

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY REPRESENTATIVES ST. GERMAIN, BARROW, AND THIBAUT AND SENATOR  
MARIONNEAUX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to revert lane adjustments that were implemented as part of the ongoing I-10 Mississippi River Bridge, otherwise known as the Horace A. Wilkinson Bridge, signing and striping project.

WHEREAS, as of Sunday, August 2, 2010, at 8:00 a.m., all westbound traffic crossing the Mississippi River Bridge, otherwise known as the Horace A. Wilkinson Bridge, in Baton Rouge exiting to Port Allen and Plaquemine is required to use the outer lane prior to exiting and traffic in the westbound center lane is no longer able to exit as that lane serves only westbound through traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development stated that these changes would leave the center and far-left lane free for the sixty-three percent of through traffic traveling west in all three lanes to maintain optimum traveling speed; and

WHEREAS, the department announced that the far-right outer lane would serve the remaining twenty-five percent exiting for Plaquemine and twelve percent existing for Port Allen, and allow this traffic to slow for their appropriate exits without impeding the overall traffic flow; and

WHEREAS, the department stated that the imbalance caused significant congestion and delays on the bridge which caused frequent logjams at the I-10 and I-110 interchange; and

WHEREAS, before these changes, the westbound traffic on the three-lane stretch of the bridge could exit from the middle or right lanes; and

WHEREAS, since the change, traffic exiting the bridge for Plaquemine and Port Allen are forced to make sudden lane changes causing confusion and danger to motorists on the bridge; and

WHEREAS, it appears that more accidents have occurred on the bridge than in the past; and

WHEREAS, it is public opinion that the overall traffic flow on the bridge and the I-10 and I-110 interchange has not improved in such a way to justify the changes made; and

WHEREAS, the department is conducting further studies which have thus far shown that previous striping directing traffic flow may be warranted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the Department of Transportation and Development allow all westbound traffic crossing the Mississippi River Bridge, otherwise known as the Horace A. Wilkinson Bridge, in Baton Rouge exiting to Port Allen and Plaquemine to exit the bridge from the middle or right lane as was done since the original construction of the bridge.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE