

Ordinance No. 2007-

Ordinance Establishing the Pathways Commission and Prescribing its Functions and Duties and for Related Purposes

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford's Guiding Principles for Oxford's future growth recognizes the need to establish a densely connected network of streets and roads to guide future growth that equally serves automobiles, pedestrians, bicycles and future possibilities of transit and;

WHEREAS, bicycling and walking are important forms of transportation and recreation in our community and;

WHEREAS, bicycling and walking contribute to health, fitness and economic development and;

WHEREAS, enhancing opportunities for and educating the public about safety, health and mobility help serve to create a quality community, and is the responsibility of local elected officials; then,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF OXFORD MISSISSIPPI:

Section I. Pathways Commission Established

(a) There is hereby established a Pathways Commission consisting of seven members appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Aldermen. One member shall be a designated representative of the Oxford Park Commission and one member shall be a designated representative of the Oxford Police Department. Members of the Pathway Commission shall serve three year staggered terms. Members shall serve without compensation; however, the City, if prior approval has been obtained by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, may pay certain expenses incurred by the Pathways Commission. Members may reside in Oxford or Lafayette County. The Commission may receive and communicate with the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors as it wishes.

(b) Members of the Pathway Commission may select their own officers, which may include a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary. Meetings of the Pathway Commission shall be held as determined by the Pathway Commission, but at least quarterly and shall be open to the public. A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum. Records of attendance and all matters before the commission shall be maintained, and a designated City staff person shall serve the commission in a secretarial and/or liaison capacity.

(c) The Pathways Commission shall be responsible for updating and maintaining the City of Oxford's 2003 Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Oxford's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan provides a framework for the development of safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian access to all areas of the city, university, and areas of interest outside of the city limits.

(d) The Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan shall be presented annually to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at a regularly scheduled meeting in June.

(e) The Pathways Commission, when requested by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, shall consider, investigate, make findings, report and recommend upon any matter within the scope of its jurisdiction.

Section II. Engineering

The Pathways Commission shall recommend, through grants or donations or within established or otherwise reasonable budgetary guidelines, to the Public Works Department, the Oxford Park Commission, and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, general or specific areas of the City where improvements or new construction that enhance pedestrian and bicycle access may be made and develop strategies in association with the Public Works Department, the Planning Office, and the Oxford Park Commission to enhance and increase the City of Oxford's pedestrian and bicycle resources.

Section III. Education

Develop programs with Oxford School District (including Safe Routes to Schools), and the Oxford Police Department and other community organizations to educate Children and Adults about safe Pedestrian and Bicycle habits, and Motorists about their responsibilities for pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Section IV. Encouragement

The Pathways Commission shall promote bicycling and walking for health, fitness, transportation, and recreation through events, programs and other activities which benefit residents, businesses and visitors of all ages and abilities. These activities will be coordinated with local bike clubs, schools, health organizations and other partners.

Section V. Enforcement

The City of Oxford will provide balanced enforcement of the State Of Mississippi and City of Oxford vehicle and traffic laws for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. This will include enforcement of pedestrian right-of-way in crosswalks, bicyclists riding with traffic and all modes sharing the road safely.

Section VI. Evaluation

The Pathways Commission shall provide an annual assessment to the Board of Aldermen through the collection of data on the number of foot and bike trips on Oxford's streets and pathways and through the collection of public comments concerning the perceived safety and usability city streets, sidewalks and pathways by pedestrians and bicyclists of the City of Oxford.

Section VII. Repealing Clause

All ordinances shall take effect and be in force as provided by law.

Section VIII. Effective Date

All ordinances shall take effect and be in force as provided by law.

The above ordinance having being first reduced to writing and read and considered section by section at a public meeting or the governing authorities of

the City of Oxford Mississippi on motion of Alderman _____, seconded by Alderman _____, and the roll being called, the same by the following votes:

Alderman Patterson	voted
Alderman Oliver	voted
Alderman Antonow	voted
Alderman Howell	voted
Alderman Taylor	voted
Alderman Fisher	voted
Alderman Baker	voted

APPROVED, this day the _____ of _____, 2007

RICHARD HOWORTH, MAYOR

LISA D. CARWYLE, CITY CLERK