

# NESHOBA COUNTY

**ADOPTED**  
**FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

## Comprehensive Road and Bridge Plan

2021-2024

### COUNTY DATA

Neshoba County, Mississippi is approximately 90 miles northeast of Jackson, Mississippi. Philadelphia is the county seat and principal City. The county has a total area of 351,305 acres or 572 square miles.

Neshoba County was established by the Mississippi Legislature on December 23, 1833. Philadelphia became the county seat of Neshoba County on August 15, 1837. The Pearl River flows east to west through Neshoba County.

The Neshoba County population has increased during the past several decades. In 1970 Neshoba County's population was 20,802. In 1980 the population increased to 23,789. The 1990 county population saw an increase to 24,800. The county population showed steady growth through 2000 with a population of 28,684. The 2010 Census revealed a population of 29,676 and the most recent Census estimate for 2019 showed a slight population decrease of -1.88% to 29,118. The COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020 will have a detrimental effect on Neshoba County in both population and the 2020 Census. Neshoba County is the 30<sup>th</sup> most populated county in Mississippi. Neshoba County is bounded on the north by Winston County; on the east by Kemper County; on the south by Newton County and on the west by Leake County. It is approximately 23.5 miles long

by 23.3 miles wide and is served by The Kansas City Southern Railroad running generally north and south through the county and passing through the county seat of Philadelphia.

### **ECONOMIC DATA**

The main crops grown in the county are corn, soybeans and small grain. Livestock, dairy, poultry and timber are produced on many farms. Timber income is very important since approximately 77% of the land area is considered forest land.

In December 2020, Neshoba County's labor force was 9,790. The total employed was 9,220 resulting in 570 persons being unemployed or a 5.8% unemployment rate according to figures supplied by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. The County averaged a 6.6% unemployment rate for the three months prior and a 9.3% rate for the previous 11-month period. It should be noted that the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020 contributed to a significant increase in the average 2020 unemployment rate.

During 2019 the median household income was \$37,987.00. The median property value in Neshoba County is \$83,000 and the home ownership rate is 71.5%. It is assumed that significant additional tax revenue will not be available.

### **TRANSPORTATION DATA**

Transportation infrastructure in the area is improving. The Kansas City Southern Railroad runs generally north and south through the county and passes through Philadelphia, Mississippi. The entire county is served by several major truck lines. Highway 15 runs generally North and South; Highway 19 runs from Southeast to Northwest; Highway 21 runs from Southwest to Northeast; Highway 16 runs generally East and West. All of these highways intersect in Philadelphia, Mississippi and are considered major trade routes. Highway 19 South provides four-lane access from the Newton County Line to House and Highway 16 West has four lane access from Highway

15 to just past the Lake Pushmataha entrance. Neshoba County remains the only county in east central Mississippi without four-lane access that traverses the entire county. With the recent announcement of the BUILD transportation grant from the US Department of Transportation and the commitment of the Mississippi Legislature and Mississippi Department of Transportation, Neshoba County anticipates having four-lane access from Philadelphia to Meridian in the near future. The BUILD grant and matching commitments will provide four-lane access to the Tucker Community from Philadelphia leaving an approximate 6.2 mile gap of two lane roadway between the Tucker and House communities. The new four-lane is scheduled to start in April of 2021 with completion scheduled for October 2023. Just south of Tucker, five new bridges are being constructed on the new North bound lane of Highway 19 with completion scheduled for September 2021.

**ROAD AND BRIDGE DATA**

The Neshoba County road system is composed of approximately 726.94 miles (see attached map). State highways, U.S. highways and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) roads are not included in this road system total.

