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City of Madison to Begin Full Focus on Downtown Development

City Funding and Legislative Donations Boost Growth

Madison AL, July 8, 2010 – Today, City of Madison officials announced their plans to begin long awaited streetscape improvements to the downtown area, effectively setting in motion additional City goals of new developments for an expanded downtown area.

The City's public investment signifies the partnership Madison plans with private sector development. Madison business owners Tony and Cindy Sensenberger plan a major new development on Main Street that will include six ground-floor retail units with office and business space above, for a total of approximately 20,000 square feet of new space on Main Street.

Initial building illustrations show a historic character and charm that will contribute to the streetscape of historic Madison Station. City staff is working with the developers to locate tenants for this new space to get the project started. Of particular interest are a dinner restaurant, a coffee shop and/or bakery, and other retailers that compliment the local artists, gift, and antique offerings.

In June, the Madison City Council approved \$250,000 to begin improvements that will include underground utilities, upgraded sidewalks, improved drainage, and additional downtown parking. Combining City funding with that recently provided by Senators Arthur Orr and Tom Butler, and Representatives Mike Ball and Mac McCutcheon, a total of \$305,000 will be allocated for these improvements.

“Investments by business and private property owners over the past two years have created momentum, and the City is eager to partner in seeing that continue,” said Mayor Paul Finley. “*Madison Cottages* residences near Main Street, the Clay House (now 106 Main), and 110

Main renovations have provided an excellent foundation for growth in the historic core of our City.”

Finley indicated the City’s efforts to begin public improvements are intended to support existing and desired future businesses. “By upgrading the physical appearance and the functionality of downtown, Madison can be a partner with private investors and owners to attract the tenants and customers they are seeking.”

The Sensenbergers helped spearhead the first phase of development along Main Street with the purchase of Clay House, which is now a focal point for Madison’s Main Street as a living artist community.

About the MCC

The Madison Chamber of Commerce is an institution of leadership and the advocate for Madison’s business community – large and small -- promoting economic and civic growth for our region. For more information, visit www.madisonchamber.com

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