

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 358

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to provide information on the number of closures and repairs to the Judge Seeber Bridge over the past seven years

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to provide
3 information regarding the number of closures and repairs, including all costs of the
4 bridge repairs per year, to the Judge Seeber Bridge over the past seven years.

5 WHEREAS, the Judge Seeber Bridge is a vertical-lift bridge over the Inner Harbor
6 Navigation Canal, which is owned by the state of Louisiana and operated by the Department
7 of Transportation and Development; and

8 WHEREAS, the Judge Seeber Bridge was built in 1957 and rehabilitated in 2011, but
9 maintains nearly all of the elements from its original construction; and

10 WHEREAS, the Judge Seeber Bridge is located on Louisiana Highway 39, also
11 referred to as North Claiborne Avenue, in the city of New Orleans; and

12 WHEREAS, the Judge Seeber Bridge is one of the main links between New Orleans
13 and the communities in St. Bernard Parish; and

14 WHEREAS, approximately twenty-six thousand two hundred fifty-five commuters
15 travel on the Judge Seeber Bridge each day; and

16 WHEREAS, the Judge Seeber Bridge has been closed many times throughout its
17 history; and

18 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development has cited various
19 reasons for the bridge closures, which include electrical issues, various repairs and
20 maintenance, and vehicle accidents; and

1 WHEREAS, according to the 2023 report prepared by the American Road &
2 Transportation Builders Association, approximately twelve percent of Louisiana's bridges
3 were classified as structurally deficient; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Department of Transportation and Development
5 implemented the Historic Bridge Management Plan for the Judge Seeber Bridge (the Plan)
6 to provide guidance on preservation procedures regarding preventative maintenance and
7 rehabilitation of the Judge Seeber Bridge; and

8 WHEREAS, the Plan's preventative maintenance includes condition-based activities
9 and regular structural inspections directed towards continued structure serviceability; and

10 WHEREAS, the Plan's rehabilitation activities provide for required procedures to
11 preserve and restore the bridge's structural condition; and

12 WHEREAS, according to the engineering data in the Plan, the Judge Seeber Bridge
13 is in good overall condition and adequately serves its purpose of carrying vehicular traffic
14 across the Industrial Canal; and

15 WHEREAS, several major disasters have occurred on the Judge Seeber Bridge; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1993, a barge hit the bridge, causing two vehicles to plunge into the
17 canal; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the National Transportation Safety Board, at the time of
19 this collapse, the bridge was vulnerable to vessel collisions due to inadequately protected
20 piers and overall structure of the design, making it vulnerable to collapse; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina severely damaged the bridge; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2008, a vehicle plunged into the canal due to a malfunction; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2021, the bridge malfunctioned, causing two vehicles to plummet
24 four and a half feet; and

25 WHEREAS, continuous bridge closures impact traffic flow, economic activity, and
26 emergency services; and

27 WHEREAS, the number of serious incidents occurring on the Judge Seeber Bridge
28 poses a threat to public safety.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
30 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and

1 Development to provide information regarding the number of closures and repairs, including
2 all costs associated with the repairs per year, to the Judge Seeber Bridge over the past seven
3 years.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
5 Development shall submit a written report of its findings to the House Transportation,
6 Highways and Public Works committee by January 15, 2026.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 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 358 Original

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Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development to provide information regarding the number of closures and repairs, including all costs associated with the repairs per year, to the Judge Seeber Bridge over the past 7 years. Requires the department to submit a written report of its findings to the House transportation committee by Jan. 15, 2026.