**ROADS**

<u>Surfaces</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Hard Surfaced (two lane)	395.68
Unpaved (gravel)	331.26
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Total	726.94

**BRIDGES**

Box Bridges	51
Concrete	40
Precast	15
Steel Double Pipe Line	2
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Total	108
State Aid System Bridges	68
LSBP Eligible Bridges	1
Load Posted Bridges	11
Closed Bridges	1

**LOCAL SYSTEM BRIDGE PROGRAM**

The Neshoba County Board of Supervisors is participating in The State of Mississippi's Local System Bridge Program (LSBP). This program uses funds appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature for the replacement of substandard bridges on public roads that are considered to be off the State and Federal Aid Systems. One bridge is currently under construction on County Road 705 (SA50-036) utilizing LSBP funds (Project LSBP-50(14)) which will be completed in FY2021 at a cost of \$1,037,100.

Neshoba County has one additional LSBP eligible bridge that is located on County Road 834 (SA50-101). This bridge currently has temporary structures (culverts) in place that will be replaced with one railroad tank-car culvert and then removed from inventory and eligibility for LSBP replacement.

## **STATE AID / FEDERAL AID ROAD PROGRAM**

In addition, the Board of Supervisors, as a part of the four year State Aid Road Program has programmed the bridge on County Road 739 (SA50-122) for replacement utilizing state aid road funds. The program cost for construction of this new box bridge is \$540,300. The project program (SAP-50(101)) has been approved by State Aid and is currently in the design and engineering phase.

As Federal Aid Program funds have been and are being utilized to perform bridge inspections across Mississippi no immediate future funding is anticipated from these funds. If funds become available Neshoba County will seek any available funding.

Neshoba County is faced with a unique challenge with that particular bridge located on County Road 210 (SA50-024), which overpasses the non-used Kansas City Southern railway connector running from Union to Sebastopol. Even though the railroad is no longer utilized and does not appear that it will be utilized in the future, the County will be required to construct the replacement bridge to meet all required railroad overpass standards, which will add substantially to the cost of the project. The bridge is currently closed due to rusting damage on one bent on one pile. The bridge will be repaired and placed back into service until the bridge can be let for replacement.

The Neshoba County Board of Supervisors has requested to utilize all available LSBP Funding (\$1,029,774) and State Aid Funds (\$934,226) for a total anticipated program cost of \$1,964,000 for replacement of this extraordinary structure. Upon receipt of approval from the Office of State Aid Road Construction, the project will be programmed and proceed to design and engineering. It should be noted that the Board has previously authorized pre-construction engineering for this project.

The County had previously programmed 32.71 miles of reseal under project number SAP-50(14)S at a cost of \$1,733,600. Due to the circumstances with the County

Road 210 bridge project and immediate need for replacement of this structure utilizing State Aid Funds in combination with LSBP Funds this program will be revised down, upon approval of use of funds for the project, to a total cost of \$1,100,000 for the reseal program.

**LONG-TERM BRIDGE AND ROAD PLAN**

The primary emphasis on bridges for the duration of this plan include those bridges with a sufficiency rating of 50% or less with the following priorities: (1) Replacement of County Road 210 Railroad Overpass Bridge (SA50-024), which is currently closed; (2) Replacement of County Road 739 Bridge (SA50-122), which is currently posted for nine tons tandem axle, and programmed for replacement under project SAP-50(101); and (3) Replacement of St Francis Drive Bridge (SA50-082), which is currently posted for three tons, and let for replacement by City of Philadelphia, with funding secured by direct appropriation from the Mississippi Legislature. Neshoba County will continue to monitor bridge conditions with the next priorities for consideration of replacement those bridges with a sufficiency rating of greater than 50% that are load posted.

