

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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STATE OF ALABAMA

August 6, 2019

Honorable Jim Zeigler
State Auditor
Post Office Box 300200
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Mr. Zeigler:

I am in receipt of your August 5th letter in which you have asked that we change the date for the upcoming Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority to another date and, further, that we run the date by you first before we establish a new date.

Mr. Zeigler, with all due respect, you are mistaken to believe that we set the initial meeting of the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority based on your July 22nd letter. In fact, I received a letter from Senator Greg Albritton, who is a member of the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority, on July 19th and had, in fact, heard from Senator Albritton and other concerned legislators from Mobile and Baldwin Counties making similar requests even before that time.

I point this out because as members of my staff explained when they met with you on July 23rd, we are actively looking at all realistic solutions in order to find a way build this bridge. As you can appreciate, there are numerous important commerce and safety reasons why improving the congestion and flow of traffic along a new Mobile River Bridge and Bayway is needed. My administration welcomes all legitimate, serious proposals – including any from you – but simply saying “no bridge” without exploring all options is, in my opinion, not being responsible.

While I admit my office was not aware of a local referendum being held in Baldwin County on September 17th until I was speaking to EDAA yesterday in Orange Beach, I should let you know that the Coastal Alabama Partnership (CAP) contacted my office last Friday to ask that we consider moving the September 17th meeting of the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority to another date. This is due to the fact that CAP had scheduled a “Washington Fly In” several weeks ago for this same date – something of which my office was unaware when the September 17th date was chosen.

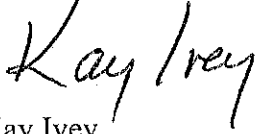
Mr. Wiley Blankenship, President of CAP, has informed my staff that his delegation traveling to Washington includes many local elected leaders from both Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

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Moreover, Mr. Blankenship said they have secured meetings with White House staff as well as senior officials with the U.S. Department of Transportation, specifically regarding the I-10 bridge project. For this very legitimate reason, I have asked my office to reschedule the meeting of the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority to Monday, October 7th.

Again, I appreciate your many letters on this important matter and would remind you, again, that we are looking for viable alternatives to keep this project alive. As you will recall, the plans to build a new bridge and enhanced Bayway have been in the works for almost a quarter of a century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kay Ivey
Governor