

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS JOHNSON AND SENATOR JACKSON

TRANSPORTATION: Urges and requests the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism, to study the feasibility of creating a bike and walking trail along the Mississippi River in Northeast Louisiana

1    A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2    To urge and request the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism,  
3             to study the feasibility of creating a bike and walking trail along the Mississippi  
4             River spanning approximately eighty miles, beginning in Vidalia, Louisiana, and  
5             ending in East Carroll Parish in Lake Providence and make recommendations in  
6             regards to the creation.

7             WHEREAS, according to the Adventure Cycling Association, a leading organization  
8             that works with government officials, several states have commissioned studies and surveys  
9             on the economic benefits of bicycle and trail tourism, which contributes significantly to  
10            economies nationally; and

11            WHEREAS, the BBC Research and Consulting company conducted a recent study  
12            in Arkansas concluding that bicycling in Northwest Arkansas provides an economic benefit  
13            of \$137 million, with bike tourism serving as an economic driver from tourists spending \$27  
14            million at local businesses each year; and

15            WHEREAS, the research also concluded that houses within .25 miles of the  
16            Razorback Regional Greenway sell for an average of nearly \$15,000 more than houses two  
17            miles from the trail; and

18            WHEREAS, the Silver Comet Trail Economic Impact Analysis and Planning Study  
19            concluded that, in its current state, the Silver Comet Trail in Georgia produces

1 approximately \$120 million in total expenditures annually throughout the state, supporting  
2 approximately 1,300 jobs and earnings totaling \$37 million; and

3 WHEREAS, the Outdoor Industry Association released a study, The Outdoor  
4 Recreation Economy, finding that bicycling participants spend \$83 billion on bicycle tourism  
5 and generate \$97 billion in retail spending; and

6 WHEREAS, additionally, the findings concluded that bicycle recreation spending  
7 contributes to the creation of 848,000 jobs; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis included outdoor  
9 recreation for the first time in its 2018 study, estimating the economic output of outdoor  
10 recreation to be \$734 billion, surpassing multiple industries such as agriculture, petroleum  
11 and coal, and computer and electronic products; and

12 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates bicycling contributes to \$96  
13 million in annual retail sales; and

14 WHEREAS, in a recent study, the Active Transportation Transforms America  
15 estimated an economic value of \$34 billion with active transportation infrastructure in its  
16 current state, based on the economic value derived from trails from retail sales, tourism, the  
17 increase in property value, and the attraction from companies desiring to do business in these  
18 up-and-coming areas; and

19 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define active  
20 transportation as any human-powered means of transportation, such as walking or bicycling,  
21 and link physical inactivity to the steady rise in rates of chronic health conditions in the  
22 United States such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and strokes; and

23 WHEREAS, trails provide affordable exercise and recreation opportunities within  
24 the community and can aid in increasing the overall health of people in communities due to  
25 an increase in outdoor activities; and

26 WHEREAS, Louisiana is one of the most beautiful places in the country,  
27 encompassing the mighty Mississippi River, countless lakes, and all of the magnificent  
28 wonders of nature right at our fingertips, and an increase in tourism would provide an  
29 economic increase to further beautify this great state; and

1           WHEREAS, Louisiana's next big project, "DELTA TRAIL...On the Mississippi  
2 River", a bike and walking trail along the Mississippi River, will attract a huge amount of  
3 tourism to Northeast Louisiana and will be built along the levee, allowing people to see more  
4 of Louisiana in all of its facets throughout numerous parishes; and

5           WHEREAS, the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism,  
6 shall provide information and make written recommendations on the creation of the DELTA  
7 TRAIL in Northeast Louisiana, beginning in Vidalia, Louisiana, and ending in East Carroll  
8 Parish in Lake Providence; and

9           WHEREAS, the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism's  
10 recommendations shall include the following:

11           (1) Identification of bicycle tourism trail routes and the benefits of bicycle tourism  
12 trails.

13           (2) Design criteria.

14           (3) Estimated costs.

15           (4) Ideas for stakeholder engagement.

16           (5) Sustainability and best practices.

17           (6) Challenges with bicycle planning and development.

18           WHEREAS, the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism,  
19 shall address objectives for the tourism trail routes that establish the criteria for route  
20 locations, maps routes, and connect existing bicycle, transit, rail, vehicle, and pedestrian  
21 networks with potential tourism trails; and

22           WHEREAS, the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism,  
23 shall address objectives for fostering the development of safe bicycle tourism trails that  
24 establish the design criteria for various bikeway accommodations, provide guidance to  
25 identify or coordinate bikeway connections statewide, and provide guidance to identify costs  
26 associated with development of various bikeway accommodations; and

27           WHEREAS, the DELTA TRAIL will span approximately eighty miles long, with  
28 five rest areas along the way for campers, RVs, and vehicles to enjoy; and

29           WHEREAS, the trail will also include strategically placed benches and historical  
30 markers throughout Concordia, Tensas, Madison, and East Carroll parishes; and

1           WHEREAS, the DELTA TRAIL will be a tourist attraction that yields a large  
2 economic benefit for the state of Louisiana derived from retail sales and tourism, serve as  
3 an active transportation tool to aid in increasing the overall health of people in the  
4 communities, attract companies desiring to do business in these up-and-coming areas, and  
5 increase property values in Northeast Louisiana.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
7 urge and request the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism, to  
8 study the feasibility of creating a bike and walking trail along the Mississippi River spanning  
9 approximately eighty miles, beginning in Vidalia, Louisiana, and ending in East Carroll  
10 Parish in Lake Providence and make recommendations in regards to the creation.

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Culture, Recreation and  
12 Tourism, office of tourism, shall submit a written report to the House Committee on  
13 Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation,  
14 Highways and Public Works detailing its findings and recommendations for the creation of  
15 a bike trail along the Mississippi River in Northeast Louisiana prior to March 1, 2021.

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
17 to the secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 22 Engrossed

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Travis Johnson

Urges and requests the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism, to study the feasibility of creating a bike and walking trail along the Mississippi River spanning approximately 80 miles beginning in Vidalia, La., and ending in East Carroll Parish in Lake Providence. Requires a written report relative to the creation of the bike trail be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works prior to March 1, 2021.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add a provision to provide a date for the written recommendations by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism, to be

submitted to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works.