Load Posted Bridges in Neshoba County (excluding those being replaced):

Bridge #	Road	Posted Limit	Sufficiency Rating
SA50-011	County Road 107	15 Tons Tandem Axle	60.5
SA50-013	County Road 107	17 Tons Tandem Axle	65.6
SA50-014	County Road 109	15 Tons Tandem Axle	62.7
SA50-032	County Road 298	16 / 25 Tons	70.0
SA50-055	County Road 414	9 / 9 Tons	55.7
SA50-083	Blount Street	15 Tons Tandem Axle	55.6
SA50-090	County Road 177	19 Tons Tandem Axle	76.3
SA50-121	County Road 181	10 Tons Tandem Axle	51.1

The primary emphasis on roads over the next four years will be to maintain the existing road system and re-surface as many miles of existing hard surface road as available funds will permit. The Board of Supervisors will set the priorities for replacing the wear surface on roads to maintain the integrity of existing road infrastructure and select roads to be hard-surfaced based on countywide needs as funds allow. Some of the criteria to be used in making that determination will include the following: Number of families served, use of the road for access to church and community centers, main roads that will connect from one community to another and cost of construction of the road.

In 2019 Neshoba County reclaimed 0.2 miles of roadway and constructed an additional 0.6 miles of new hard surface roadway. In 2020 Neshoba County reclaimed 3.0 miles of road and reconstructed 0.6 miles of hard surface on County Road 1129. The remaining 2.4 miles of County Road 448 (West of Hwy 19 S) will be reconstructed during 2021 at an approximate cost of \$300,000.

With new infrastructure funding being phased in from on-line sales tax diversion funding authorized by the Mississippi Legislature, at 25% during 2020, currently at 50% funding for 2021 (75% in 2022 and 100% in 2023), the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors will set priorities for the use of the new infrastructure funding based on actual funds received. There is currently a \$250,000 line item budgeted for road improvement in the county road fund which, in conjunction with the new infrastructure funding, will be utilized for maintenance of existing hard surfaced roads (maintenance to prevent failure) and improvement of gravel surface roads to hard surface roads. It should be noted that the significant cost of materials and contract services as well as maintenance activities of existing roadways impedes the construction of new hard surface roads.

**ROAD IMPROVEMENT – HARD SURFACING OF ROAD**

The Following is a listing of roads that have been considered for improving and hard surfacing between the date of adoption of this plan and December 31, 2024. The following roads may be added to or removed by order of the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors.

Hard Surfacing of Roads Plan

<u>Road</u>	<u>Length</u>		<u>Material Cost</u>
153	1.30	\$	140,400.00
2610	1.00	\$	108,000.00
165	1.60	\$	172,800.00
Marty Stuart Drive	1.00	\$	108,000.00
373	1.20	\$	129,600.00
379	1.20	\$	129,600.00
397	1.75	\$	189,000.00
385	0.70	\$	75,600.00
167	1.50	\$	162,000.00
171	1.00	\$	108,000.00
1133	0.75	\$	81,000.00
381	1.00	\$	108,000.00
339 (North Side)	1.00	\$	108,000.00
575	1.20	\$	129,600.00
583	1.30	\$	140,400.00
622	0.50	\$	54,000.00
620	0.30	\$	32,400.00
644	1.00	\$	108,000.00
739	2.50	\$	270,000.00
751	1.70	\$	183,600.00
777	1.00	\$	108,000.00
785	1.30	\$	140,400.00
589	0.50	\$	54,000.00
575	0.50	\$	54,000.00
1714	0.40	\$	43,200.00
2444	0.30	\$	32,400.00
773	0.90	\$	97,200.00
783	1.00	\$	108,000.00
2831	1.00	\$	108,000.00
2826	1.30	\$	140,400.00
1727	0.70	\$	75,600.00
638	0.50	\$	54,000.00
636	0.40	\$	43,200.00
464	0.70	\$	75,600.00
773	0.90	\$	97,200.00



