

## Tawanda Gulley

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**Subject:** FW: <EXTERNAL> Baldwin County Commission - Mobile River Bridge Request  
**Attachments:** Sample Letter For INFRA Grant - Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project.docx;  
2017-10-03.pdf

**From:** Ericksen, Matthew [<mailto:ericksenm@dot.state.al.us>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2019 3:17 PM  
**To:** Charles F. Gruber  
**Cc:** Billie Jo Underwood; Joe Davis; Jeb Ball; Joey Nunnally  
**Subject:** <EXTERNAL> Baldwin County Commission - Mobile River Bridge Request

Dear Commissioner Gruber,

Thank you and the Baldwin County Commission for your on-going support of the Interstate 10 [Mobile River Bridge and Bayway](#) project. This vital project has made great progress during the last two years – and we need your support to keep up the momentum.

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is submitting an application for an [INFRA Grant](#) through the U.S. Department of Transportation to partially fund the project.

In previous years, the Baldwin County Commission submitted a letter of support, which was included with ALDOT's grant application package. ALDOT is asking for you to provide a letter of support to be submitted with the upcoming application.

Attached is a copy of the letter the Commission previously sent as well as a sample letter for your consideration.

Key features of this project:

- A new, signature six-lane bridge over the Mobile River; the Wallace Tunnel will remain in operation
- Replacement of the existing Bayway; new Bayway includes eight lanes of travel and will be 10-14 feet higher than the existing bridges
- Reconfiguration of seven interchanges to assure access and safety
- Estimated cost is approximately \$2 billion; ALDOT is pursuing an array of financing to fund this project
- ALDOT's first Public-Private Partnership
- ALDOT's first tolled facility; All-Electronic Tolling to be implemented to assure safety and reliability

During the last year, ALDOT has made great progress with this project:

- Met with the U.S. DOT's Build America Bureau in December to officially present the project for consideration of a [TIFIA loan](#)
- Working through a thorough environmental review process with the Federal Highway Administration
- Completing the right of way property acquisition for the preferred alignment
- Continuing to work with industry professionals to determine the toll rate and frequent user discount

The importance and need of this project cannot be over emphasized. Our area is experiencing tremendous growth. Addressing congestion on Interstate 10 now will assure continued safety and high quality of life in Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

The deadline for the grant application is March 4, 2019; as such, we request your completed letter of support to be returned to ALDOT Director John Cooper no later than February 27. If possible, send an electronic version to me as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions or concerns.

Matthew Ericksen, P.E.  
Mobile River Bridge & Bayway Project Director – ALDOT  
(251) 434-6800

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