



To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Pelham City Schools in support of the County Road 52 (CR-52) overpass project for the City of Pelham.

The Pelham City School system has been fortunate to experience an increase in our student population of approximately 9.2% since 2014. The increase in families moving to our community has led to an effort to accommodate growth in our school facilities. In addition, this growth has also led to an increase in the transportation services we provide. Since 2014, the number of students transported by school bus has increased significantly. We have grown from a total of 36 bus routes in our fleet to 52 bus routes currently.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the school bus is the safest vehicle on the road for students. While our bus fleet does reduce the number of vehicles transporting students to and from school each day, additional measures for traffic improvement are needed to reduce the commute times of our students, namely, the CR-52 overpass project.

The railroad crossing at CR-52 causes significant delays for our students and families throughout the school year. When the railroad crossing is blocked during the morning commute, students arrive late to school, resulting in a loss of instructional time. This greatly affects the students and families traveling from this area of the city.

Please know that we as a school system understand the importance of this project. We greatly support the efforts made by the City of Pelham for its completion. I am very thankful for the opportunity to express our support of this project on behalf of Pelham City Schools. If any additional information is needed, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Floyd Collins*

Floyd Collins

Director of Operations

Pelham City Schools.

Fcollins@pelhamcityschools.org

205-624-3803