

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 306

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

TRANSPORTATION: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to establish the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to establish the
3 Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force; to identify the key infrastructure project
4 needs in urban areas; to assess the financial feasibility of urban infrastructure
5 projects; to assess the potential impacts of urban infrastructure projects; to evaluate
6 the efficiency of urban infrastructure projects; and to evaluate ways urban
7 infrastructure projects improve the quality of life of Louisiana citizens.

8 WHEREAS, according to the 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law/Infrastructure
9 Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act Annual Report, over ten billion two
10 hundred million dollars in funding was allocated to support over seven hundred awards and
11 projects in Louisiana; and

12 WHEREAS, a backlog is defined as the work that a company or organization has
13 contracted to perform, but has yet to be started or completed; and

14 WHEREAS, Louisiana's state highway and bridge needs have increased
15 approximately six billion six million dollars from 2013 to 2022; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and
17 Development, Louisiana currently faces an estimated eighteen million nine hundred
18 thousand dollars in backlog for highway and bridge needs; and

19 WHEREAS, according to the city of New Orleans's Office of Strategic Engagement
20 and Special Projects, there are currently approximately two hundred infrastructure projects;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, according to Fox 8 Local First, many projects in New Orleans are taking
2 more than twice the time allocated in the original contracts to be completed; and

3 WHEREAS, according to MOVEBR, there are currently over seventy transportation
4 infrastructure projects in Baton Rouge; and

5 WHEREAS, since 2022, only nine transportation infrastructure projects have been
6 completed; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil
8 Engineers, Louisiana's report card for infrastructure is reportedly a "D+", meaning it is
9 poorly executed; and

10 WHEREAS, approximately thirteen and a half percent of Louisiana bridges are
11 structurally deficient; and

12 WHEREAS, with the increase in travel of Louisiana drivers, delays in urban
13 infrastructure projects are having tremendous negative economic impacts on the traveling
14 public, businesses, refineries, and chemical plants; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the International Journal of Transportation Science and
16 Technology, Louisiana's interstate system has grown sixty-one percent between 2000 and
17 2019; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2019, there were seven hundred twenty-seven fatalities on Louisiana
19 roadways, with ninety-two occurring on interstates; and

20 WHEREAS, the number of fatalities on Louisiana's roads grew by fourteen percent
21 in 2020; and

22 WHEREAS, bridges on interstates constructed on viaducts or embankments on
23 elevated sections over water bodies, marshes, and subterranean utilities carry high-speed
24 traffic on fixed-width lanes and shoulders; and

25 WHEREAS, the composition of these lanes and shoulders on bridges restrict right-of-
26 way and frequently provide an inadequate clear zone for safe recovery; and

27 WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Transportation Research Center, Louisiana
28 has approximately two hundred miles of vintage 1960s concrete safety walk bridge rail
29 systems currently in use on Louisiana bridges; and

1 WHEREAS, many of these systems do not meet the current crash performance
2 requirements of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
3 Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware Second Edition specifications; and

4 WHEREAS, a consent decree is a negotiated agreement that is entered as a court
5 order for a legally binding performance improvement plan and typically arises from
6 investigations into misconduct, which can span over a variety of issues; and

7 WHEREAS, the city of New Orleans entered into a consent decree following an
8 investigation by the Department of Justice into civil rights violations and other misconduct;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the city of Baton Rouge entered into a consent decree with the United
11 States Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Louisiana related to stormwater
12 management; and

13 WHEREAS, the city of Shreveport entered into a consent decree with the Department
14 of Justice and the United States Environmental Protection Agency regarding the city's water
15 and sewer systems.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and
18 Development to establish the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force to do the following:

- 19 (1) Identify the key infrastructure project needs in urban areas.
20 (2) Assess the financial feasibility of all urban infrastructure projects.
21 (3) Assess the potential impacts of urban infrastructure projects.
22 (4) Evaluate the efficiency of urban infrastructure projects.
23 (5) Evaluate ways the urban infrastructure projects improve the quality of life of
24 Louisiana citizens.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force
26 be comprised of the following members:

- 27 (1) The mayor of the city of New Orleans or his designee.
28 (2) The New Orleans chief engineer or city designer.
29 (3) The mayor of the city of Baton Rouge or his designee.
30 (4) The Baton Rouge city engineer or city designer.

1 (5) The mayor of the city of Shreveport or his designee.

2 (6) The Shreveport city engineer or community planner.

3 (7) The parish president of Jefferson Parish or his designee.

4 (8) The director of the Department of Engineering within the Jefferson Parish
5 Council or his designee.

6 (9) The mayor-president of the city of Lafayette or his designee.

7 (10) The director of the Public Works Department within the Lafayette Consolidated
8 Government.

9 (11) The planning section chiefs or their designees for each corresponding city,
10 excluding Metairie.

11 (12) The chief executive officer of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator
12 or his designee.

13 (13) The chief executive officer of the Southwest Power Pool or his designee.

14 (14) Two graduate students from Southern University A&M College's Department
15 of Civil and Environmental Engineering, selected by the department chair.

16 (15) Two graduate students from Louisiana State University's College of Art and
17 Design, selected by the dean of the college.

18 (16) Two graduate students from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's School
19 of Architecture and Design, selected by the director of the school.

20 (17) Two graduate students from Grambling State University's Department of
21 Engineering Technology, selected by the department head.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the Department
23 of Transportation and Development as determined by the secretary of the department.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force
25 shall submit a written infrastructure report for 2030 to the House Transportation, Highways
26 and Public Works committee by December 13, 2025.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force
28 submit a written infrastructure report for 2035 to the House Transportation, Highways and
29 Public Works committee by December 13, 2029, with a mid-range written report submitted
30 by February 13, 2027.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force
2 submit a written infrastructure report for 2040 to the House Transportation, Highways and
3 Public Works committee by December 13, 2034, with a mid-range written report submitted
4 by August 13, 2032.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
6 secretary of 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)]

HR 306 Original	2025 Regular Session	Walters
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Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development to establish the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force. Requires the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force to submit the 2030 written report to the House transportation committee prior to Dec. 13, 2025. Requires the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force to submit the 2035 written report to the House transportation committee prior to Dec. 13, 2029, with a mid-range written report submitted by Feb. 13, 2027. Requires the Urban Infrastructure Planning Task Force submit the 2040 written report to the House transportation committee by Dec. 13, 2034, with a mid-range written report submitted by Aug. 13, 2032.