



Peter S. Valenti
Fire Chief

City of Helena – Fire & Rescue

816 Highway 52E • P.O. Box 262 • Helena, Alabama 35080
(205) 663-5809 • helenafire.com

November 10, 2022

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 for our citizens that 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.

Helena residents, as well as Helena FD, have 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, when Helena FD is providing automatic aid. 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.

I am in strong support of this project and ask that the Federal Railroad Administration grant approval of this request through the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program.

Respectfully,

Peter S. Valenti, Fire Chief
Helena Fire Department
816 Highway 52 East Helena, AL 35050
(205) 663-5809 Option #6