628	1.30	\$	140,400.00
2822	0.70	\$	75,600.00
2630	0.30	\$	32,400.00
741	2.20	\$	237,600.00
567	1.40	\$	151,200.00
1535	0.75	\$	81,000.00
832 (Reclamation)	0.75	\$	81,000.00
848	1.50	\$	162,000.00
569 (Reclamation)	1.80	\$	194,400.00
755 (Reclamation)	1.50	\$	162,000.00
832 East Side (Reclamation)	0.75	\$	81,000.00
448 West Side(Reclamation)	2.40	\$	259,200.00
517	1.30	\$	140,400.00
523	0.95	\$	102,600.00
2440	0.40	\$	43,200.00
2442	0.25	\$	27,000.00
450	2.80	\$	302,400.00
Alesia Circle	0.25	\$	27,000.00
266	2.20	\$	237,600.00
452	2.00	\$	216,000.00
711	0.50	\$	54,000.00
529	1.10	\$	118,800.00
262	0.50	\$	54,000.00
288	1.00	\$	108,000.00
280	0.40	\$	43,200.00
444	0.50	\$	54,000.00
290	0.20	\$	21,600.00
4308	1.00	\$	108,000.00
327	0.30	\$	32,400.00
294	0.40	\$	43,200.00
298	1.10	\$	118,800.00
McKee Street	0.25	\$	27,000.00
454	2.10	\$	226,800.00
270	1.30	\$	140,400.00
274	0.20	\$	21,600.00
723	2.30	\$	248,400.00
268	1.50	\$	162,000.00
458	2.30	\$	248,400.00
1131	0.30	\$	32,400.00
541	2.40	\$	259,200.00
240	2.00	\$	216,000.00
226	1.80	\$	194,400.00
402	2.80	\$	302,400.00
339	2.80	\$	302,400.00
363	0.60	\$	64,800.00

121	2.50	\$	270,000.00
315	2.70	\$	291,600.00
1131	1.10	\$	118,800.00
246	0.70	\$	75,600.00
428	0.80	\$	86,400.00
244	1.00	\$	108,000.00
313	1.30	\$	140,400.00
432	2.20	\$	237,600.00
531	1.80	\$	194,400.00
109	2.30	\$	248,400.00
317	2.60	\$	280,800.00
351	0.60	\$	64,800.00
420	0.60	\$	64,800.00
412	1.00	\$	108,000.00
533	0.75	\$	81,000.00
125	2.60	\$	280,800.00
410	0.75	\$	81,000.00
418	1.00	\$	108,000.00
343	0.90	\$	97,200.00
139	1.60	\$	172,800.00
127	1.00	\$	108,000.00
107	2.00	\$	216,000.00
206	2.80	\$	302,400.00
361	3.10	\$	334,800.00
145	2.30	\$	248,400.00
2426	0.75	\$	81,000.00
133	0.20	\$	21,600.00
406	1.30	\$	140,400.00
139	1.60	\$	172,800.00
212	1.60	\$	172,800.00
123	1.00	\$	108,000.00
236	2.00	\$	216,000.00
747 (Reclamation)	2.44	\$	263,520.00
743	1.25	\$	135,000.00
3403	1.50	\$	162,000.00
1361	1.00	\$	108,000.00
1357	1.00	\$	108,000.00
630	0.60	\$	64,800.00
2642	0.50	\$	54,000.00
1721	0.60	\$	64,800.00
822	2.30	\$	248,400.00
171	1.50	\$	162,000.00
173	2.50	\$	270,000.00
3407	1.40	\$	151,200.00
1354	0.20	\$	21,600.00

2808	0.80	\$	86,400.00
1723	0.30	\$	32,400.00
1721	0.60	\$	64,800.00
1720	0.20	\$	21,600.00
1719	0.20	\$	21,600.00
3403	1.30	\$	140,400.00
3405	1.20	\$	129,600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>159.89</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>17,268,120.00</b>

**RESEAL AND NEW WEAR SURFACE OF HARD SURFACED ROADS**

The following is a listing of roads that may need to be resealed, including leveling and placing a new wear surface on them by December 31, 2024. Through this reseat and placing of a new wear surface the life of the road will be extended.

