

WASHINGTON (May 11) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) has submitted the following remarks in support of the full completion of the Northern Beltline in connection with the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization’s request for public comment on a proposal to remove the western leg of the project.

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□□□□□□□□□□ ***The Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS), authorized by Congress in 1965 to fund major transportation corridors in thirteen states, includes I-22 and the Northern Beltline in Alabama. Nationwide, more than three quarters of the authorized 3,090 highway miles are complete. Funding through this program to each state is determined based on a formula that evaluates the total cost-to-complete of each corridor. Alabama has significantly more unfinished ADHS work, and therefore a higher cost-to-complete, than any of the other states whose major projects have already been completed. Alabama’s time to receive its full infusion of federal funds for the completion of the Northern Beltline has finally come. State leaders should aggressively pursue this funding to finish a project that has been a vision for many, many years.***

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