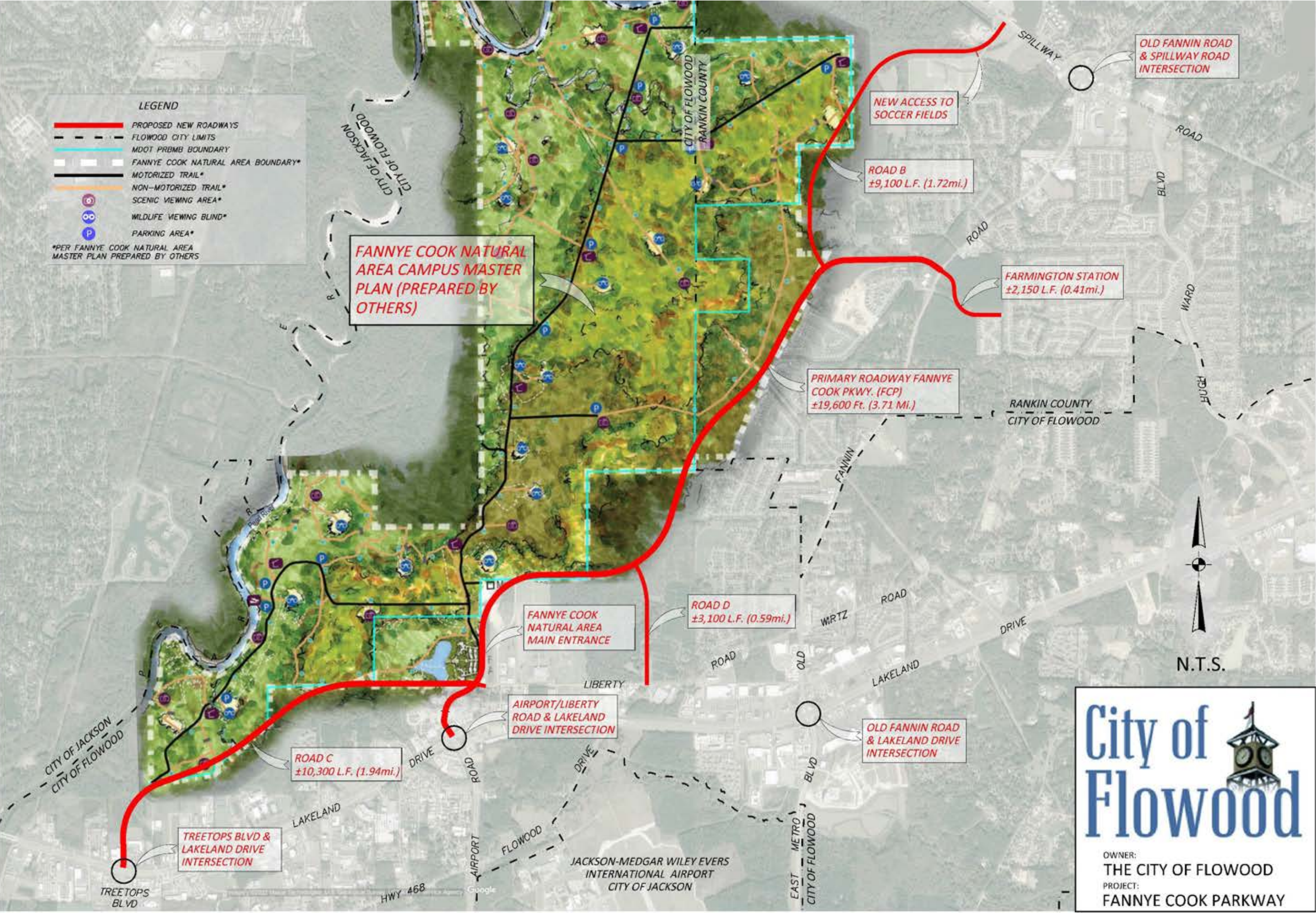
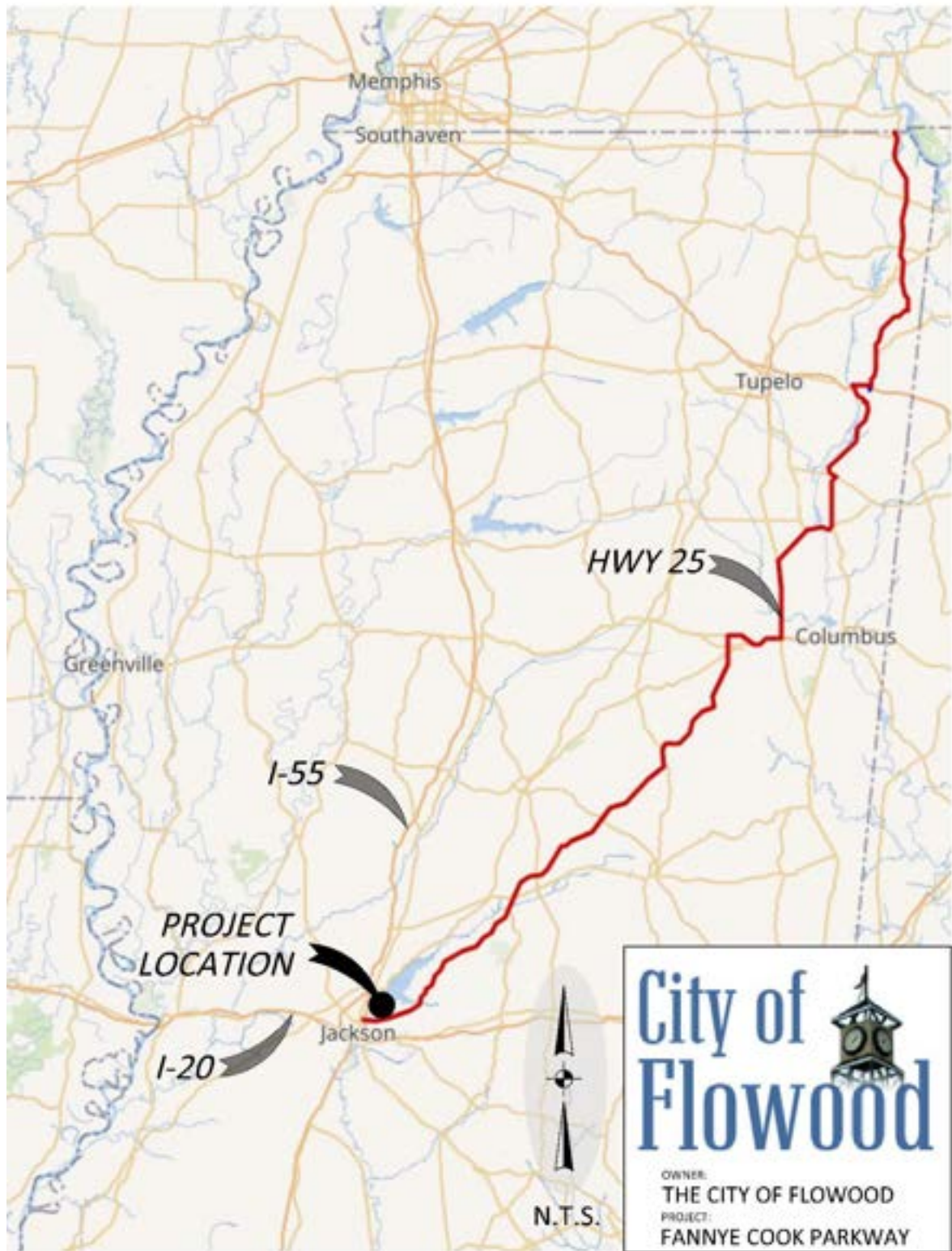


