

Ask Students

Another announcement by USM and MS is complete with pictures of smiling administrators and bureaucrats spending taxpayer money:

[MDOT Grant Supports Southern Miss Construction Project](#)

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Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) Southern District Commissioner Tom King presented a check to University of Southern Mississippi President Rodney Bennett July 13 that will provide a majority of funding for a new pedestrian, multi-use pathway on the Hattiesburg campus.

The proposed pathway is approximately 850 feet and will provide a safe, lighted pathway from Fourth Street at Eagle Walk to the Hillcrest Parking Lot. The project's funding, administered by MDOT, originated from the Transportation Alternative Program and is distributed by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act. The 80/20 grant breakdown means MDOT will provide \$439,268 toward construction of the project, with Southern Miss paying \$109,817.

"We're excited about the opportunity this grant provides for the University to continue to develop a safe pedestrian network for our students, faculty, staff and visitors," said Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management Dr. Chris Crenshaw. "We're grateful to (Southern Miss alumnus) Tom King and the Federal Highway Administration for this grant and their continued support."

Managed and designed by Neel-Schaffer, Inc., the project is currently in the design phase, and a timeframe for start and completion will be announced later.

A similar project that will create a pathway from Scianna Hall to Pride Field will go out to bid in September, with construction beginning after the 2015 football season. The project will also be funded through an 80/20 grant administered by MDOT, with \$683,560 paid for by the grant and \$171,000 by Southern Miss.

Ignore for the minute whether the expenditure is necessary and ask students: Would you rather have another sidewalk on campus or a reduction of a million dollars in tuition and fees?

Guess which students would choose?

Do USM administrators and Mississippi bureaucrats ever ask the question?

Guess what the answer to this one is?