

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 188

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

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to repurpose
3 congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the
4 Pointe Clair Expressway for the widening and improvement of certain portions of
5 Louisiana 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

1 WHEREAS, studies have shown that building a new bridge without an improved
2 Louisiana Highway 30 would leave traffic stuck on that highway, effectively undermining
3 the added capacity of a new one-billion-dollar bridge; and

4 WHEREAS, the traffic congestion on Louisiana Highway 30 has made the route
5 inconvenient to motorists traveling in the area and the widening and improvement of the
6 highway in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville would alleviate
7 growing traffic congestion; and

8 WHEREAS, prior to September 30, 2005, two million four hundred three thousand
9 five hundred forty dollars was earmarked for the plan, design, and construction of the Pointe
10 Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish; and

11 WHEREAS, Section 125 of the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act,
12 2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-113, Division L, Title I), provides the authority for a state or territory
13 to repurpose any earmark that was designated on or before September 30, 2005, and is less
14 than ten percent obligated or final vouchered and closed; and

15 WHEREAS, the repurposed funds may be obligated on a new or existing project in
16 the state within fifty miles of the earmark designation and the Consolidated Appropriations
17 Act of 2016 requires the redesignation of these funds occur prior to the end of the 2016
18 federal fiscal year; and

19 WHEREAS, the potential redirection of these funds does not diminish the importance
20 of the Pointe Clair Expressway project; and

21 WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30, in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge,
22 and Iberville, is within the congressional designated fifty-mile radius of the geographical
23 area for which the funding was originally designated; and

24 WHEREAS, in order to receive future participating federal funds, the next step
25 needed for the Louisiana Highway 30 improvements is a Stage I Environmental Study.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
27 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and
28 Development to repurpose congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and
29 construction of the Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish, and to secure the state match
30 of six hundred thousand eight hundred eighty-five dollars for the planning, design, and

1 construction of the widening of Louisiana Highway 30 by first funding one million five
2 hundred thousand dollars of the three million four thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars
3 in available unobligated funds for the Stage I Environmental Study of widening Louisiana
4 Highway 30 from West Lee Drive/Brightside Lane to United States Highway 61, and
5 subsequently utilizing the remainder to fund the design and construction of needed
6 improvements to the intersection of Louisiana Highway 74 and Louisiana Highway 30 in
7 Saint Gabriel, Louisiana.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the redesignation of these funds should occur
9 prior to the end of the 2016 federal fiscal year as required by the Consolidated
10 Appropriations Act of 2016.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
12 Development should fund and utilize the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Planning Organization,
13 which includes the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, to procure and
14 manage the production of the Stage I Environmental Study and once funding is secured, the
15 department should enter into construction phase contracts for the widening and improvement
16 of any intersection on Louisiana Highway 30 within one year.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
18 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)]

HR 188 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Steve Carter

Urges and requests 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.

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

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

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Urge and request the Dept. of Transportation and Development to repurpose the congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the Pointe Clair Expressway and utilize the funds for the widening and improvement of La. Hwy. 30 instead of directing the Dept. of Transportation and Development to repurpose the earmarked congressional funds for the widening and improvement of La. Hwy 30.
2. Clarify that the potential redirection of these earmarked funds does not diminish the importance of the Pointe Clair Expressway project.
3. Make technical changes.