



Pelham
A path apart.

November 29, 2022
Letter of Support
CRISI Grant opportunity

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Pelham Planning Commission is in full support of this application. Please accept these comments in support of this project:

Commissioner Chad Hester:

This crossing has been an issue for the city of Pelham since I first moved here 28 years ago. I have seen Ambulances, with lights flashing sitting and waiting on that crossing to clear. If you are familiar with this crossing, you know there is no logical way around it. Even if you turned around, the distance and time it took could be fatal to someone in a life-threatening ride in that Ambulance. Let's think about how a firetruck could be delayed at this crossing as well. There could be many casualties and property loss if that truck could not get to its destination on time. Many lives have been affected by this crossing and should be addressed immediately. There have been talks in our community about this since I have lived here as well. Until now, that has just been a pipe dream. Let's do what is right for our citizens. They are the heart of our community, and they deserve to live in a place where they don't have to worry about the safety of their loved ones if they happen to be caught by that crossing in a life-threatening situation. Also, the inconvenience it causes to each city (Pelham, Helena) People not being able to open their businesses on time or being late to work, Hours of City staff fielding calls from citizens and then calling the railroad to try to get some answers on why this continuously keeps happening. It seems that the more citizens that move to Pelham the longer that train stays "parked" at that intersection. Someone told me a few years ago that an engineer/conductor of one of those "Parked" trains got off the train to get some Donuts and coffee, and he thought "it was funny" that "his" train was blocking the intersection for hours that day. This is NOT a laughing matter. It does not appear that the Railroad is willing to help our city's, but I Humbly and with great humility Ask, that whatever it takes, we SOLVE this issue.

Thank You

Chad Hester

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Commissioner Chad Leverett

The railroad crossings at CR-52 and Lee St in Pelham, AL have been an issue for years and years. In 1990 the City of Pelham, AL had approximately 9,800 residents. This quickly jumped to 14,400 in 2000, 21,400 in 2010, and now in 2022 estimated at 24,912. Notice on the graph a continued climb, and a consistent climb from 2010 to 2022 at a rate of approximately 16%. There is no indication of this trend tapering off as we have new construction everywhere most notably in Grey Oaks, Wild Timber, Camellia Ridge, Kinross, and Simms Landing with all of these being \$300k-\$400k and up homes. There is also a large commercial development underway that will involve Tractor Supply and two other large commercial structures. With a continued growth of 16% there would be a minimum of 28,897 residents in Pelham in 2032, which is approximately 3,985 additional residents. Taking this roughly 4,000 and dividing by the average family size of 4 would leave approximately 1,000 additional homes. Assuming an average of 2.5 drivers per home would leave approximately 2,500 more vehicles on the roads in Pelham per day. We have GOT to find a solution to the ongoing negligence of CSX leaving trains stopped on the tracks at CR-52 and Lee St. This grant will provide the funding needed to resolve this issue once and for all. No more complaints from residents being stopped at the tracks for HOURS, no more city resources tied up trying to contact CSX to figure out when they can move the trains, no more police having to redirect traffic, etc. This is much needed for our city to continue growing. As the population grows so do the vehicles on the roadways, and we have to figure out a solution today before it's too late.

Respectfully

Chad Leverett

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Commissioner and Councilman Rick Wash:

I have been a resident of the city of Pelham since 1975 (47 years) and for the first 15 years that I lived in Pelham my family lived on King Valley road that is on the Helena side of 52 west so we had to deal with the unsafe crossings and train delays on a daily basis. So this problem has been around for a long time but in the past 20 years has continued to get worse every year and has now escalated to dangerous proportions.

I was the lead traffic investigator for the Pelham Police Dept for several years and during that time I investigated countless serious accidents and fatalities that involved the train crossing on county road 52. Not to mention the safety issues of not being able to respond to emergencies because of trains stopped on the crossing for several hours at a time.

The two tracks on 52 west are approximately 200 yards apart doubling the hazards and liability. Not to mention the life safety concerns of having two tracks that close together on a very busy road that is not only a heavily traveled road by Pelham residents but is also one of the main thoroughfares into Helena.

I how have the honor to serve on the Pelham city council and one of the biggest concerns I get from citizens is for the safety of their loved ones as they travel this dangerous section of road.

I hope that you will give careful consideration to helping us with this grant so that we can provide safe streets for our community.

Yours truly,

Rick Wash

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Commission Chairperson Kim Speorl

I support the City's application for the CRISI Grant funding.

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Commissioner Russell Biciste

I support the City's pursuing this funding.

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Commissioner Joey Pitts

I strongly support this endeavor.

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Commissioners Claude Peacock and David Russell expressed their full support for this application.

Respectfully,



Sherri Proctor

Secretary, City of Pelham Planning Commission on behalf of the Chairperson