

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY SENATORS HEITMEIER AND MORRELL

TRANSPORTATION/DEV DEPT. Creates Task Force on the Crescent City Connection to analyze re-authorization of tolls, ferry services, and all components and management of the operation of the Crescent City Connection Division of the Department of Transportation and Development.

1   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2        To create and provide for creation of the "Task Force on the Crescent City Connection" to  
3                   analyze re-authorization of tolls, ferry services, and all components and management  
4                   of the operation of the Crescent City Connection Division of the Department of  
5                   Transportation and Development.

6        WHEREAS, tolls imposed upon the Crescent City Connection Bridge crossing the  
7        Mississippi River at New Orleans, Louisiana, expire on December 31, 2012, as provided in  
8        R.S. 47:820.5; and

9        WHEREAS, numerous westbank civic and business leadership organizations have  
10       formed a "Regional Collaborative" and have requested creation of a task force to formally  
11       evaluate the future of the Crescent City Connection Division, tolls, ferry service,  
12       governance, and all related aspects of the Crescent City Connection Division's future  
13       operations; and

14       WHEREAS, such "Regional Collaborative" recognizes that the anticipated changes  
15       to the Crescent City Connection Division of the Department of Transportation and  
16       Development will have a significant impact upon the business and civic communities in the  
17       greater New Orleans region.

18       THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

1 create the Task Force on the Crescent City Connection to be composed of eleven persons  
2 who shall serve without compensation from the task force.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each of the following organizations shall  
4 collaborate and shall submit a list of two names each to the governor, from which the  
5 governor shall select ten persons to serve as members of the task force as follows:

6 (1) One member representing business interests from names submitted by the  
7 Algiers Economic Development Foundation.

8 (2) One member representing business interests from names submitted by the  
9 Harvey Canal Industrial Association.

10 (3) One member representing business interests from names submitted by the  
11 Jefferson Chamber of Commerce.

12 (4) One member representing business interests from names submitted by the  
13 Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry.

14 (5) One member representing civic interests from names submitted by the Westbank  
15 Redevelopment Corporation, Inc., and the Algiers Neighborhood President's Council.

16 (6) One member representing civic interests from names submitted by the West  
17 Jefferson Civic Association and The Terrytown Civic Association, Inc.

18 (7) One member representing maritime interests from names submitted by the Port  
19 of New Orleans, the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District, the Jefferson Parish  
20 Economic Development and Port District, and the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal  
21 District.

22 (8) One member who is a professional engineer from names submitted by the  
23 Regional Planning Commission.

24 (9) One member from names submitted by Friends of the Ferry of New Orleans.

25 (10) One member with experience in law enforcement from names submitted by the  
26 New Orleans Police Department, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, the Gretna Police  
27 Department, the Westwego Police Department, and the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lists of names shall be submitted to the  
29 governor no later than July 1, 2011, and if a list is not timely submitted, the governor shall  
30 make the selections at large.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor shall select the members no later  
2 than July 15, 2011, and the term of the members shall commence on August 1, 2011, and  
3 shall terminate on March 1, 2012.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of  
5 Transportation and Development or her designee shall serve as a member of the task force  
6 and act as its chairman.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial meeting of the task force shall be  
8 convened no later than August 1, 2011, by the secretary of the Department of Transportation  
9 and Development at the offices of the Crescent City Connection Division in New Orleans,  
10 Louisiana.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the initial meeting, the members of the task  
12 force shall provide for the manner and frequency of meetings that will be conducted and for  
13 all other ancillary administrative matters which must be determined in order to function as  
14 a task force. Meetings of the task force shall be held at the offices of the Crescent City  
15 Connection Division. The task force shall be staffed by the Department of Transportation  
16 and Development.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall have unrestricted access to  
18 all records and information relevant to its mission and maintained by the Department of  
19 Transportation and Development and the Crescent City Connection Division and that the  
20 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or her designee shall fully  
21 cooperate with and provide records and information to the task force.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is authorized and directed to study,  
23 evaluate, analyze, and review all aspects of the operation of the Crescent City Connection  
24 Division, including but not limited to, financial studies, audits, reports, and regional and  
25 national best practices regarding the following areas: (1) structure of administration; (2)  
26 governance; (3) current and future maintenance of the bridge structure, including all ramps  
27 and ancillary areas within its jurisdiction; (4) need for a well-trained professional police  
28 force; (5) potential sources and uses of all revenues, including consideration of bond  
29 capacity for predetermined infrastructure improvements; and (6) administration,  
30 maintenance, and costs to operate the ferry service system.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of  
2 its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on transportation,  
3 highways and public works no later than March 1, 2012, and shall terminate upon  
4 submission of the report.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
6 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development; the Algiers Economic  
7 Development Foundation; the Harvey Canal Industrial Association; the Jefferson Chamber  
8 of Commerce; the Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry; the Westbank  
9 Redevelopment Corporation, Inc.; the Algiers Neighborhood President's Council; the West  
10 Jefferson Civic Association; The Terrytown Civic Association, Inc.; the Port of New  
11 Orleans; the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District; the Jefferson Parish Economic  
12 Development and Port District; the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District; the  
13 Regional Planning Commission; Friends of the Ferry of New Orleans; the New Orleans  
14 Police Department; the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office; the Gretna Police Department; the  
15 Westwego Police Department; and the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office.

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The original instrument was prepared by Sharon F. Lyles. The following  
digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was  
prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

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#### DIGEST

Heitmeier

SCR No. 47

Creates the Task Force on the Crescent City Connection comprising eleven members appointed by the governor to analyze re-authorization of tolls, ferry services, and all components and management of the operation of the Crescent City Connection Division of the Department of Transportation and Development.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the original Concurrent Resolution.

1. Increases size of task force from 9 to 11, allowing Harvey Canal Industrial Association and the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce to have separate members and adding the secretary of DOTD as a member.
2. Provides that secretary of DOTD shall act as chair of task force.

##### Senate Floor Amendments to original Concurrent Resolution.

1. Makes technical corrections.