

SPENCER BACHUS  
6TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

COMMITTEE:  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

2246 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4921

1900 INTERNATIONAL PARK DRIVE  
SUITE 107  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35243  
(205) 969-2296

703 SECOND AVENUE NORTH  
P.O. BOX 502  
CLANTON, AL 35046  
(205) 280-0704  
<http://bachus.house.gov>

August 16, 2011

Mr. John R. Cooper  
Director  
Alabama Department of Transportation  
1409 Coliseum Boulevard  
Montgomery, AL 36110-2060

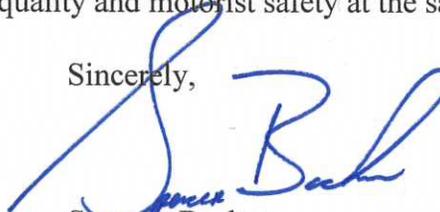
RE: Comments on the FY 2012-2015 Proposed Surface Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Mr. Cooper,

The construction and completion of the Birmingham Northern Beltline has been a priority since I was first elected to Congress in 1992. In fact, this project has become more urgent than ever in recent years due to gridlock associated with Malfunction Junction and the need to divert heavy truck traffic around the downtown commercial district. The Birmingham Metro Area's rapid population growth has further highlighted the need for a more complete by-pass. Thousands of jobs will be created during construction and many more through new development along this new modern highway. Traffic congestion, roadway accidents and fatalities will decrease.

We have an opportunity to aggressively fund and complete the Northern Beltline, and we cannot take our eyes off the goal. The completion of the Northern Beltline is essential to future economic growth and jobs in the Birmingham region and it is finally time to close the loop! This project has my full support because I believe it will have a significant positive economic impact on our community while improving air quality and motorist safety at the same time.

Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress

STB/tc