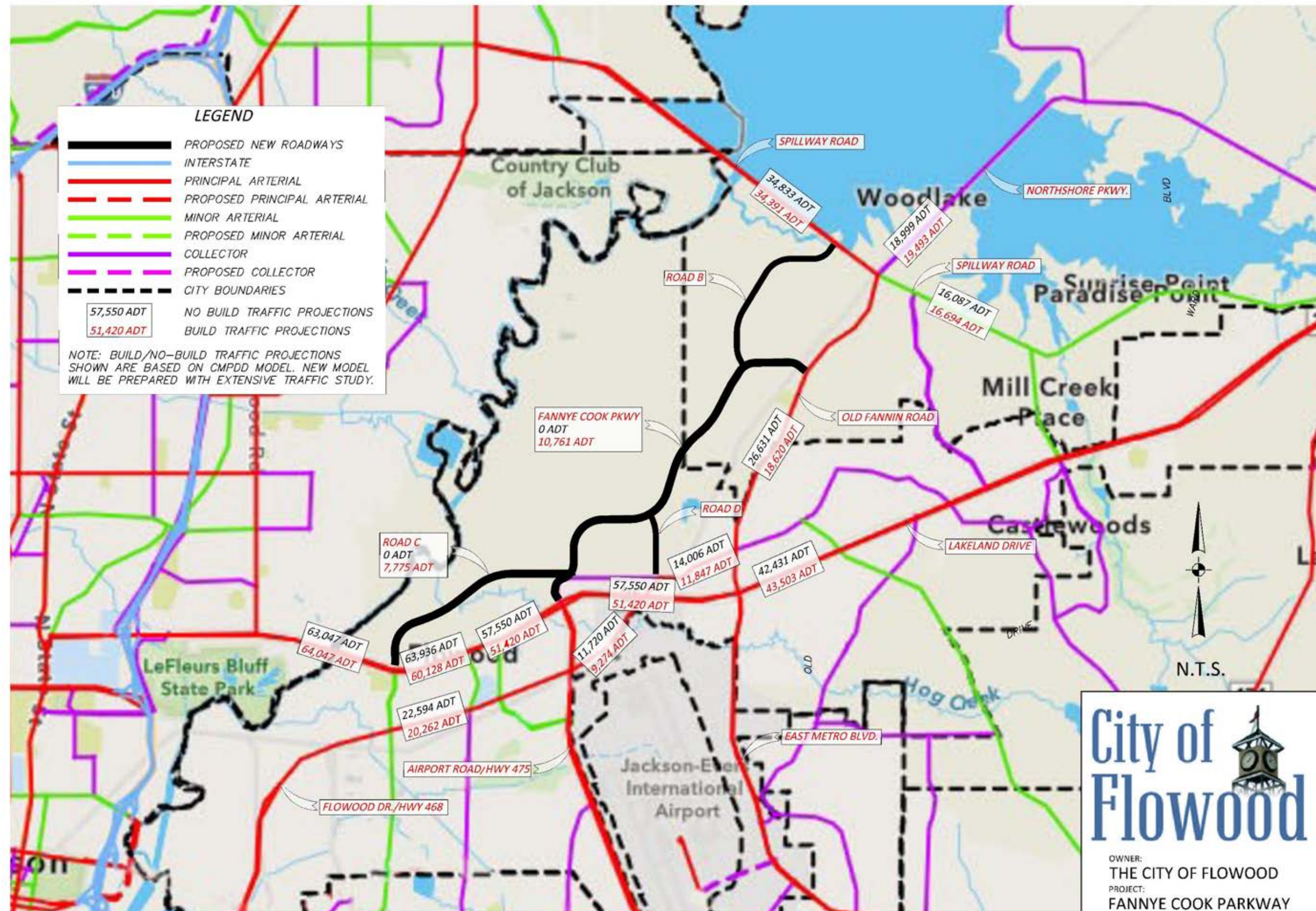
Exhibit 2: Fanny Cook Parkway & Proposed Road Network



TRAFFIC STUDY & PROJECTED IMPACTS

As previously discussed, Lakeland Drive is one of the most congested roadways in the State of Mississippi. Between 1990 and 2010, Rankin County's population increased by 62.5% and the Flowood population increased by 173.5%. The growth rate decreased to a more reasonable rate of 15% and 35% in Rankin County and Flowood respectively from 2010 to present, but the combined growth has heavily strained the area's transportation infrastructure. Commercial development along the Lakeland Drive corridor has continued during the same span, also generating high levels of vehicular traffic. In December 2017, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) completed a project to widen Lakeland Drive from 2 lanes to 3 lanes in each direction from the Hwy 475 intersection approximately 4 miles east to Grants Ferry Road. MDOT intends to continue widening Lakeland Drive from Grants Ferry Road to MS Highway 471 and plans for that project are currently under design. These planned improvements will make a large impact to the congestion in the area but will not solve the current traffic related issues between Old Fannin Road and Airport Road.

The Central Mississippi Planning & Development District (CMPDD) is an organization that provides support to local cities and counties to find regional solutions to problems and help communities achieve their long-term goals. One of the ways in which CMPDD provides support is with long term transportation planning. CMPDD maintains a traffic model of the Jackson Metro area which shows existing and proposed roadways and a version of the FCP and the additional roadway to Treetops Blvd. was already in the traffic model. The impact of the roadways per the traffic model based on year 2025 traffic projections is significant to the surrounding roadways and will have a significant impact on traffic delays on Lakeland Drive between Airport Road and Old Fannin intersections as well as the traffic on Old Fannin, Flowood Drive and Liberty Road. The traffic model predicts an ADT of around 11,000 for FCP and removes approximately 8,000 vehicles per day ($\approx 30\%$) from current Old Fannin Road projections. Additionally, the ADT on Lakeland Drive between said Airport Road and Old Fannin Road intersections is reduced by approximately 6,000 ADT ($\approx 11\%$). Traffic is also reduced on numerous other roadways that are not mentioned. **Exhibit 4** depicts surrounding roadway classifications and a portion of the results of the traffic model.



CONCLUSION

The traffic model shows that Fannye Cook Parkway and the new associated roadways will provide the citizens of Mississippi a much-needed alternate route to travel through one of the most highly traveled areas of the highest populated areas of the state, the Jackson Metro Area. The users of the improvements will enjoy the increased quality of life and the benefits of the new roadways and multi-purpose trails for many years to come. As with any new road project of this magnitude, there will be hurdles to overcome and this project will take time and money to complete. It is our hope that you will see that the benefits of this project outweigh these hurdles, and the project is worthy of your support for federal funding.