

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: 2024 Mega Grant Application Support I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As a unified congressional delegation, we write today in strong support of the Alabama Department of Transportation's (ALDOT) application to the Department of Transportation (DOT) to receive a Mega grant, also known as the National Infrastructure Project Assistance program.

While the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project does not extend across every congressional district in the state, we stand united in emphasizing how critical this transportation infrastructure is to the entire State, region, and nation. Spanning eight states, I-10 connects many of the country's major cities and seaports, serves as a primary transportation artery for both travel and commerce throughout the United States, and is a major evacuation route given the Gulf Coast's propensity for being in the path of major storms such as hurricanes.

Currently, to traverse the Mobile River and Mobile Bay on I-10, the majority of traffic must first utilize the Wallace and Bankhead tunnels in Mobile, each built more than 50 years ago and currently three times over the originally constructed capacity. Traffic must then cross a roughly 7.5-mile bridge across Mobile Bay, also constructed over 50 years ago. Like the tunnels, this bridge is over capacity and not built to meet current safety and environmental standards.

Moreover, due to safety regulations, all hazardous cargo is unable to use the current tunnels and, therefore, must move via a state highway that runs through the historic and disadvantaged community of Africatown. The new Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project will add needed capacity for all travelers as well as divert the majority of traffic onto the new infrastructure, including hazardous cargo away from Africatown, creating a safer and more efficient route for all.

Much progress on the project has been made in recent months. With continued support and cooperation with local officials, the project is in its strongest position to date. ALDOT has acquired all the needed right of way to construct the project and has selected the main design-build teams to construct this large and complex endeavor. However, the project, like many others across the

country, has seen a steady rise in costs and it's evident that federal funding is key to addressing this challenge.

We appreciate DOT's designation of this project as one worthy of additional technical support from the Build America Bureau within DOT. It is our understanding that these conversations between ALDOT and DOT have been fruitful, leading to further advancements in the project itself.

Therefore, as elected members of the Alabama congressional delegation, we hope that DOT gives full, fair, and favorable consideration to the ALDOT's application for this important project. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Jerry Carl
Member of Congress (AL-01)



Barry Moore
Member of Congress (AL-02)



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress (AL-03)



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress (AL-04)



Dale W. Strong
Member of Congress (AL-05)



Gary Palmer
Member of Congress (AL-06)



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress (AL-07)

