

Mayor to 'Talk to the City' about Hwy 80 beautification

By Katherine R. Dougan

In addition to improving the beauty and livability of Clinton, Mayor Phil Fisher brought ideas for beautifying and improving Highway 80 to public meetings held at Wood Activity Center last month.

These meetings were the fourth and fifth meetings the Mayor has conducted for public comment about improving Highway 80 in Clinton.

"I presented an idea for public input on a future look for Highway 80 - these two meetings were the fourth and fifth public meeting on this topic," Fisher said. "There will be a 'Talk to the City' (livestream broadcast) at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, November 8, to further discuss the idea. The concept is to beautify Highway 80 - think County Line Road between Jackson and Ridgeland, making it a more attractive roadway in town."

At the meetings on October 16 and 17, Mayor Fisher said in every instance there were some questions, and little resistance expressed about change in general.

"Everybody was positive, saying the improvements were long overdue and a great thing to do," said

Fisher.

"Beautification is a priority, and Highway 80 is long overdue for a facelift. The next step is to get \$4,000,000 to pave Highway 80. I will travel to Washington, D.C., on November 13 with MC President Dr. Blake Thompson to meet our congressional leaders and request the paving money. If we get the money from Congress, MDOT has agreed to cover the additional cost of the landscaped, lighted medians that will take the place of the middle lane. The additional middle lane lighting will help brighten Highway 80 during the evening, making a safer environment for all drivers. The stoplights will remain in their current locations, with turn lanes added and turn arrows."

"Teaming with Mississippi College is just another example of getting together and working through something for the mutual benefit of everybody involved," said Fisher.

"It all goes back to making our city a memorable place for visitors when they come through. Positive or negative, their experience is based on what they see. We want it to be a positive experience."

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