

1 HJR67

2 205726-1

3 By Representatives Garrett, Boyd, Brown (C), Carns, Chestnut,
4 Collins, Crawford, Daniels, Drake, England, Farley, Faulkner,
5 Gaston, Givan, Gray, Greer, Harbison, Hill, Hollis, Hurst,
6 Ingram, Isbell, Johnson, Lawrence, Ledbetter, McCampbell,
7 McClammy, McCutcheon, McMillan, Meadows, Moore (P), Oliver,
8 Pettus, Pringle, Rafferty, Shedd, South, Stadthagen,
9 Standridge, Treadaway, Wadsworth, Warren and Whorton

10 RFD:

11 First Read: 27-FEB-20

1 205726-1:n:02/26/2020:FC/tj LSA2020-879

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8 SUPPORTING THE JEFFERSON COUNTY FEDERAL INFRA GRANT
9 APPLICATION FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA IN 2020.

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11 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation
12 annually awards competitive federal Infrastructure For
13 Rebuilding America, or INFRA discretionary grants, to
14 qualified projects under a clearly defined set of criteria;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Jefferson County has applied for a \$72
17 million INFRA Grant for FY 2020, to complete the first segment
18 of the Northern Beltline from SR75 to SR79 in northeast
19 Jefferson County and enjoys the full support of the Alabama
20 Department of Transportation, area mayors, first responders,
21 and business leaders; and

22 WHEREAS, the Jefferson County INFRA grant
23 application to complete the first segment of the Northern
24 Beltline will be the only INFRA grant application to be
25 submitted from the State of Alabama in 2020; and

26 WHEREAS, the Birmingham Northern Beltline project is
27 a congressionally designated project of the Appalachian

1 Development Highway System (ADHS) and its completion is
2 referenced in P.L. 112-141 as "a transportation priority of
3 national interest"; and

4 WHEREAS, completion of this first 1.9 mile six lane
5 limited access corridor is the first of a larger fully
6 connected interstate infrastructure project totaling 52.5
7 miles that will more efficiently move freight, emergency first
8 responders, and other commercial and non-commercial traffic
9 through the region; and

10 WHEREAS, after completion, the 52.5 mile Northern
11 Beltline interstate infrastructure project will generate over
12 \$2.67 billion per year in new business output and \$54 million
13 annually in new tax revenue including sales, income, and
14 property, and will facilitate the creation of over 21,000 new
15 jobs each and every year; and

16 WHEREAS, a 2017 study, conducted by the Appalachian
17 Regional Commission (ARC), found the overall benefits of the
18 Northern Beltline to be over four times the cost of the
19 estimated project cost of \$3.5B and that the Gross Regional
20 Product (GRP) in Alabama will realize an increase of \$1.395
21 billion per year post-construction with workforce
22 accessibility tremendously enhanced for the surrounding
23 Counties of Blount, St. Clair, Walker, Bibb and Tuscaloosa;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the completion of the first corridor will
26 serve as an economic catalyst for Jefferson County, the
27 central Alabama region, and the entire state, and will support

1 the USDOT's R.O.U.T.E.S (or Rural Opportunities to Use
2 Transportation for Economic Success) initiative by addressing
3 disparities in rural transportation infrastructure in order to
4 tangibly improve safety and economic competitiveness in all
5 parts of Jefferson County, the central Alabama region, our
6 state, and the country; and

7 WHEREAS, Alabama's Senior Congressional Delegation
8 Members Senator Richard Shelby and Representative Robert
9 Aderholt, with Representative Gary Palmer and Representative
10 Terri Sewell, have tirelessly worked with conviction and
11 steadfast resolve to re-establish dedicated federal funding
12 for the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) and thus
13 the Northern Beltline project in Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, Jefferson County will serve as the primary
15 sponsor and lead agency for a 2020 U.S. Department of
16 Transportation INFRA grant application, and ALDOT, in a
17 collaborative partnership with local leaders, will complete
18 the design plans, advertise, bid, and administer the
19 construction contract, perform construction engineering and
20 inspection on the construction project, and maintain the
21 project after construction is completed; and

22 WHEREAS, the INFRA grant program seeks to award
23 projects that benefit high traffic freight corridors and
24 recognizes the greater metro Birmingham area as having the
25 highest levels of traffic congestion in the state, especially
26 along its interstates and the principal arterials that carry
27 freight traffic; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body recognizes the Northern Beltline as a critically necessary major transportation infrastructure corridor essential for the continued growth of Alabama, acknowledges the economic and job creation opportunities that will occur as a direct result of its construction, and recognizes other critically important benefits of the project including increased road safety, reduced traffic congestion, and enhancement of local, regional, and statewide interstate connectivity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama Legislature supports the Members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation in their efforts to secure federal funding for the Appalachian Development Highway System and commend our Delegation for remaining committed to the vision and the promise that the Northern Beltline holds for our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Senate and Alabama House of Representatives by this resolution jointly support the Jefferson County 2020 INFRA grant application and the ultimate completion of the Northern Beltline for the long term betterment and growth of Alabama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be made available for distribution to support the Jefferson County 2020 INFRA grant application.