HLS 24RS-212 ENGROSSED

2024 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to close the Washington Street exit

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to review the road
3	conditions at the Washington Street exit on I-10 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and close
4	the exit to improve safety.
5	WHEREAS, the Washington Street exit contributes to daily backups on the bridge
6	that is used by approximately one hundred two thousand cars and trucks daily; and
7	WHEREAS, due to wrecks that have caused immeasurable tragedies on this exit it
8	has become known as the "Devil's triangle of interstates"; and
9	WHEREAS, there have been numerous efforts, including petitions, to close the
10	Washington Street exit; and
11	WHEREAS, in 2016, the former secretary of the Louisiana Department of
12	Transportation and Development attempted to obtain a \$100 million dollar grant; and
13	WHEREAS, this grant could have possibly freed up \$20 million dollars for repairs
14	near the bridge and the often congested Washington Street exit; and
15	WHEREAS, former Governor John Bel Edwards testified that the area near the
16	Washington Street exit is the lone spot on a two thousand four hundred sixty mile interstate
17	stretch that narrows to one lane; and
18	WHEREAS, former Governor Edwards was not previously aware of this location as
19	he stated "I didn't know before, and had I not taken advantage of the opportunity, I wouldn't
20	have known it today"; and

1 WHEREAS, the exit presents many hazards to eastbound traffic leaving the bridge 2 on the inside lane, which forces traffic off at Washington street; and 3 WHEREAS, as a result of traffic being forced off at this exit travelers must make a 4 hasty decision to move out of the inside land to I-10 East; and 5 WHEREAS, the Washington Street exit is no longer needed, as the Terrace Avenue 6 left-exit provides an alternative to the Washington Street exit; and 7 WHEREAS, the Terrace Avenue exit is less than a mile away from the Washington 8 Street exit and became available in October 2019; and 9 WHEREAS, the \$9.3 million Terrace Avenue exit allows southbound motorist to get 10 to the Washington Street area without having to cross multiple lanes of traffic; and 11 WHEREAS, to alleviate traffic as well as promote the safety of the state and citizens 12 of Louisiana the Washington Street exit on 1-10 should be closed. 13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 14 urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to review the road 15 conditions at the Washington Street exit on I-10 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and close the 16 exit to improve safety. 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 18 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)]

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McMakin

Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development to review the road conditions at the Washington Street exit on I-10 and close the exit to improve safety.