

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Michael Guest
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

RE: Support for Community Project Funding for Crossroads Infrastructure Improvements

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing to express my strong support for Mississippi State University's request for federal funding for infrastructure improvements in the Crossroads Development District of Starkville. This project represents a major opportunity to shape the economic future of our community, and these improvements are the essential first step that will allow the larger vision to move forward.

The Crossroads area serves as a vital connector between the university and the City of Starkville. It is an area with tremendous potential, but the current infrastructure cannot support the scale of development that is now possible. The planned roadway connections, utility upgrades, and safety enhancements are foundational pieces that must be in place before significant investment can occur.

What makes this request so important is the scale of what it will leverage. Mississippi State University and private partners are prepared to invest in a mixed-use district that will bring new jobs, new businesses, and new activity to the heart of Starkville. This development will strengthen the relationship between the university and the city, expand our tax base, and create a destination that will serve residents, students, and visitors for many years. None of this can happen without modern and reliable infrastructure.

A strategic federal investment at this stage will produce a long-term return for our region. By helping Starkville improve the site and the surrounding corridor, you will be enabling a project that will influence economic growth for generations to come. This is a forward-looking use of federal resources, and it aligns with the broader goal of strengthening communities through infrastructure investment.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your support of our community. The Greater Starkville Development Partnership is proud to support this request, and we appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Tagert
President and Chief Executive Officer



THE CITY OF STARKVILLE
Mayor's Office
CITY HALL, 110 W. MAIN STREET
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39759

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

D. LYNN SPRUILL
Mayor

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States House of Representatives
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Crossroads Development District

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing in support of the Mississippi State University funding request for the Crossroads Development District. This project is an opportunity to further the strong relationship between the City of Starkville and the University. This project is an example of what our two public bodies can do when the vision is shared for the good of both.

The Crossroads District will further blend the areas in the city that are redeveloping such as the Cotton District, Midtown and Downtown to create a dynamic entrance and exit from the University that will extend that seamless town and gown vision that I have believed in for so long.

The project will allow for vital infrastructure to become manageable in its scope and size and allow for assistance with critical utilities and road structure to become a reality. The fact that this is a public/private venture speaks highly of its importance to the city, university and business community. Bringing jobs and new business and offering the mixed-use needs of the area are vital to our continued success as Mississippi's college town. Growth requires constant investment and renewal and this project does just that.

We have been most grateful for your support and assistance over the years and look forward to working with you and your staff in the future as we continue to make our community a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Sincerely,

D. Lynn Spruill, Mayor
City of Starkville, MS

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States House of Representatives
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Crossroads Development District

As President of the Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority (OCEDA) I am writing in support of the funding request by Mississippi State University for infrastructure improvements associated with the mixed-use district that serves as a transition between the City of Starkville and the University. This project is part of a larger vision that will bring new jobs and economic activity to an area that is ripe for new investment and new growth.

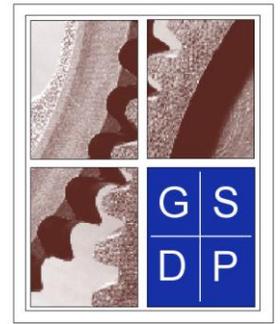
OCEDA appreciates the need for the infrastructure that will allow this area to reach its full potential. That infrastructure investment will yield rich rewards to the City of Starkville, Mississippi State University and Oktibbeha County. To continue our progress, investment must be made by the public and private sector. This project does exactly that.

OCEDA recognizes and appreciates the efforts that you and your staff have taken to assist this region and particularly Oktibbeha County, the City of Starkville and Mississippi State University.

Kind Regards,



D. Lynn Spruill
OCEDA Board President
Mayor, City of Starkville



OKTIBBEHA
COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

A MEMBER OF THE
GREATER
STARKVILLE
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP

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Friday, March 27, 2026

The Honorable Michael Guest
U.S. House of Representatives
2214 5th Street
Meridian, MS 39301

RE: Letter of Support for Crossroads Infrastructure Improvements

Dear Congressman Guest,

On behalf of Starkville Utilities, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Crossroads Infrastructure Improvements project in Starkville, Mississippi.

This project represents a transformative investment in the future of our community, strengthening the connection between Mississippi State University and the Cotton District while creating a vibrant hub for economic growth, innovation, and cultural engagement. As a local utility provider, we recognize firsthand the critical role that reliable, modern infrastructure plays in supporting sustainable development and ensuring the long-term success of projects of this scale.

The proposed infrastructure improvements—including utility relocation, roadway enhancements, and installation of street lighting—are essential to safely and efficiently support increased demand in this corridor. These upgrades will significantly improve system reliability, enhance public safety, and position the area to accommodate future growth. In particular, the relocation and modernization of electrical, water, and sewer infrastructure will create a more resilient utility network capable of supporting both current needs and future expansion.

The Crossroads Development will not only stimulate private investment and job creation but will also strengthen the overall economic vitality of Starkville and the surrounding region. Projects like this are vital to maintaining and improving quality of life, supporting workforce development, and attracting new businesses and visitors to our community.

We fully support the request for federal funding to advance these critical infrastructure improvements. This investment will ensure that the necessary foundational systems are in place to unlock the full economic potential of the Crossroads Development and deliver long-term benefits to our community and the state of Mississippi.



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Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Kemp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "E".

Edward Kemp, General Manager
Starkville Utilities