

U.S. SENATOR  
KATIE BOYD BRITT  
ALABAMA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Cullman, AL - Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG)

Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in strong support for the grant application submitted by the City of Cullman for a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) to relocate and widen the St. Bernard Bridge on U.S. Hwy 278/AL Hwy 69.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program's mission is to strengthen supply chains, spur economic development, and improve safety and daily life. The application submitted by the City of Cullman seeks to accomplish these goals by widening the approach to five lanes on U.S. Hwy 278/AL Hwy 69 to provide a safer transition to the bridge and accommodate the increasing traffic in downtown Cullman.

The 2020 Census showed a 23% population increase in the City of Cullman and a 9% increase in Cullman County over the preceding decade. Approximately 17,000 vehicles cross the St. Bernard Bridge daily to access local schools, businesses, industry, essential services, and residential areas. The traffic caused by the outdated bridge results in standstills throughout the day that endanger the community by limiting access to emergency services. The city cannot continue to grow without much-needed improvements to the bridge. The project is also vital for commerce in the rural surrounding counties. These improvements would provide the city and surrounding counties with increased access to schools, local businesses, and safe transit. Furthermore, this investment would directly enhance the capacity and efficiency of the transportation infrastructure and bolster the diverse economic interests of the entire region.

I urge your strong consideration of the application submitted by the City of Cullman for a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant to relocate and widen the St. Bernard Bridge on U.S. Hwy 278/AL Hwy 69. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator

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