<u>Road</u>	<u>Length</u>		<u>Material Cost</u>
339	2.50	\$	100,000.00
149	3.80	\$	152,000.00
2808	0.80	\$	32,000.00
618	0.45	\$	18,000.00
767	1.00	\$	40,000.00
769	1.10	\$	44,000.00
832	1.50	\$	60,000.00
Plantation Point Dr-South	0.50	\$	20,000.00
Condo Road	0.10	\$	4,000.00
Condo Drive	0.10	\$	4,000.00
Gateway Dr	0.10	\$	4,000.00
761	1.80	\$	72,000.00
2828	0.30	\$	12,000.00
628	2.30	\$	92,000.00
775	1.50	\$	60,000.00
624	5.05	\$	202,000.00
729	3.20	\$	128,000.00
2826	2.20	\$	88,000.00
610	6.90	\$	276,000.00
791	0.70	\$	28,000.00
Country Lane	1.00	\$	40,000.00
634	0.30	\$	12,000.00
642	1.30	\$	52,000.00
250	1.20	\$	48,000.00
703	0.33	\$	13,200.00
448 (East Side)	2.20	\$	88,000.00
4306	0.74	\$	29,600.00
519	0.50	\$	20,000.00

268	0.40	\$	16,000.00
462	1.00	\$	40,000.00
468	1.30	\$	52,000.00
282	1.50	\$	60,000.00
739	2.00	\$	80,000.00
723	0.50	\$	20,000.00
248	3.20	\$	128,000.00
270	2.80	\$	112,000.00
529	0.60	\$	24,000.00
501	2.90	\$	116,000.00
206	0.50	\$	20,000.00
325	5.40	\$	216,000.00
418	3.10	\$	124,000.00
414	0.70	\$	28,000.00
248	5.60	\$	224,000.00
129	0.25	\$	10,000.00
234	2.00	\$	80,000.00
430	1.40	\$	56,000.00
171	1.00	\$	40,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79.62</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,184,800.00</b>

**GRAVEL ON COUNTY ROADS**

County roads will be graveled on an as needed basis when regular maintenance is performed on these roads. The County is divided up into four (4) work areas for motor grader purposes. Those areas are Southeast (zone one); Southwest (zone two); Northwest (zone three); Northeast (zone four). Each of these areas has one or more motor graders assigned to them.

**ROAD SIDE CLIPPING**

County roads will have the road sides clipped on an annual basis. The County is divided into two (2) work zones. Those areas are East and West.

**POTHOLE AND SHOULDER REPAIR**

County hard surfaced roads will have a minimum of one crew assigned daily for the sole purpose of repairing potholes and shoulders along public roads of Neshoba County.

**ROADSIDE SPRAYING**

All county gravel roads will be sprayed on an annual basis for weed and brush control.

All county hard surfaced roads will be sprayed on an annual basis to help in grass and weed control.

**NEW EQUIPMENT NEEDS**

By December 31, 2024 Neshoba County will need to consider replacing and purchasing the following equipment used in its road department:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Tractor Truck	1	\$125,000.00
Dump Trailer	1	\$50,000.00
7 Foot Mowers	2	\$8,000.00
Pothole Patcher Truck	1	\$220,000.00
Dump Truck (Tandem Axle)	1	\$150,000.00
Skid Steer (With Attachments)	1	\$150,000.00
Cab & Chassis (1 Ton)	1	\$30,000.00

**PERSONNEL NEEDS**

The Neshoba County Road and Bridge Department will employ a Road Manager who will be responsible for the implementation of the Road and Bridge Program set forth by the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors. Personnel will be assigned to the following area:

- 1 Road Manager
- 1 Administrative Staff
- 2 Long Hall Truck Drivers
- 1 Fuel Truck
- 2 Pothole Patching
- 3 Mechanics
- 4 Motor Graders
- 4 Dump Trucks
- 2 Culvert Installation
- 5 Construction & Heavy Maintenance
- 4 Bush hogging Crews
- 2 Boom Axe
- 4 Miscellaneous Labor
- 4 Trash Collection

The County will need to employ a minimum of 40 road department personnel through December 31, 2024.