



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

April 3, 2017

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Madam Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the State of Georgia, thank you for reaching out to me on Friday in regards to the fire that heavily damaged Interstate 85 in Atlanta. I am grateful for the financial support you pledged to the state, both to help meet immediate and long term needs. The immediate response from the federal government will go a long way in making sure that we can have the interstate rebuilt in the most expeditious timeframe.

The Georgia Department of Transportation and other involved state and local agencies worked tirelessly through the weekend and made solid progress. However, as demolition transitions into construction, there may be unknown hurdles yet to be faced. I am officially requesting that the Federal Highway Administration waive all rules and regulations, specifically relating to contract awards for the duration of and in relation to this specific project.

Additionally, our transit systems—the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transportation Authority (MARTA) and the Georgia Regional Transit Authority (GRTA)—have already experienced increased ridership in the past few days and we fully expect that increase to continue for the duration of this project. In light of the increase, both Authorities have increased capacity and services. This will all come at an increased cost over the next several months. I am requesting that Federal Transit Administration provide financial assistance to both of the Authorities, both of which will continue to provide a vital service to Georgia's residents and visitors alike during the next several months.



Again, I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the rapid response from you and the President. I am confident that with the help of the federal government and the dedicated people working around the clock at the site of the collapse, we can rebuild the bridge in a safe, efficient, and timely manner. If you need any additional information from my office, please do not hesitate to contact Commissioner Russell McMurry at the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Deal".

Nathan Deal

cc:

Walter C. Waidelich, Jr., Acting Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Matthew Welbes, Executive Director, Federal Transit Authority
Russell R. McMurry, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation
Keith T. Parker, General Manager and CEO, Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)
Christopher Tomlinson, Executive Director, Georgia Regional Transit Authority (GRTA)