



**Community Development Authority, City of Pelham**

September 8, 2022

Federal Railroad Administration  
The U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Federal Railroad Administration Grant, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program**

To Federal Railroad Administration Grant Reviewers,

On behalf of the Community Development Authority in the City of Pelham, this letter is being sent to support Pelham, Alabama's grant application to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program.

We understand the goal of the CRISI is to improve safety and eliminate lengthy delays at railroad crossings in communities across the country and we cannot imagine a location more in need of your support to eliminate delays, traffic backups, and congestion, and improve public safety.

The City of 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 delayed public safety response times in dozens of instances. In an emergency, every minute matters, and Pelham is committed to public safety and the well-being of its residents and visitors. Additionally, there have been several train-versus-vehicle collisions at each of the two crossings identified in this grant request.

Lastly, these delays impact the economic base of the community and location choices for companies that do not want to have such uncertainty in their workforce and logistics. The benefit of the resulting flyover project will extend to Helena and the western parts of unincorporated Shelby County, in suburban Birmingham.

Please select the Pelham project to improve the local infrastructure and public safety.

Thank you in advance for assisting the cities of Pelham and Helena, Alabama in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Darius Foster  
Board Chair, Community Development Authority