## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KAY IVEY GOVERNOR



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## STATE OF ALABAMA

August 6, 2019

Dear Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority Members,

Since my letter of August 2<sup>nd</sup> which calls for a meeting of this Authority on September 17<sup>th</sup>, it has come to my attention that a number of local, state, and federal officials may have a potential conflict, thereby resulting in the need to move this date to another time.

Simply put, my staff and I had no way of knowing that the Coastal Alabama Partnership (CAP) had already scheduled a "Washington, D.C. Fly In" for September 17<sup>th</sup>. According to CAP officials, some 20 local officials from both Mobile and Baldwin Counties had signed up to attend this meeting, the purpose of which is to meet with White House staff and senior staff with the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding, among other things, the proposed I-10 bridge project.

For this reason – and out of deference to many requests I have received from several officials who wish to attend both meetings – we will reschedule the next meeting of the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority. By having this meeting on a Monday, we are also making it more convenient should any members of our Federal Delegation wish to participate.

Therefore, after consulting with those officials who have contacted me, I am rescheduling the meeting to October 7, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. to be held in the Auditorium in the Alabama State Capitol.

The purpose of this meeting will remain to provide the members of the Authority – and, more importantly, the people of Alabama – with an update from ALDOT, to hear from other stakeholders who may wish to propose viable alternatives for financing the project, and to consider any other business that may properly come before the Authority.

All of us in public office must remain sensitive to the legitimate concerns of what a toll would do to working families, lower and middle-class individuals, small businesses, students and the elderly. That said, we must also remain equally concerned about the cost of doing nothing which is what some of the opponents are suggesting. Looking at options means looking at all options.

For these reasons, among others, I am asking for an opportunity for those who have alternative funding solutions to building a bridge to present their option to the Authority members.

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All presentations must be registered and submitted to Sandi Taylor at sandi.taylor@finance.alabama.gov by close of business on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 to be placed on the agenda.

Individuals will be allotted 5-10 minutes and will need to submit any materials in advance of being presented to the Authority. Duplicate or identical proposals may be consolidated to expedite this process. And out of respect for everyone's time, the Authority is looking to hear viable funding sources other than a toll, not simply to just hear from those individuals or groups who oppose any toll.

I look forward to hearing constructive alternatives and solutions to moving this project forward.

Sincerely,

Kay Ivey

Governor