



The
University of Mississippi

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Ian Banner, University Architect
FROM: Michael Mossing, Assoc. Professor of Chemistry,
MMOSSING@OLEMISS.EDU, 915-5339
SUBJECT: University – Pedestrian / Bicycle Pathways Opportunities
DATE: JANUARY 22, 2007
CC: Kevin McLeod, Elliot & Britt; Mike Bennett, Bennett Construction; Kate Kellum,
Office of Research

This memo is to follow up on our meeting at the Depot with Kevin McLeod and Mike Bennett on Jan 10, 2007. I have attached 2 diagrams, and notes from a previous meeting with Dr. Kellum from June of 2006 (the items below are for the most part updates of the items in the 2006 memo). The first diagram is a long term plan for a network of bike and pedestrian pathways in Oxford. One can see that an east west route across campus that connects the soon-to-be-completed rail/trail to shopping opportunities on West Jackson is a key element in the overall network. The second diagram is a satellite image of the campus marked to indicate the locations of various opportunities for the university to enhance the bike-ability and walk-ability of the campus and the community. These opportunities (in rough order of priority) are described briefly below. I hope this memo is sufficient to provide talking points for the next meeting of the University Planning Committee. If not please let me know and I can refine and/or elaborate on the information below.

There is some urgency to this request as the opening of Phase 1 of the pathways project is scheduled for late spring or summer 2007. We would like to publish a brochure and map of the community pathways network at that time (ideally in time for a booth at the Double Decker Festival) and the university campus is an important link in the overall plan.

1. Designate & Sign - Manning Way - Hathorn Rd - IM fields Rd - as a Bikeway
A key goal of a practical network of bikeways is a safe way to travel from home to local businesses especially for groceries and other everyday necessities. The shopping complex on west Jackson bounded by Hwy 6 and Jackson Ave is very bicycle-unfriendly at present. A

designated bike route that connects the railway and the rest of Oxford to Walmart on W. Jackson would be invaluable to those in Oxford and at the University who do not have a car (especially international students) or who for reasons of health or environmentalism choose to travel under their own power. The new service road that connects Gertrude Ford Parkway to the Stadium and Indoor Practice facility is a convenient low-traffic route that would carry cyclists from the bike lanes of Ford Pkwy to Manning Way. Hill Drive already has wide paved shoulders that provide a safe place to ride. At present, the only constriction is the stretch of Hathorn from Coliseum drive to the soccer complex. This should not preclude designation of the route, but consideration of bike lanes or paved shoulders should be included with future routine maintenance. The road to the intramural fields is a safe, low traffic route. The route will end near the location of the new Fire Station and Walmart (see item 3 below).

2. Depot, Pathways Welcome Center, Map Kiosk, Connection to Van Buren and the Square
The Depot would be a natural focal point for the pathways network continuing its historical role in transportation to and from Oxford. Two immediate goals would be to provide an information Kiosk with a large map and a weatherproof means to distribute small maps for visitors to carry with them. Another enhancement to the Depot Area, perhaps to be considered along with the construction of park across the street would include signs and routing to direct cyclists from the railway to Van Buren Avenue and the square. With University Permission, a proposal to the MDOT Safe Routes to School program to encourage walking and biking to Oxford Middle School campus will suggest the Depot Area as one of two gathering places for walk to school. Mr Derek Horne, Assoc. Athletic Director has promised to help recruit student athletes as role models for this program.

3. Access to W. Jackson shopping via new fire station construction.
The cross campus route outlined as priority 1 ends at the Jackson Avenue but short of Walmart. It would be great if there were a direct connection to the Walmart Parking lot. Perhaps such a connection including a bridge over the creek could be included in conjunction with construction of the new firestation.

4. Railway extension to MDOT Lot for Bike Safety, Racing Clinics,
The pathway from Manning Way to the MDOT lot has been paved since the start of football season 2006.. This pathway could be striped with a centerline to match the rest of the mixed use pathways. The large open parking lot would be a good venue for bike safety training.

