



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Kay Ivey
Governor

John R. Cooper
Transportation Director

September 30, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: City of Pelham, Alabama: Proposed grade separation for the rail-highway grade crossing along County Road 52
FY22 Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Alabama Department of Transportation writes to express support for the City of Pelham Fiscal Year 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination grant application. This area has seen tremendous growth along with Rail Transportation. While growth is an overall positive for the community, it has created problems with existing infrastructure. Train traffic growth has exacerbated a problem at the rail-highway grade crossings in this area. Stalled or stopped trains have added several minutes to public safety response times. There have been a number of train and vehicle collisions at each of the two crossings. The City of Pelham is committed to constructing a grade separation for CR-52 over the railroad that would help alleviate these issues and allow both the community and the railroad to continue to operate and grow without hindering one another. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is in favor of eliminating at-grade crossings where possible to eliminate potential conflict points.

This request of funding is to prepare the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) document, obtain the necessary permitting, prepare the final engineering design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of the grade separation of CR-52. The grade separation requires the realignment of CR-52 for approximately one mile along with a new alignment with US 31. The realignment with US 31 will greatly improve the traffic operations along with contributing to the congestion management for this corridor. The mission of ALDOT is to facilitate economic and social development and prosperity through the efficient movement of people and goods and to facilitate intermodal connections within Alabama. Accordingly, this project is a priority not only for the City of Pelham but also for the State of Alabama as a whole.

Sincerely,

John Cooper
Transportation Director
Alabama Department of Transportation