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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Riverfront Development Committee Pledges \$67,500 to Stellar Efforts

The City of Madison and the Riverfront Development Committee announced today that the Riverfront Development Committee has pledged \$67,500 toward the riverfront sidewalk extension, which is a Stellar Communities project.

The sidewalk extension will continue the brick path from its current ending spot across from the Riverboat Inn all the way to Ferry Street near the City of Madison Campground. The sidewalk extension is slated to begin in the next 30 days and will be completed mid-summer. With the addition of this section of sidewalk, the riverfront walkway that began in 1986 will stretch nearly 1.5 miles from the City Campground at Ferry Street to the beginning of the Heritage Trail at Vernon Street.

Jim Pruett, President of the Riverfront Development Committee said, "I am excited that we are finally doing this last phase of sidewalk, which continues the legacy of those who envisioned and began this project over thirty years ago. The fact that we are able to do this section is a testament to the hard work of our current board, all those who served on the board before us, and the donors who believed in this project and have purchased bricks, benches, overlooks, and lights to make this community effort possible."

"We have one of the most beautiful riverfronts in the entire United States. It is a jewel of this community and we receive compliments on it from guests and visitors from all over the world. I am grateful for the group of individuals that had the vision to begin this walkway back in 1986 and we're so glad to be able to add another section for all to enjoy," said Mayor Damon Welch.

Businesses and individuals that are interested in supporting the Stellar Madison Fund can contact Nicole Schell or Andrew Forrester at the Mayor's Office or Bill Barnes at the Community Foundation. Madison was designated as a Stellar Community in October 2017. More information about Stellar can be found at [www.stellarmadison.org](http://www.stellarmadison.org).

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Attached: check presentation photo. Pictured L to R: Riverfront Development Committee members Bob Wall, Jim Pruett, John Bruns, Mayor Damon Welch, Kirk Grooms, JD Webster, and City Planner/Preservation Coordinator Nicole Schell.