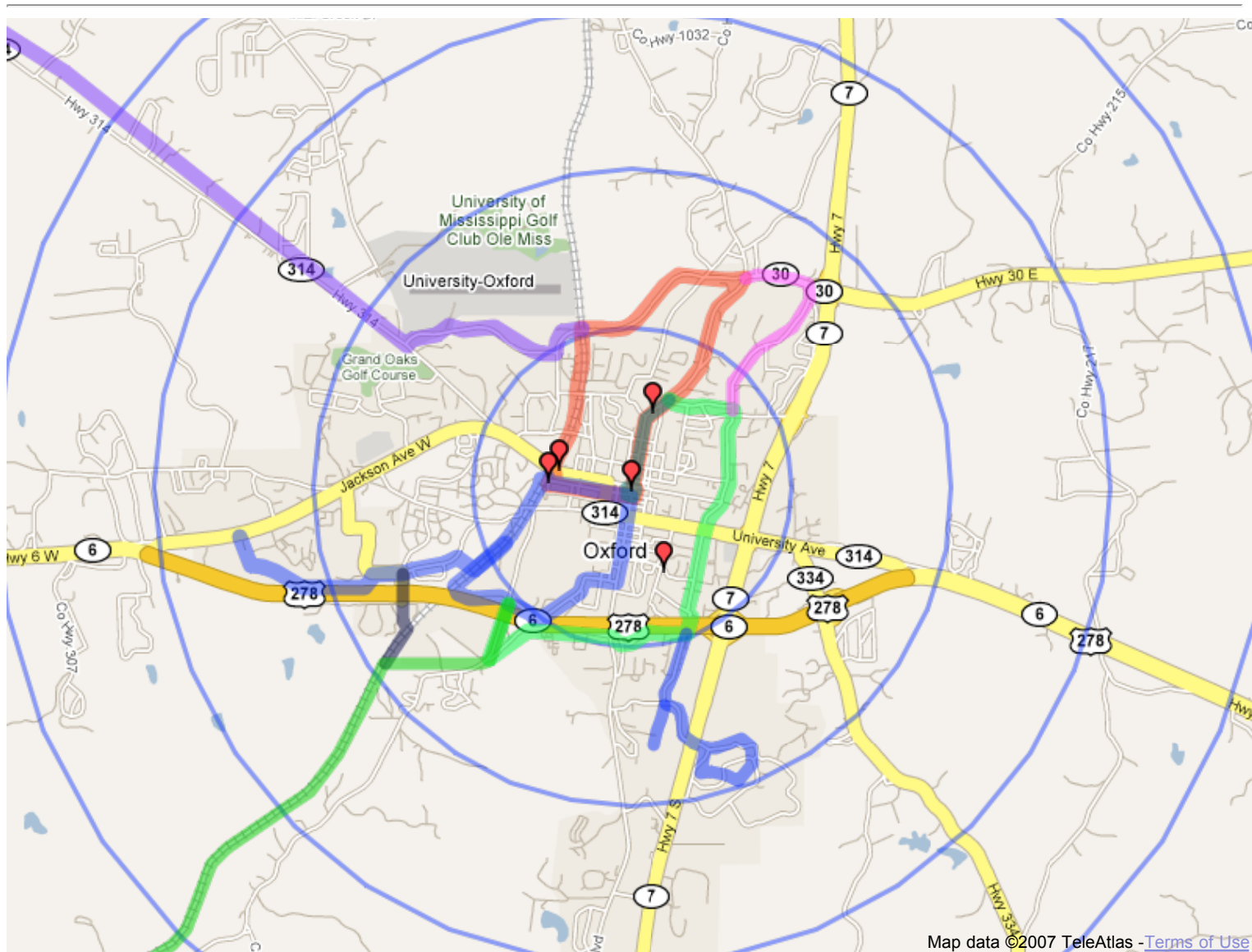
5. Event Bike Parking, Pathways Promotions at Football and Baseball Games
I have initiated conversation with David Krouse, and Blake Barnes to this end. Promotions are in the tentative planning stages for baseball games pending firm completion dates for phase 1.

6. Pocket Park, Treppendahl Memorial, Walking Path.
The wooded area to the north of Jackson Avenue Bounded by the railway, Washington and Ford Parkway has been discussed as a potential location for a pocket park, a walking path and/or the memorial to Laura Treppendahl. It will add tremendously to the pathways network to retain

adjacent natural areas and make them accessible to users of the pathways system. Matt Zuefle of Parks and Recreation has walked this area and suggested a low impact hiking trail may be the best overall use of the wooded area. Greg Easson and Hal Robinson of the Geoinformatics Center have provided Contour maps.

7. The powerline that connects Harris Dr to the IM field road. Is already being used as a footpath. It makes sense to formalize these pathways to give students living in apartments on Jackson Avenue an alternative low traffic route to campus.

