

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 251

BY REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT

TRANSPORTATION: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to study transportation options for western St. Tammany Parish

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to study
3 transportation options on Louisiana Highway 22 through Madisonville to alleviate
4 traffic and to increase the capacity over the Tchefuncte River.

5 WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish is one of the fastest growing parishes in the state
6 of Louisiana with a population that has almost quadrupled since the 1970s; and

7 WHEREAS, as residential growth along the Louisiana Highway 22 corridor in St.
8 Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes has increased, traffic has increased and continues to
9 worsen; and

10 WHEREAS, the highway congestion in western St. Tammany Parish has been a
11 major, ongoing issue for residents and commuters and highway projects are needed to catch
12 up with the growth in the area; and

13 WHEREAS, for years, the Louisiana Highway 22 swing bridge over the Tchefuncte
14 River has opened on call to boat traffic every half an hour, causing traffic jams for hours;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, under the new schedule, the Louisiana Highway swing 22 bridge now
17 opens on call to boat traffic every hour, instead of every half an hour, which provides a little
18 relief yet still does not alleviate the problem; and

19 WHEREAS, while opening the swing bridge to allow a boat through may only take
20 up to ten minutes, this delay can happen multiple times a day causing traffic to back up for
21 miles; and

1 WHEREAS, the fast-paced residential growth in the western St. Tammany area
2 combined with the slow-paced traffic congestion near the Louisiana Highway 22 swing
3 bridge over the Tchefuncte River at Madisonville is not conducive to economic growth and
4 creates rising frustration amongst residents and commuters from neighboring areas; and

5 WHEREAS, creating more transportation options near Louisiana Highway 22
6 through Madisonville, such as public-private partnership projects, tolling, projects involving
7 the Causeway Commission, and increasing the capacity over the Tchefuncte River, would
8 create safer routes for emergency evacuations, decrease daily traffic jams, reduce the amount
9 of time for commuters, and increase the traffic flow allowing for the stimulation of economic
10 development in one of the fastest growing parishes in the state of Louisiana, St. Tammany
11 parish.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of
14 Transportation and Development to study transportation options to alleviate traffic, such as
15 public-private partnership projects, tolling, projects involving the Causeway Commission,
16 and increase the capacity over the Tchefuncte River, near the Louisiana Highway 22 swing
17 bridge over the Tchefuncte River at Madisonville.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and
19 Development shall submit a report detailing the results of its study to the House of
20 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana no later than February 1, 2023.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

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)]

HR 251 Original

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Wright

Urges and requests the La. Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to study transportation options to alleviate traffic on La. Hwy 22 through Madisonville and to increase the capacity over the Tchefuncte River. Requires the DOTD submit a report detailing the results of the study to the La. House of Representatives by Feb. 1, 2023.