



CITY OF SELMA

SELMA, ALABAMA

36702-0401

JOE T. SMITHERMAN
MAYOR

July 15, 1999

Reverend Frederick D. Reese, Sr.
1566 Range Street
Selma, Alabama 36703

Dear Reverend Reese:

The City of Selma has supported the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Voting Rights Trail since the study for designation began.

At the City Council meeting on Monday, July 12, 1999, you, Reverend F. D. Reese, as County Coordinator representing the Selma-Dallas County Friends of the Trail, presented a list of properties rated by criteria developed by the Executive Board of the Friends for the City to accept when acquired. Those properties and rated order presented are:

- 1) Pilcher Property (corner of Broad Street and Water Avenue)
- 2) Learning House (across Pettus Bridge)
- 3) H. L. White Property (Highway 80 East)
- 4) IGA-Calhoun Property (behind Brown Chapel)
- 5) Martin Luther King, Jr. Street/Jeff Davis Avenue (across from First Baptist Church)

You stated that these properties must be publicly owned and requested the City of Selma to accept the properties when acquired so you could forward the information to the National Park Service, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration. You further stated that the final recommendation would be made by the National Advisory Committee of the National Park Service, the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. I understand, after having Elizabeth Driggers of my staff check with the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration, that it is very important for the funds to be obligated as soon as possible toward the acquisition of properties.

Rev. F. D. Reese
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Again, I support the National Trail and the City Council's approval to accept eligible properties when the National Park Service, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration complete their responsibilities and request the City of Selma to assume ownership. Please keep the City of Selma informed of the acquisition of the final recommended properties and our responsibility after ownership. Prior to acceptance, we should know the City's responsibilities pertaining to management and operation. Perhaps a meeting with all parties at the appropriate time would be beneficial.

We appreciate your commitment to the project along with the Friends Association, Alabama Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the National Park Service.

Please be assured the City will help in any way we can to continue the process of this project.

Sincerely,



Joe T. Smitherman
Mayor
City of Selma

JTS:j

cc: Mr. Joe D. Wilkerson
Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Mack Roberts
Alabama Department of Transportation
Mr. Rick McCollough
National Park Service