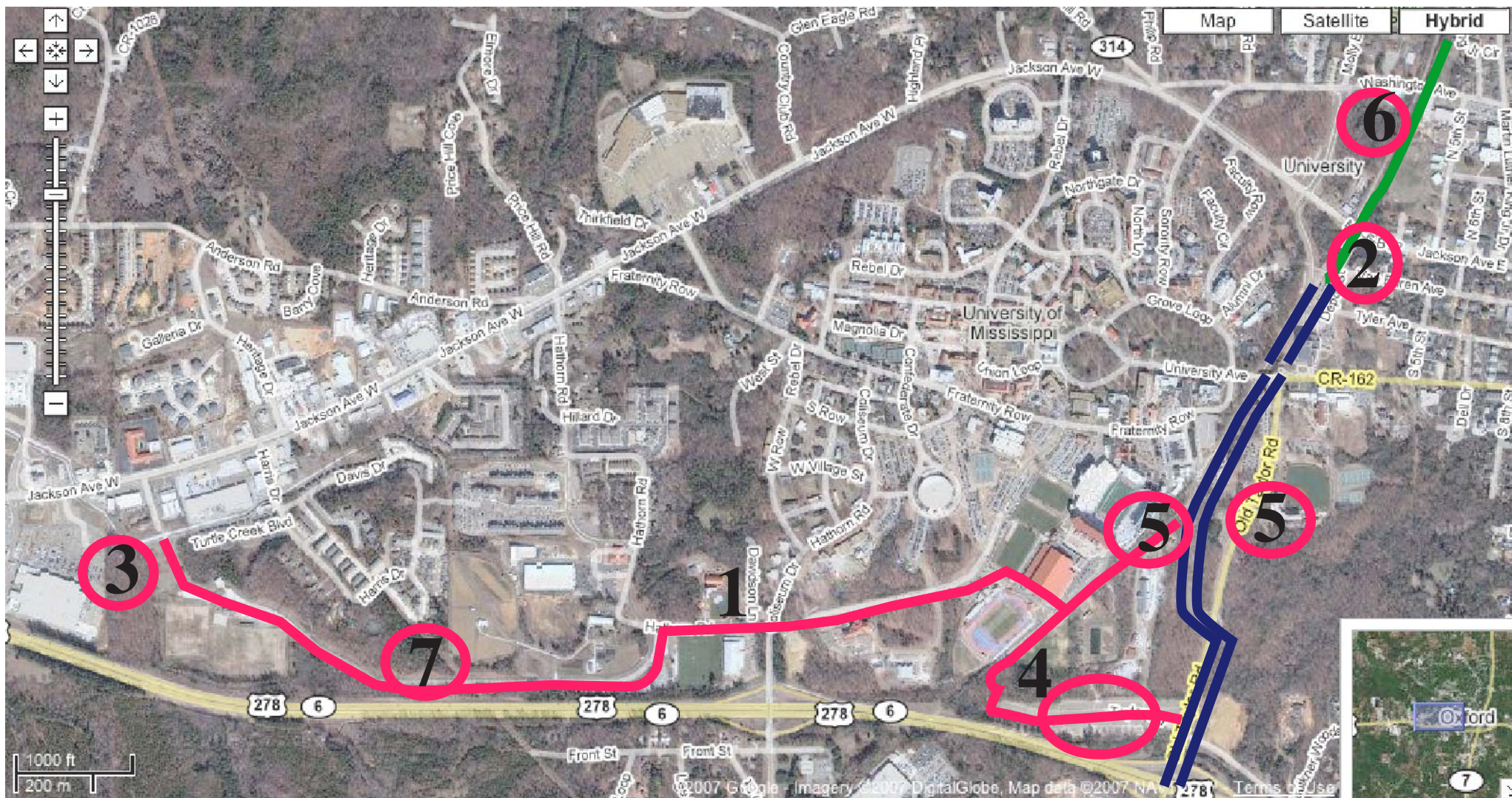
Oxford Pathways - Planned Core Bicycle Routes



Pathways Segments on the map are indicated by color.

- **North Lamar Loop** - [focused map](#)
- **South Lamar Loop** - [focused map](#)
- **Library leg** - [focused map](#)
- **Campus Extension to W. Jackson**
- **McElroy Dr. Extension to Old Sardis**
- **Coliseum Dr. to Whirlpool Trail Head**
- **Railway South to Thacker Mountain**
- **Park Drive Option**
- **North and South Lamar and the Square**
- **South 18th and GrandOaks**

Circles are drawn at 1 mile increments from the square. Assuming bicycle speeds of 10 mph and walking speeds of 3 mph, travel times are 6 minutes and 20 minutes per mile



Current Pathways Phase 1 - Railway Conversion, Mixed Use Path — Bike Lanes =

University Opportunities,

1. Designate & Sign - Manning Way - Hathorn Rd - IM fields Rd - as a Bikeway
2. Depot, Pathways Welcome Center, Map Kiosk, Connection to Van Buren and the Square
3. New fire station construction, Include Access to W. Jackson Shopping
4. Railway extension to MDOT Lot for Bike Safety, Racing Clinics,
5. Event Bike Parking, Pathways Promotions at Football and Baseball Games
6. Pocket Park, Treppendahl Memorial, Walking Path Powerline near MJ fields is already a walking path, Improve it to provide access
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