

Mobile, March 14, 1922

Mr. Walter Parker,
Mgr. Association Commerce.

Dear Mr. Parker,-

You have had several communications about this Four-State Conference at Mobile. I am very anxious that you shall come and that New Orleans, and the state highway commission, shall be represented. I have never lost sight of the conversation you and I had about the OST being broken in two east of New Orleans. This Four-State Conference is my answer. I have been here in Mobile now for three months; helping first to do my little part to put over the \$25,000,000 bond issue. The new vision and hope I instilled into Mobile is believed by many to have had a great deal to do with Mobile's being the banner district voting 60 to 1. This town is unanimous for that bridge, but every little leader had a different method for getting it. Today the whole city is pulling together on this program, and this four-state conference is pulling hundreds of others into the game. Everyone is asked to lay off on the little differences for the one big thing.

In Alabama there are twelve highway commissioners; eleven are upstate. You can see what I have had to overcome. Mobile had lapsed into a state of hopelessness so far as outside aid was concerned.

Now we have the bridge project established as a state right. The enclosed "bridge argument" I have just prepared for the chairman on the presentation.

If the Old Spanish Trail can have this 200-mile link from New Orleans to Pensacola it will be open across the continent. Florida and Mississippi can be delivered, although Mississippi has the OST down as a secondary highway, and that I am fighting to correct. If now we can deliver Alabama, and you there can deliver Louisiana, a boulevard highway (Gulf Coast Boulevard we are calling it, and the state has taken it up) can be built. The federal engineers are with us.

I need the help of all of you. Am intending you shall be down for a talk Monday night at the banquet. Enclose OST news articles am just having sent out. Don't think I need to argue further the importance of this.

Sincerely,

Managing Director, OST
Battle House, Mobile.