

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, CARMODY, JIM MORRIS, AND
SEABAUGH

TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Urges and requests the governor and DOTD to complete the I-49 North Corridor

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request that the governor and the Department of Transportation and
3 Development complete the Interstate 49 North Corridor.

4 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development and numerous
5 governors have long touted the completion of the Interstate 49 North Corridor as a high
6 priority construction project; and

7 WHEREAS, the governor, the legislature, the Louisiana congressional delegation,
8 the Department of Transportation and Development, and countless others have worked
9 diligently to complete the majority of the project; however, a four-lane freeway from
10 Interstate 20 to Interstate 220, often referred to as the Interstate 49 Inner City Connector, still
11 remains unbuilt; and

WHEREAS, the Interstate 49 Inner City Connector is approximately three and six tenths miles long and is part of the Interstate 49 Corridor which runs from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to New Orleans, Louisiana; and

15 WHEREAS, the Interstate 49 Inner City Connector is necessary to provide
16 connectivity between the existing Interstate 49 and the presently designated Interstate 49
17 North that is proposed to terminate at Interstate 220 in Shreveport; and

18 WHEREAS, the Interstate 49 Inner City Connector is necessary to improve the safety
19 of the present routes (Interstate 20 at Interstate 49) and to provide an alternate route for

1 hazardous materials currently being transported across Cross Lake, the designated water
2 supply for the city of Shreveport; and

3 WHEREAS, the Interstate 49 Inner City Connector would also provide for economic
4 development by providing improved access to downtown from the west and a continuous
5 Interstate 49 route through Shreveport-Bossier to encourage development throughout
6 Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, the latest cost estimate for the Interstate 49 Inner City Connector is
8 \$380 million; however, the future potential development and growth that would stem from
9 the completion of this project is unimaginable; and

10 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development, elected officials
11 from the state and local governments, and citizens from north Louisiana have worked
12 tirelessly to secure any and all funding possible to complete the Interstate 49 North Corridor,
13 but the work is not yet complete; and

14 WHEREAS, since the state of federal funding for transportation projects is uncertain
15 and, in any event, will not cover all estimated costs to complete the Interstate 49 Inner City
16 Connector, the governor and the Department of Transportation and Development should
17 continue to work closely with elected officials from state and local governments and citizens
18 from north Louisiana and seek all sources of funding, both federal and state, to complete this
19 important project; and

20 WHEREAS, the completion of the Interstate 49 North Corridor is a critical
21 component to the economic health of Northwest Louisiana.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
23 urge and request the governor and the Department of Transportation and Development to
24 work in a collaborative effort with all involved to complete the Interstate 49 North Corridor
25 and to seek all possible sources of funding, both state and federal, to complete this endeavor
26 as expeditiously as possible.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 governor and to the 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)]

HCR 171 Original

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Mike Johnson

Urges and requests that the governor and the Dept. of Transportation and Development complete the construction of the I-49 North Corridor.