



To whom it may concern,

November 10, 2022

I am writing on behalf of the pending grant proposal by our neighboring city of Pelham, Alabama. The City of Pelham is applying for funding under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program for a flyover to bypass 2 sets of railroad tracks that have consistently caused significant and in some cases, life threatening delays for many years.

The City of Helena lies to the west of Pelham, and the road that is affected by the crossings in question is a road that thousands of Helena residents utilize each day to travel to Pelham and points east such as Interstate 65. Helena has a population of over 22,000 people and easily 1/3 of those will travel Highway 52 into Pelham any given day. When the crossings are blocked, it causes significant traffic delays through both our cities. What compounds the problem is the length of times the crossings are blocked and the fact that the railroad can not advise as to how long the crossings will be blocked.

Having worked in the public safety field for 31 years, I understand the importance of having unfettered access to the fastest route to an emergency call, as well as the same importance for an ambulance being able to quickly and in the most direct manner, transport someone in need of urgent medical care to the hospital. The situation in Pelham and the railroad crossing places lives in danger on a daily basis by blocking a main artery where their police and fire department routinely travel to provide services. When this happens, our city gladly provides mutual aid services to Pelham, but it adds precious minutes on to the response times.

With Pelham being provided the funding for this project, the lives of both of our citizens will be affected in a positive way. For both the everyday commuter, to the lives of those in need of medial, law enforcement or fire department assistance, this flyover ensures a higher quality of life for all of us. I fully support Pelham on their efforts and will be glad to address any concerns in reference to this effort.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Flynn".

Brad Flynn  
Chief of Police

Brad Flynn, Chief of Police • Helena Police Department

☎ (205) 663-6499 | 816 Highway 52 East • Helena, Alabama 35080

