



MASTERFUL MASTER PLAN MAJOR HIT WITH JACKSON RESIDENTS

“This is wonderful! This is absolutely wonderful,” Dorothy Benford said with excitement while intensely staring at ward maps of the City of Jackson. The maps lined the main floor of Thalia Mara Hall during a public information meeting about infrastructure projects funded through the City’s Special 1% sales tax.

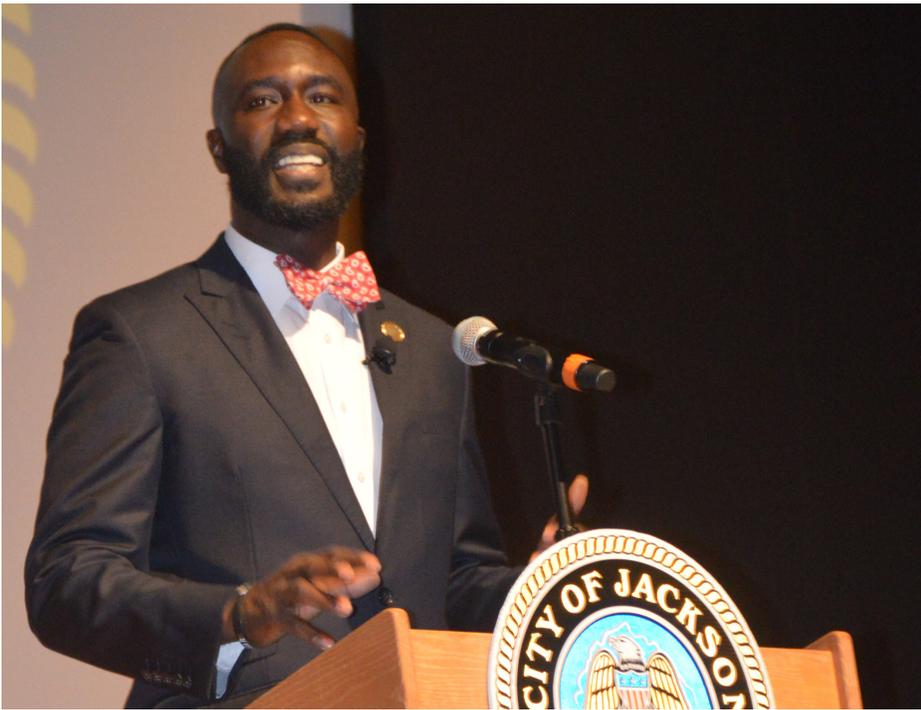
“The City did an excellent job showing us where the improvements are being made. And also these maps are very good in showing us the location of current and future improvements that will be made.” Benford was among those who attended the September 1 meeting and said she is already seeing her tax dollars go to good use. “The drive down Watkins Drive is just heavenly,” she explained. More than a mile of the road was recently resurfaced under an interlocal agreement with Hinds County, in which the City used money from its 1% sales tax program to fund its share of the work.

“I’m glad to see the Robinson Road Bridge and Gallatin Street on the list of upcoming projects,” said Felicia McClinton. “But I would like for them to look at more major roads and streets in West Jackson.”

McClinton will eventually get her wish. The City has a

comprehensive plan in place to improve infrastructure city wide. But for now, Interim Public Works Director Jerriot Smash said the most critical projects are first in what will be a long line. “The TIGER Grant Paving Projects, for example, which are West County Line Road and State Street, along with the Hanging Moss Bridge project, and the Eastover Waterline Project immediately come to mind. In addition to the numerous areas where we are currently seeing pavement management projects unfold.”

The City has already obligated more than \$30 million in 1% sales tax dollars to fund dozens of projects so far this year. But Mayor Tony Yarber said the program is more than about improving roads, bridges, waterlines and wastewater. “It’s also about economics. It’s about how do we get our people back to work.” Yarber said the City has partnered with groups such as Working Together Jackson and Hinds Community College to train local residents for jobs specifically created as a result of the 1% sales tax program. “We have seen our partnerships with over 117 agencies put over 1,100 Jacksonians to work over the last two years. And we have seen the unemployment rate in the City of Jackson go from seven to five percent. That’s lower than the state average.”



Jackson Mayor Tony T. Yarber discusses the momentum of 1% sales tax funded infrastructure improvement projects during his 2016 State of the City Address at the Jackson Convention Center on August 2.

MAYOR: THE STATE OF JACKSON IS MOMENTOUS MOMENTUM

Construction crews are criss crossing Jackson daily repaving streets, filling potholes, and replacing bridges and waterlines with money from the City's One Percent Sales Tax Program. "We are talking about momentum. We are literally talking about this City moving forward," Mayor Tony T. Yarber told residents during his third State of the City Address Tuesday, Aug. 2 at the Jackson Convention Center in Downtown Jackson.

