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New Lights Will Make Highway 39 Safer, Cut Costs

MERIDIAN, MS – The City of Meridian will brighten nighttime travel, improve safety for motorists and save money for taxpayers by installing new LED lighting on a heavily traveled stretch of Highway 39.

The City will upgrade lights on state Highway 39 from Old U.S. Highway 45 to North Hills Street, a stretch of about two and a half miles. Mississippi Power crews will start the work before the end of February.

“We’ve been keeping an eye on roadway lighting technology as it has rapidly evolved over the past few years,” said Meridian Mayor Percy Bland. “It has now matured to the point where it provides better nighttime vision for drivers, greater reliability and significant long-term cost savings. That’s a deal we’ll make on behalf of Meridian’s citizens any time.”

LED (light-emitting diode) lights have several advantages over the older lights they’ll be replacing:

• They improve safety for both drivers and pedestrians because they produce light that’s much closer to natural daylight than the yellowish glow of the old lamps. LEDs enhance color perception, double drivers’ peripheral vision and increase brake reaction time by 25 percent.

• They’re much more efficient, so they’re much cheaper to operate. The new LED lights require only 190 watts of power to produce about the same amount of light as the 400-watt lights they replace.

• They last about five times as long, which decreases maintenance and replacement costs.
They maintain their brightness much longer as they age, which again improves safety and reduces replacement costs.
• They focus light downward, eliminating wasteful scattering of light outward and upward. They also spread illumination more evenly over their target area.

This replacement of 156 lighting fixtures constitutes Phase One of a long-term upgrading of Highway 39 lighting. The City will evaluate the installation process and the illumination that the new LED lights provide and use that experience to guide future phases of the project.

For more information about the City of Meridian please visit, www.meridianms.org

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