

1 HJR67  
2 205726-2  
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

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 SUPPORTING THE JEFFERSON COUNTY FEDERAL INFRA GRANT  
4 APPLICATION FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA IN 2020.

5

6 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation  
7 annually awards competitive federal Infrastructure For  
8 Rebuilding America, or INFRA discretionary grants, to  
9 qualified projects under a clearly defined set of criteria;  
10 and

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

17 WHEREAS, the Jefferson County INFRA grant  
18 application to complete the first segment of the Northern  
19 Beltline will be the only INFRA grant application to be  
20 submitted from the State of Alabama in 2020; and

21 WHEREAS, the Birmingham Northern Beltline project is  
22 a congressionally designated project of the Appalachian  
23 Development Highway System (ADHS) and its completion is  
24 referenced in P.L. 112-141 as "a transportation priority of  
25 national interest"; and

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

7                   WHEREAS, after completion, the 52.5 mile Northern  
8 Beltline interstate infrastructure project will generate over  
9 \$2.67 billion per year in new business output and \$54 million  
10 annually in new tax revenue including sales, income, and  
11 property, and will facilitate the creation of over 21,000 new  
12 jobs each and every year; and

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

22                  WHEREAS, the completion of the first corridor will  
23 serve as an economic catalyst for Jefferson County, the  
24 central Alabama region, and the entire state, and will support  
25 the USDOT's R.O.U.T.E.S (or Rural Opportunities to Use

1 Transportation for Economic Success) initiative by addressing  
2 disparities in rural transportation infrastructure in order to  
3 tangibly improve safety and economic competitiveness in all  
4 parts of Jefferson County, the central Alabama region, our  
5 state, and the country; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, the INFRA grant program seeks to award  
22 projects that benefit high traffic freight corridors and  
23 recognizes the greater metro Birmingham area as having the  
24 highest levels of traffic congestion in the state, especially

along its interstates and the principal arterials that carry 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.



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4 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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6 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

7 House of Representatives

8 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
9 and was adopted by the House 27-FEB-20.

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Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

Senate

27-FEB-20

Adopted