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Congress of the United States
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COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

April 1, 2026

Mr. Will Reid
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Transportation
James K. Polk Building, Suite 700
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0349

Dear Commissioner Reid,

I write to urge you to prioritize the long-overdue completion of Elvis Presley Boulevard and to include full funding for this project in Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)'s 10-Year Plan.

The current condition of Elvis Presley Boulevard is unacceptable. Deteriorating pavement, unsafe driving conditions, and ongoing vehicle damage have become daily realities for residents of Whitehaven and the thousands of visitors who travel this corridor each year. As a primary gateway to Memphis, this roadway should reflect the importance of the community it serves, not undermine it.

I recently met with a local community group whose frustration over this issue is deep and justified. For years, they have been promised improvements that have yet to materialize. This road is the major thoroughfare connecting Whitehaven to Mississippi and serves as a vital economic and cultural corridor. Yet despite its significance, it continues to be overlooked.

As you are aware, over a decade ago, plans were announced for a more than \$40 million redesign of Elvis Presley Boulevard, but this project has continuously been delayed and plagued with funding uncertainty. Constituents have increasingly raised concerns that the lack of progress and prioritization reflects inequitable treatment of their community. These concerns deserve serious attention.

Because 80 percent of the project's funding is federal, my office regularly hears from frustrated residents who expect progress and accountability. I share their concerns and am deeply invested in ensuring that this project moves forward without further delay.

While I recognize that TDOT must balance many priorities in developing its 10-Year Plan, the continued deferral of this project is not sustainable. I strongly encourage you to secure the resources necessary to fund repairs for Elvis Presley Boulevard and ensure the project is completed. Additionally, a clear timeline for completion would be helpful.

I look forward to your prompt attention to this matter and to working together to ensure this long-promised project is finally delivered.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress