

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 19, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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

The I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project is not in every congressional district in Alabama; however, it is a critical piece of transportation infrastructure to the entire State, region, and nation. I-10 connects eight states, many of the country's major cities and seaports, and serves as a primary transportation artery for both travel and commerce throughout the United States.

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, which was also constructed more than 50 years ago. Like the tunnels, this bridge is over capacity and not built to 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. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has acquired all the needed right of way to construct the project. Additionally, ALDOT has selected the main design-build teams to construct this large and complex endeavor. These teams are conducting field surveying and geotechnical work as we move toward an anticipated construction start date at the end of this year or early next year.

We are appreciative of 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 State of Alabama's application for this important project. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



---

Katie Boyd Britt  
U.S. Senator



---

Tommy Tuberville  
U.S. 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)