

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY SENATORS HEITMEIER AND MORRELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and provide for creation of the "Task Force on the Crescent City Connection" and the "Crescent City Connection Advisory Panel" to analyze the transition to a toll-free bridge, law enforcement, ferry services, and all components and management of the operation of the Crescent City Connection Division of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Task Force on the Crescent City Connection to be composed of ten persons who shall serve without compensation from the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each of the following organizations or groups of organizations shall collaborate and shall submit a list of two names to the governor. Except for the names submitted by the organizations listed in Paragraph 7, each person whose name is submitted shall reside in the parish in which the nominating organization or groups of organizations are located. The governor shall select one name from each

submission for a total of ten persons to serve as members of the task force. The nominating organizations or groups of organizations are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

(6) One member representing civic interests from names submitted by the Algiers Neighborhood President's Council.

(7) One member representing civic interests from names submitted by the West Jefferson Civic Association, the Terry Town Civic Association, Inc., and the Westbank Redevelopment Corporation, Inc.

(8) One member representing business interests from names submitted by the Jefferson Business Council.

(9) One member representing business interests from the names submitted by Greater New Orleans, Inc.

(10) One member representing business interests from the names submitted by the St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does also hereby create the Crescent City Connection Advisory Panel to the task force to be composed of five persons who shall serve as advisory and non-voting members of the task force without compensation from the task force or panel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each of the following organizations or groups of organizations shall submit a list of two names each to the governor, from which the governor shall select one name from each submission for a total of five persons to serve as

members of the advisory panel:

(1) One member representing maritime interests of the Port of New Orleans, the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District, and the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District.

(2) One member representing a professional engineer from names submitted by the Regional Planning Commission.

(3) One member representing law enforcement from the Louisiana State Police, the New Orleans Police Department, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's office, the Gretna Police Department, the Westwego Police Department and the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office.

(4) One member representing the Jefferson Economic Development Commission (JEDCO).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lists of names shall be submitted to the governor no later than July 1, 2011, and if a list is not timely submitted, the governor shall make the selections at large. No member of the task force shall serve on any board or commission that receives or disburses state funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor shall select the task force and advisory panel members no later than July 15, 2011, and the term of the members shall commence on August 1, 2011, and shall terminate on March 1, 2012. The task force members shall be subject to the disclosure requirements of R.S. 24:1124.2.1.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the initial meeting, the members of the task force shall provide for the manner and frequency of meetings that will be conducted and for all other ancillary administrative matters which must be determined in order to function as

a task force. Meetings of the task force shall be held at the offices of the Crescent City Connection Division and the task force shall be subject to the open meetings law. The task force shall be staffed by the Department of Transportation and Development.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public works and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget no later than February 1, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development; the Algiers Economic Development Foundation; the Harvey Canal Industrial Association; the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce; the Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry; the Westbank Redevelopment Corporation, Inc.; the Algiers Neighborhood President's Council; the West Jefferson Civic Association; The Terrytown Civic Association, Inc.; the Port of New Orleans; the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District; the Jefferson Parish Economic Development and Port District; the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District; the Regional Planning Commission; Friends of the Ferry of New Orleans; the Louisiana State

Police; the New Orleans Police Department; the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office; the Gretna Police Department; the Westwego Police Department; the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office; Greater New Orleans, Inc.; the Jefferson Business Council; the St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce; and the Jefferson Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) .

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES