

# EASTERN SHORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## RESOLUTION NO. 2022-18

### Resolution of Support for Grant Application to Assist in Funding I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the organization designated by the Governor of the State of Alabama as being responsible, together with the State of Alabama, for implementing the applicable provisions of 23 USC 134 and 135 (amended by the FAST Act, Sections 1201 and 1202, December 2015); 42 USC 2000d-1, 7401; 23 CFR 450 and 500; 40 CFR 51 and 93; and

**WHEREAS**, Interstate 10 is a major East-West corridor for commercial and personal vehicles, and is the only interstate highway that connects the East Coast, West Coast, and Gulf Coast of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the portion of Interstate 10 connecting Mobile and Baldwin Counties was initially built for 30,000 vehicles per day, but now services more than 100,000 vehicles on peak days, with traffic volumes growing steadily and continuously; and

**WHEREAS**, Mobile and Baldwin Counties are home to significant industry, whose workforce and suppliers rely on Interstate 10 to safely move people and goods across Mobile Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port of Mobile, the Mobile International Airport, and numerous multimodal hubs all are located on Mobile Bay and frequently utilize Interstate 10 helping to stimulate and drive the economy of Mobile and Baldwin Counties, the State of Alabama and the entire Gulf Coast region; and

**WHEREAS**, traffic and congestion on Interstate 10 will continue to increase, with negative effects on public safety, commerce, and mobility in the region, if no action is taken; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mobile and Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) unanimously agree on the need for a new bridge over the Mobile River and Mobile Bay and a framework to achieve this goal; and

**WHEREAS**, the MPOs recognize that President Biden and Congress conceived and enacted the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which includes a new discretionary grant program designed to address infrastructure challenges of this type and magnitude; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation is committed to improving our nation's infrastructure through the National Infrastructure Assistance Program, or "Mega Grant" program; and


**WHEREAS**, this program can be a key funding component to address this crucial infrastructure need of local, regional, and national importance.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the MPOs support the Alabama Department of Transportation's application for a Mega Grant and any other sources of federal funding that may become available; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MPOs are immediately initiating the process within all applicable regulations and bylaws of adding the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project to their Transportation Improvement Plans (TIPs) to cooperate with the Alabama Department of Transportation to move the project forward and to qualify for and apply for the Mega Grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MPOs will finalize the process of including the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project in their TIPs as soon as possible under the ongoing review and oversight of their respective boards.

The foregoing resolution was adopted and approved on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022, by the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board.

  
Jack Burrell, Chairperson Date: 5/10/22

ATTEST:  
  
Jessica Mayo Date: 5/10/22