

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to reevaluate and restudy the closure of the railroad crossing at Central Avenue in Metairie, Louisiana, to vehicular traffic and to report such findings to the Senate and House committees on transportation for review during the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in a recent feasibility study commissioned by the Department of Transportation and Development, regional planners and railroad companies recommend several new rail, bridge, and road projects in efforts to increase rail capacity and reduce train-related traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, recommended in the study is the removal and closure of several crossings, including the crossing at Central Avenue in Metairie, Louisiana, a major east bank rail junction, leaving drivers to take Clearview Parkway one of the only two remaining exits out of the Metairie area; and

WHEREAS, closing the crossing at Central Avenue comes at the expense of the citizens and local businesses in the Metairie area; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the railroad crossing at Central Avenue would significantly impact Ochsner Hospital, Elmwood Business Park, and local area businesses located on Central Avenue, and would inhibit their ability to generate revenue along Central Avenue, causing a negative impact on the economic stability of these businesses; and

WHEREAS, buses and cars traveling to Riverdale Middle School, Jefferson Elementary, and middle schools utilize this crossing on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, closing this crossing would be a detriment to the school buses and parents who utilize this particular crossing; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study which recommends the closure of the railroad crossing at Central Avenue in Metairie, Louisiana, should be reevaluated; and

WHEREAS, additional study and contemplation of this issue is necessary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to reevaluate and restudy the closure of the railroad crossing at Central Avenue in Metairie, Louisiana, to vehicular traffic and to report such results to the Senate and House committees on transportation for review.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE