

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 173

BY SENATOR CARTER

TRANSPORTATION/DEV DEPT. Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a review of public-private partnership contracting practices.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a review
3 of its public-private partnership contracting practices, comparing and contrasting the
4 Belle Chasse Toll Bridge project in relation to active or future public-private
5 partnership projects.

6 WHEREAS, tolling on the Belle Chasse Bridge began in 2025, and toll-related
7 complaints were raised publicly by residents, motorists, businesses, and local officials; and

8 WHEREAS, public reporting concerning the Belle Chasse Bridge toll system
9 included complaints regarding toll amounts, fees, and alleged unauthorized charges; and

10 WHEREAS, testimony during numerous legislative hearings reflected concerns that
11 the toll structure and related charges were detrimental to the residents and businesses in
12 Plaquemines Parish; and

13 WHEREAS, in October 2025, Governor Jeff Landry announced the suspension of
14 toll collections on the Belle Chasse Bridge; and

15 WHEREAS, the legislature has authority to consider matters relating to the fiscal
16 impact, contractual obligations, and public accountability associated with transportation
17 infrastructure projects; and

18 WHEREAS, the Belle Chasse Bridge public-private partnership was the first P3

1 project between the state and private entities and established the possibility of long-term
2 contractual and financial obligations that may be detrimental to Louisiana residents; and

3 WHEREAS, the legislative auditor conducted a performance audit of the Belle
4 Chasse Bridge and Tunnel Replacement Project in 2023 in which the audit recommended
5 DOTD develop formal policies and procedures for evaluating future P3 transportation
6 projects and DOTD agreed with the audit recommendations and stated it would develop
7 additional procedures and guidance for future P3 projects.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
9 does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to conduct
10 a review of it's public-private partnership contracting practices, comparing and contrasting
11 the Belle Chasse Toll Bridge project in relation to upcoming P3 projects.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department study and report differences,
13 improvements and "lessons learned" between the two P3 projects including procurement,
14 contract terms, financial assumptions including tolling, project oversight, delays or cost
15 increases, best practices and community impact, and shall report their findings to the Senate
16 and House committees on transportation, highways and public works and to the David R.
17 Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than
18 February 1, 2027.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.
The keyword, summary, 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)]

	DIGEST	
SR 173 Original	2026 Regular Session	Carter

Urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a review
of it's public-private partnership contracting practices, comparing and contrasting the Belle
Chasse Toll Bridge project in relation to active or future public private partnership projects.