

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 171

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

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Interstate 49 Inner City Connector is necessary to improve the safety of the present routes (Interstate 20 at Interstate 49) and to provide an alternate route for hazardous materials currently being transported across Cross Lake, the designated water supply for the city of Shreveport; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor and to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE