2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVES STEVE CARTER, BACALA, CHAD BROWN, DAVIS, EDMONDS, FOIL, JAMES, PRICE, SMITH, AND THIBAUT

TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Directs the Department of Transportation and Development to repurpose certain congressional earmarked funds for the planning, design, and construction of the widening and improvement of certain portions of Louisiana Highway 30

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To direct the Department of Transportation and Development to repurpose congressional
3	funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the Pointe Clair
4	Expressway for the widening and improvement of certain portions of Louisiana
5	Highway 30.
6	WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30 is used as a major thoroughfare by those who
7	live and work in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville; and
8	WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30 is a vitally important state route in the parishes
9	of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, not only because of the growth of new
10	residential neighborhoods and increased economic development in those areas, but because
11	the two-lane highway is already a major business and commuter corridor and widening
12	portions of this highway can ease heavy traffic congestion currently being experienced on
13	Interstate Highway 10; and
14	WHEREAS, the role of Louisiana Highway 30 as a commuter corridor will only
15	intensify with further congestion on Interstate 10 and the strong possibility that a new
16	Mississippi River bridge will tie into it; and
17	WHEREAS, studies have shown that building a new bridge without an improved
18	Louisiana Highway 30 would leave traffic stuck on that highway, effectively undermining
19	the added capacity of a new one-billion-dollar bridge; and

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1	WHEDEAS the traffic conception on Louisians Highway 20 has made the route
1	WHEREAS, the traffic congestion on Louisiana Highway 30 has made the route
2	inconvenient to motorists traveling in the area and the widening and improvement of the
3	highway in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville would alleviate
4	growing traffic congestion; and
5	WHEREAS, prior to September 30, 2005, two million four hundred three thousand
6	five hundred forty dollars was earmarked for the plan, design, and construction of the Pointe
7	Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish; and
8	WHEREAS, Section 125 of the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act,
9	2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-113, Division L, Title I), provides the authority for a state or territory
10	to repurpose any earmark that was designated on or before September 30, 2005, and is less
11	than ten percent obligated or final vouchered and closed; and
12	WHEREAS, the repurposed funds may be obligated on a new or existing project in
13	the state within fifty miles of the earmark designation and the Consolidated Appropriations
14	Act of 2016 requires the redesignation of these funds occur prior to the end of the 2016
15	federal fiscal year; and
16	WHEREAS, as of December 18, 2015, the total unobligated balance of the earmark
17	project to plan, design, and construct Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish was two
18	million four hundred three thousand five hundred forty dollars; and
19	WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30, in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge,
20	and Iberville, is within the congressional designated fifty-mile radius of the geographical
21	area for which the funding was originally designated; and
22	WHEREAS, in order to receive future participating federal funds, the next step
23	needed for the Louisiana Highway 30 improvements is a Stage I Environmental Study.
24	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
25	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Transportation and
26	Development to repurpose congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and
27	construction of the Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish, and to secure the state match
28	of six hundred thousand eight hundred and eighty-five dollars for the planning, design, and
29	construction of the widening of Louisiana Highway 30 by first funding one million five
30	hundred thousand dollars of the three million four thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars

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1	in available unobligated funds for the Stage I Environmental Study of widening Louisiana
2	Highway 30 from West Lee Drive/Brightside Lane to United States Highway 61, and
3	subsequently utilizing the remainder to fund the design and construction of needed
4	improvements to the intersection of Louisiana Highway 74 and Louisiana Highway 30 in
5	Saint Gabriel, Louisiana.
6	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the redesignation of these funds shall occur prior
7	to the end of the 2016 federal fiscal year as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act
8	of 2016.
9	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
10	Development shall fund and utilize the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Planning Organization,
11	which includes the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, to procure and
12	manage the production of the Stage I Environmental Study and once funding is secured, the
13	department shall enter into construction phase contracts for the widening and improvement
14	of any intersection on Louisiana Highway 30 within one year.
15	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
16	to the 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)]

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Directs the Dept. of Transportation and Development to repurpose congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish for the planning, design, and construction of the widening and improvement of certain portions of La. Hwy. 30.

Requires the redesignation of the earmarked funds occur prior to the end of the 2016 federal fiscal year, as mandated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016.

Requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to fund and utilize the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Planning Organization to procure and manage the production of the Stage I Environmental Study.

Requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development enter into construction phase contracts for the widening and improvement of any intersection on La. Hwy. 30 within one year of securing the funding.