

[Insert heading]

May 23, 2023

To: Russell McMurry, Commissioner; Janine Miller, State Planning Director;; Cathy Williams, Board Member for the 2nd Congressional District; Dennis McEntire, Board Member for the 3rd Congressional District
From: Skip Henderson, Mayor of Columbus and the Columbus Council
CC: Brian Kemp, Governor of Georgia; Ed Harbison, Senator for District 15; Randy Robertson, Senator for District 29; Vance Smith, Representative for District 133; Richard Smith, Representative for District 134; Carolyn Hugley, Representative for District 136; Debbie Buckner, Representative for District 137; Teddy Reese, Representative for District 140
RE: Request for GDOT to Petition the FHWA

Commissioner McMurry, Director Miller, Mrs. Williams, & Mr. McEntire:

The Columbus Phenix City Metropolitan Planning Organization (CPC-MPO) requests the Georgia Department of Transportation to officially petition the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) to officially consider upgrades of J. R. Allen Parkway to interstate standards and designate said Parkway as part of I-14. In light of the passage of the Interstate 14 Amendment to the Infrastructure and Jobs Act (Public Law No. 117-58), the future highway route has been designated between Midland, Texas and Augusta, Georgia. Within Georgia, this encompasses US-80/GA-96 extending from Columbus to Augusta.

Based on precedent from the Texas Department of Transportation's and the FHWA's designation of I-14 in Texas, the CPC-MPO has identified the following steps to be taken by GDOT to accomplish our request:

(1) Prepare Request

GDOT should prepare a request for interstate designation to the FHWA. A technical report is developed in accordance with Title 23, Part 470 of the Code of Federal Regulations as part of the request. Depending on the location of the highway section, resolutions of support from metropolitan planning organizations and local governments may be necessary as part of the request.

(2) Submit Request to FHWA

The technical report is submitted to the FHWA for review and approval. During this step, there is typically some coordination between the state DOT and FHWA to address any

comments and concerns that the FHWA may have. The FHWA will then make a decision whether to approve the designation request.

Please let us know If you need any more information. The City of Columbus greatly appreciates you addressing our request.

Sincerely,

[insert signature]

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor