

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to review the road conditions at the Washington Street exit on I-10 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and close the exit to improve safety.

WHEREAS, the Washington Street exit contributes to daily backups on the bridge that is used by approximately one hundred two thousand cars and trucks daily; and

WHEREAS, due to wrecks that have caused immeasurable tragedies on this exit it has become known as the "Devil's triangle of interstates"; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous efforts, including petitions, to close the Washington Street exit; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the former secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development attempted to obtain a \$100 million dollar grant; and

WHEREAS, this grant could have possibly freed up \$20 million dollars for repairs near the bridge and the often congested Washington Street exit; and

WHEREAS, former Governor John Bel Edwards testified that the area near the Washington Street exit is the lone spot on a two thousand four hundred sixty mile interstate stretch that narrows to one lane; and

WHEREAS, former Governor Edwards was not previously aware of this location as he stated "I didn't know before, and had I not taken advantage of the opportunity, I wouldn't have known it today"; and

WHEREAS, the exit presents many hazards to eastbound traffic leaving the bridge on the inside lane, which forces traffic off at Washington street; and

WHEREAS, as a result of traffic being forced off at this exit travelers must make a hasty decision to move out of the inside lane to I-10 East; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Street exit is no longer needed, as the Terrace Avenue left-exit provides an alternative to the Washington Street exit; and

WHEREAS, the Terrace Avenue exit is less than a mile away from the Washington Street exit and became available in October 2019; and

WHEREAS, the \$9.3 million Terrace Avenue exit allows southbound motorist to get to the Washington Street area without having to cross multiple lanes of traffic; and

WHEREAS, to alleviate traffic as well as promote the safety of the state and citizens of Louisiana the Washington Street exit on I-10 should be closed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to review the road conditions at the Washington Street exit on I-10 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and close the exit to improve safety.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE