



**Lewis Brooks,**  
**Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

August 30, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of improved roadwork on highway 52 in Shelby County Alabama to improve traffic flow and efficiency in the Pelham and Helena communities. This area continues to be one of the fastest growing areas in the state and there are many issues with the flow of traffic due to the of railroad crossings in this area.

Living in the Pelham/Helena community for the last 30 years, I have seen the growth continue to rise. While a growing and prosperous community is important, it is also vital that the roadways can accommodate this growth. Currently, that is not the case, and it has tremendous adverse impact on the quality of life for citizens. As a school leader, we also see overwhelming delays with getting our students to school on time because we often experience long train delays on the tracks at the most inopportune times. As I am sure you are aware, getting students to school on time makes for a much more productive day and of course, improves the education of our students' long term.

In previous years, there has been discussion about creating a flyover access over the railroad crossing, which would improve the traffic flow to Interstate 65. This community is in desperate need of those conversations again, but more importantly some action toward that end. Quality of life is crucial in a community, and it begins with infrastructure. There are improvements needed to the highway 52 corridor, and I ask that you consider all options available to correct these challenges.

Respectfully,

Lewis Brooks Ed. D.  
Superintendent  
Shelby County Schools

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