

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATORS MORRISH, JOHNS AND JOHN SMITH AND REPRESENTATIVES
ABRAHAM, DWIGHT, FRANKLIN AND MOSS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct the Department of Transportation and Development to expedite procurement, planning, engineering, design, and construction of a new Interstate 10 Calcasieu River Bridge, in cooperation with the Southwest Area Chamber's I-10 Bridge Task Force.

WHEREAS, the development, construction, and maintenance of an efficient, safe, and well-maintained intermodal transportation system is essential to improve safety, relieve congestion, promote continued economic growth, and provide an increased quality of life for the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and local governmental agencies in southwestern Louisiana, the area legislative delegation, the Southwest Area Chamber's I-10 Bridge Task Force (task force), as well as the public-at-large, recognize the urgent need for the replacement of the Interstate 10 Calcasieu River Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the existing Interstate 10 Calcasieu River Bridge has exceeded its useful life, and the construction of a new six-lane bridge, located parallel to the existing bridge, with shoulders, a pedestrian walkway, and related ingress and egress is necessary; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that DOTD study the conditions, needs, issues, and funding relative to the procurement, planning, engineering, design, and construction of a new

Interstate 10 Calcasieu River Bridge, and to recommend any action considered necessary or appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the task force released a set of recommendations in January of 2019, that provide the state with a well-researched, detailed action plan to tackle this most critical interstate bridge project with a public-private partnership and without incurring debt or using any tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the legislature recognized that public revenue, including federal funds, has not kept pace with the state's growing transportation system needs and enacted Act 1017 of the 1997 Regular Session of the Legislature to encourage parishes and municipalities to utilize public-private partnerships to assist in the financing of improvements to the state highway system through any available means and to authorize the creation of transportation authorities for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, forming an authority was also one of the task force's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of such an authority, the task force's proposed plan for the new bridge estimates it could be completed within three years with the cooperation of DOTD; and

WHEREAS, the cooperation of DOTD and the task force is necessary, in the study of the conditions, needs, issues, and funding relative to the procurement, planning, engineering, design, and construction of a new Interstate 10 Calcasieu River Bridge, and to follow any action considered necessary or appropriate by the secretary of the DOTD and the task force.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Transportation and Development to expedite procurement, planning, engineering, design, and construction of a new Interstate 10 Calcasieu River Bridge in cooperation with the Southwest Area Chamber's I-10 Bridge Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Transportation and Development to seriously consider undertaking a public-private partnership for the new Interstate 10 Calcasieu River Bridge project as an alternative to the use of conventional methods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development and to the chair of the Southwest Area Chamber's I-10 Bridge Task Force.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES