



**Ascension
St. Vincent's**

September 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

As one of the largest healthcare organizations in the central Alabama area, Ascension St. Vincent's values the safety of the individuals and families in our communities. It has come to our attention that there is a grant opportunity available related to the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program (RCEP), administered by the Federal Railroad Administration. We would like to offer our support of the City of Pelham, Alabama as applicants for this grant.

The Pelham area has been troubled by two railroad crossings, in particular, on Highway 52 West. Public safety response times have been lengthened substantially by stalled or stopped trains, hindering ill or injured individuals from receiving timely treatment due to access delays for first responders or with ambulance transport. Both of these crossings have also been the site of numerous collisions between trains and vehicles over the years.

Due to the expense of the proposed Highway 52 flyover, which was proposed several years ago, plans for that project were sidelined. If the City of Pelham was a beneficiary of this federal funding and the Highway 52 flyover was realized, the level of delays in public safety and patient care would be greatly decreased. This flyover would benefit the citizens of the City of Pelham as well as those in the City of Helena and the surrounding unincorporated sections of Shelby County.

As Ascension St. Vincent's moves toward an additional presence in Shelby County with the upcoming construction of a freestanding emergency department, we feel that this project, once completed, would provide an impactful and necessary improvement in accessibility to the residents and visitors of the area. We appreciate your consideration of the City of Pelham's application.

Sincerely,

Jason P. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer, Ascension St. Vincent's
Senior Vice President, Ascension

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