



September 8, 2022

Gretchen DiFante
Pelham City Manager
City of Pelham
P.O.Box 1419
Pelham, Alabama 35124

Dear Gretchen DiFante:

I am writing to express how much Pelham City Schools supports this Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program grant application. Pelham City Schools often experiences times where the crossing on Shelby County 52 is blocked and it causes buses, students, and employees to be significantly delayed in reaching their appointed schools. More importantly, however, is the delay we have seen it cause for Pelham's first responders, who are critical to emergency needs in our schools.

A priority for me as superintendent is also the fact that we have several hundred novice drivers who attend our high school, many of whom drive across this section of railroad track. Just as I have to consider these young drivers when making a determination to close school for weather issues, I must consider their inexperience as I recommend this grant proposal. Removing this major railroad crossing through the construction of a flyover will enhance the safety of our Pelham High School students significantly through removal of a major hazard, as well as supporting the safety of all our schools by reducing the time to respond to a school call for our first responders.

Please consider the safety of our schools and students and implore the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program to approve a grant for this project that is so desperately needed for Pelham and Shelby County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. L. Ledbetter", with a blue arrow pointing to the right above it.

C. L. (Chuck) Ledbetter, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Pelham City Schools