

MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSION

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JERRY L. CARL, PRESIDENT
MERCERIA LUDGOOD, COMMISSIONER
CONNIE HUDSON, COMMISSIONER
TELEPHONE (251) 574-5077



ADMINISTRATION
JOHN F. PAFENBACH
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
GLENN L. HODGE
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
TELEPHONE (251) 574-8606
FAX (251) 574-5080

July 23, 2015

Dear Governor Bentley:

The citizens of Mobile County and particularly those living within Mobile County Commission District 2 desperately need your attention and your support to complete the stalled new U.S. Highway 98 project.

The completion of the new U.S. 98 project is a major public safety issue, as I'm sure you're already aware. The existing Highway 98 has been ranked by ALDOT as #1 in Alabama for having the most traffic on a 2-lane road. Sadly, Highway 98 is also known as "Bloody 98" due to the frequent fatal accidents occurring on the roadway, which continue to increase every year as road congestion also increases.

The new U.S. 98 project has been on the Alabama Department of Transportation's (ALDOT) list of pending improvements for nearly 20 years, and in that time, only 5 of the 13 project phases have been completed. There are approximately 10 miles of the project left to complete, from Schillingers Road to the Mississippi state line at a projected cost of \$120 million. If funding were available today, it would still be nearly 5 years before the project could be completed. Further delays in funding the project will only continue to push the completion date out by years. Meanwhile, "Bloody 98" will continue to be the most dangerous 2-lane road for vehicular fatalities within the State of Alabama.

The purpose of this letter regarding the new U.S. Highway 98 project is to request that a portion of the \$1 billion claimed by the State of Alabama for economic loss in the BP settlement (agreement in principle) be earmarked through ALDOT for funding the completion of this project. Governor Bentley, speaking on behalf of the citizens that we both represent here in south Alabama, I implore you to help the area of the state that suffered most from the devastating impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill with this very critical need.

Thank you, in advance, for your utmost consideration and assistance with this most important matter. I look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can assist you in any way.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Hudson". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Connie Hudson
Mobile County Commissioner, District 2

Cc: Honorable Gregory Albritton, Alabama State Senator
Honorable Alan Baker, Alabama Representative
Honorable Elaine Beech, Alabama Representative
Honorable Napoleon Bracy, Jr. , Alabama Representative
Honorable James E. Buskey, Alabama Representative
Honorable Adline Clarke, Alabama Representative
Honorable Randy Davis, Alabama Representative
Honorable Barbara Drummond, Alabama Representative
Honorable Joe Faust, Alabama Representative
Honorable Vivian Davis Figures, Alabama State Senator
Honorable Victor Gaston, Alabama Representative
Honorable Rusty Glover, Alabama State Senator
Honorable Bill Hightower, Alabama State Senator
Honorable Thomas Jackson, Alabama Representative
Honorable Stephen A. McMillan, Alabama Representative
Honorable Trip Pittman, Alabama State Senator
Honorable Chris Pringle, Alabama Representative
Honorable David Sessions, Alabama Representative
Honorable Harry Shiver, Alabama Representative
Honorable Margie Wilcox, Alabama Representative
Honorable Jack Williams, Alabama Representative
Honorable Bradley Byrne, Alabama U.S. Representative
Mr. John R. Cooper, Director, ALDOT
Honorable Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County Commissioner, District 1
Honorable Jerry Carl, Mobile County Commissioner, District 3
Honorable Judy Hale, Mayor, City of Semmes
Mr. Joe Ruffer, Mobile County Engineer
Mr. Jay Ross, Mobile County Attorney
Mr. John Pafenbach, Mobile County Administrator