

ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Kenneth Paschal

State Representative
House District 73
Shelby County and the Cities of
Alabaster, Helena, Montevallo, and
Pelham

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Committee Assignments
Military and Veterans Affairs
Constitution Campaigns and
Elections
Shelby County Legislation

August 17, 2022

Dear Sir or Madam:

As an Alabama Representative for House District 73, I have seen firsthand the many issues experienced in Shelby County, specifically in Pelham, with railroad crossings. I believe that the city of Pelham is the perfect candidate for funding from the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program.

For years the city of Pelham has worked with railway companies to try to avoid blocked roads, monitor train timing to avoid rush hour, and prevent accidents. Even with this partnership, we are still regularly seeing issues in one area. There are two railroad crossings within 30 yards of each other in Pelham that have become incredibly dangerous over the years. We have seen a number of accidents involving trains and vehicles, as well as many public service vehicle delays in emergency situations that have severely impacted first responders' ability to act quickly. Even recently, we saw a track maintenance closure that was not brought to the city's attention until the day of the closure, impacting the city's ability to notify residents and first responders in the area in an appropriate amount of time.

Several years ago, the City of Pelham developed a plan that would create a fly-over of the specific area that is currently causing issues. At that time, the city completed most of the front-end work for the plan, but the total cost of the project was prohibitive. Since that time, this road has seen an increase in traffic and issues with the train tracks, so the city is again looking to revive and implement this plan. If awarded funding from the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program, the city would be able to create an alternate route for citizens and enhance the safety and infrastructure in the area.

With the majority of the planning already completed, this project is a prime opportunity to make a big difference with funding from the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. I hope you see the potential impact this would have on this community and will help me support their continued safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth Paschal".

Representative Kenneth Paschal
Alabama House District 73