

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

## PREPARATIONS TO BEGIN FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO UMMC CAMPUS

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JACKSON, Miss. – The University of Mississippi Medical Center will begin work this week on major improvements to its campus. The first phase includes preparation for road construction on campus, the creation of a new campus entrance on Lakeland Drive, and improvements to the Woodrow Wilson entrance that will eventually make it the “front door” to UMMC.

The 30-year campus master plan calls for the creation of a ring road along the edge of the campus and a new entrance from Lakeland Drive at the northeast corner of the campus. The new entrance, near St. Dominic Hospital, will greatly improve traffic flow, especially during the morning and evening rush hours.

Construction of the entrance will require removal of three curbed medians on Lakeland Drive. That project will necessitate the removal of seven mature live oak trees from among about 20 planted in the medians that occupy the middle of Lakeland Drive from St. Dominic’s to the Old Canton Road intersection.

“Removing trees is something we try to avoid if at all possible but in this case we have no choice,” said David Powe, UMMC chief administrative officer. “However, we are in discussions with representatives of the Fondren community and hope to donate trees to their planned project to improve and beautify the Fondren business district.”

UMMC will use a standard formula for mitigating tree loss in determining the proper number of replacement trees.

The improvements to campus are needed to handle the growth in vehicle traffic on campus and to pave the way for construction of two new campus buildings devoted to medical education and research as well as a new parking garage.

Removal of the trees and relocation of gas lines on Lakeland Drive will begin in the next few days and are expected to pose minimal disruption to traffic.

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The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state’s only academic medical center. University of Mississippi Health Care represents the clinical programs of the Medical Center and includes University Hospitals and Health System and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center’s threefold mission is to educate tomorrow’s health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state’s citizens. A major goal of the Medical

Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at <http://publicaffairs.umc.edu/>