Yarber said the City created, and is now implementing, a 15-20 year comprehensive master plan to improve the City's infrastructure with revenue generated by the special sales tax. As a result, he said, millions of dollars in improvement projects are now taking place city-wide. The projects include \$862,000 for Eastover Drive Waterline improvements; and \$9.7 million to resurface neighborhood streets, plus an additional \$4.74 million to resurface major streets under the Operation Orange Cone initiative, which includes streets in all seven wards.

Other projects included a waterline replacement on Wooddell Drive and drainage improvements at Belhaven Creek. And Mayor Yarber said the City has filled over 62,000 potholes and made 450 utility cuts. To the applause of the audience, Yarber again proudly announced, "we've got momentum."

ONE PERCENT SALES TAX COMMISSION WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

A Jackson pastor is now the newest member of the City's One Percent Sales Tax Commission, after receiving unanimous approval by the City Council during an Aug. 22 confirmation hearing at City Hall.

Frank Sutton, Sr. was nominated by Mayor Tony T. Yarber to replace former Jackson Public Works Director Kishia Powell on the 10 member commission that approves infrastructure improvement projects funded by the City's Special Municipal Sales Tax approved by voters in January 2014. "I look forward to doing whatever I can to help move Jackson forward," said Sutton, shortly after the confirmation hearing.

A former Hinds County sheriff's deputy, Sutton is pastor of Fairfield Missionary Baptist Church and has served as a Hinds County Justice Court Judge since 2005. He attended Jackson State University and received a bachelor's in Management from Belhaven University.



MAJOR STREETS IN LINE FOR MAJOR MAKEOVER WITH 1% SALES TAX DOLLARS

Sections of seven of the most heavily traveled streets in Jackson will be resurfaced this fall with one percent sales tax revenue.

Mayor Tony T. Yarber and the Jackson City Council, on Aug. 23, approved hiring Superior Asphalt, Inc. to repair sections of Ridgewood Road, Briarwood Road, Northside Drive, Raymond Road, McRaven Road, Greenway Drive and Gallatin Street.

“These are major arterial streets that many of our residents travel daily; and they are in bad shape. Fixing them is a priority for this administration,” said Mayor Yarber.



“This is just the beginning of a lot of infrastructure improvement work you will see starting in the coming months.”

The resurfacing work will cost nearly \$4.5 million, which is approximately \$1 million below budget. Superior Asphalt is expected to receive an official notice from the City to begin work in mid-September. Once construction begins, traffic in the impacted areas will be reduced to one lane. Motorists are urged to use caution while traveling in work zones.

GROUNDS CLEARED FOR PROGRESS



Old post office on West County Line Road torn down to clear the way for “Greening the Gateway” project.

The old post office on West County Line Road was demolished in late August to clear the way for a proposed project to separate the existing Canadian National Railroad track from West County Line Road.

The “Greening the Gateway” project will convert the road and make it a complete street; manage drainage and mitigate sanitary sewer overflows; and provide greater access to historic Tougaloo College. Proposed improvements also include sidewalks with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance to encourage pedestrian traffic and safety. The Jackson Department of Public Works believes the improvements will bolster economic growth and sustainability by providing accessible and efficient connections between residents, schools, parks, public transportations, offices, retail and recreational destinations.

This project is an integral part of the City’s Infrastructure Master Plan, a 20-year blueprint for the comprehensive overhaul of the City’s aged infrastructure system. It is being funded through a Federal TIGER Grant with matching funds from the City’s One Percent Sales Tax Program. Construction is proposed to begin in 2017.



JACKSON
Department of Public Works

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Road crews repave a section of Old Lake Road in South Jackson under Operation Orange Cone, a 1% Sales Tax initiative to resurface streets city-wide.

OPERATION ORANGE CONE “GOOD” FOR SOUTH JACKSON RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

In 2010, Sedrick Thornton and his wife Denise found the home of their dreams on Old Lake Road in South Jackson. “We love it,” said Denise Thornton. From the large perfectly manicured yard to the spacious den, it was just what the couple was looking for after relocating to Mississippi from the North. But there was one problem. “The road. There’s a rough patch right there in front of the house. Trucks would come through and it would shake the whole house,” explained Sedrick Thornton.

The couple said work crews had come out in the past to patch a few pot holes, but no significant work had been done on their street since they moved there. “We had gotten to a point where we didn’t think anything was going to be done.”

But in late August, road construction crews started milling and overlaying the street in front of the couple’s home under Operation Orange Cone, a One Percent Sales Tax funded initiative to improve streets citywide. “We were so excited to see them because our street needed it bad,” said Denise Thornton. “It looks better already and they aren’t even done yet. It’s good for the neighborhood and is going to improve so much.”

Among the improvements, for at least one south Jackson business, is increased revenue. Just days after crews resurfaced a section of Rainey Road in Ward 6, Ariel Marilyn said customer traffic at the gas station where he works on the corner of Rainey Road and Cooper Road had already picked up. “Before, we didn’t get customers from down that end of Rainey Road. Now they are coming in. So the road work has been good for business.”