



Hot Springs Village Arkansas

Congressional Issues 2006/2007



Hot Springs Village
Property Owners' Association
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Property Owners' Association

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Hot Springs Village
Property Owners' Association

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM

1. LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT TO ALLOW FOR ELIGIBILITY OF FEMA FUNDS

The community of Hot Springs Village (HSV) recommends amendment to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to eliminate the phrase “to the general public”. This would permit HSV’s Property Owners Association eligibility of FEMA funds in cases of declared disaster.

2. FUNDING FOR COMPLETION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING EXPRESSWAY

The community of Hot Springs Village recommends the Department of Transportation (FHWA) provide funding to complete the construction of Martin Luther King Expressway from US 70 east of Hot Springs to SH 5 and SH 7 in Fountain Lake.



Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association

1. LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT TO ALLOW FOR ELIGIBILITY OF FEMA FUNDS

RECOMMENDATION:

The community of Hot Springs Village (HSV) recommends amendment to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to eliminate the phrase “to the general public”. This would permit HSV’s Property Owners Association eligibility of FEMA funds in cases of declared disaster.

BACKGROUND:

Hot Springs Village is a private non-profit facility entity covering 40.6 square miles and is comprised of 26,000 acres with 34,000 residential property owners. Currently there are 8,000 dwellings, housing 13,000 full-time residents. Collectively, these property owners and/or residents contribute \$40M in federal revenue via income taxes, \$11M in state revenue via income tax, and \$12.2M (including \$9M specifically for schools) in county revenue for roads, libraries, schools, and governmental operations. Its makeup and services are not unlike many incorporated areas/municipalities within the state of Arkansas and throughout the country.

Section 42USC5122(9) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act defines a private non-profit facility as follows:

*“Private non-profit facility means private non-profit educational, utility, emergency, medical, rehabilitational, and temporary or permanent custodial care facilities (including those for the aged and disabled), other private non-profit facilities which provide essential services of a governmental nature **to the general public**, and facilities on Indian reservations as defined by the President.”*

Because Hot Springs Village is a property owner association rather than a recognized “formal seat of government”, it was deemed ineligible to qualify for FEMA disaster relief funds in 2000/2001 based on the phrase “**to the general public**” despite suffering \$300,000 in major damage and cleanup. Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association, along with similar non-profit, private facilities across the country, provide essential services of a governmental nature to its residents who pay federal and state taxes, but whose associations receive little direct benefits for those taxes.

In 2005, Congressman Alcee Hastings, Florida, introduced H.R. 1137 in an effort to assist private communities in Florida who received damage from hurricanes. Subsequently, Congressman Mike Ross, Arkansas, signed on as a co-sponsor in support of private communities who could receive damage from natural disasters in the future. While this bill remains in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, HSV supports the ideology of it and would welcome passage as an alternative to amendment of the Stafford Act.

We contend the property owners of Hot Springs Village contribute significantly toward the funding of the federal government and its many agencies and should, therefore, be eligible to receive financial assistance in times of disaster.



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2. FUNDING FOR COMPLETION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING EXPRESSWAY

RECOMMENDATION:

The community of Hot Springs Village recommends the Department of Transportation (FHWA) provide funding to complete the construction of Martin Luther King Expressway from US 70 east of Hot Springs to SH 5 and SH 7 in Fountain Lake.

BACKGROUND:

Hot Springs Village covers 40.6 square miles and is comprised of 26,000 acres with 34,000 residential property owners. Currently there are 8,000 dwellings, housing 13,000 full-time residents but future growth projections will multiply those numbers exponentially. The majority of residents utilize the neighboring city of Hot Springs as a source for medical care, shopping, dining, entertainment, cultural events, and educational opportunities. Furthermore, it is the county seat for Hot Springs Village residents living in Garland County.

Since 1987, \$71.7M has been spent to complete a Hot Springs by-pass from SH70 East to SH270 and SH70 West. There is currently \$10M earmarked by Congressman Mike Ross and Senator Mark Pryor for the last phase. However, cost projections are \$80M for the remaining 5.5 miles needed to complete this project, which will connect SH5 and SH7 from the north to the by-pass. Completing MLK Expressway would provide improved access between Hot Springs Village and Hot Springs (via the by-pass connection) for all residents and is essential to emergency services response times in saving lives requiring transport to the city. This project currently ranks as the number one priority of Hot Springs Area Transportation MPO.