

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

1
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

1 along its interstates and the principal arterials that carry
2 freight traffic; now therefore,

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

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

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

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

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

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

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate

27-FEB-20

Adopted