



Pelham Police Department

Patrick S. Cheatwood
Chief of Police

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the Flyover Project for the two railroad crossings located at Highway 52 West in order to provide safety to our citizens who travel this road to and from Pelham and Helena. This flyover will prove beneficial for our fire, EMS, and police officers who are responding to emergencies without being stopped or delayed by passing trains.

Pelham has been plagued with lengthy delays for years, specifically on Hwy 52 West, where there are two railroad crossings. Stalled or stopped trains have added several minutes to public safety response times in dozens of instances. In an emergency, every minute matters, and we are committed to public safety and the well-being of our residents and visitors. Additionally, there have been a number of train vs. vehicle collisions at each of the two crossings.

Indirectly, this will also allow faster response times to the neighboring cities as this is a main passage from some of our outlying stations to respond to Alabaster and Calera, as well as Hoover and North Shelby. The only negative side to this will be during the construction phase. There is no way to put a value to the positive impact to public safety and lives saved by this flyover.

I am in strong support of this project and ask that the Federal Railroad Administration grant approval of this request through the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. In my 22 years at the Pelham Police Department, I have personally dealt with many delays involving the crossings and have responded to many crashes, some fatal, that have affected the traffic flow for extended periods of time.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need anything else. My email is pcheatwood@pelhamalabama.gov, and my phone number is 205-620-6550.

Respectfully,

Patrick S. Cheatwood

Chief of Police