

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVES STEVE CARTER, BACALA, BERTHELOT, CHADBROWN,
TERRY BROWN, CARPENTER, DAVIS, EDMONDS, FOIL, GISCLAIR,
HOWARD, JAMES, JORDAN, MARCELLE, PIERRE, PRICE, SMITH, AND
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A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to repurpose congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the Pointe Clair Expressway for the widening and improvement of certain portions of Louisiana Highway 30.

WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30 is used as a major thoroughfare by those who live and work in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30 is a vitally important state route in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, not only because of the growth of new residential neighborhoods and increased economic development in those areas, but because the two-lane highway is already a major business and commuter corridor and widening portions of this highway can ease heavy traffic congestion currently being experienced on Interstate Highway 10; and

WHEREAS, the role of Louisiana Highway 30 as a commuter corridor will only intensify with further congestion on Interstate 10 and the strong possibility that a new Mississippi River bridge will tie into it; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that building a new bridge without an improved Louisiana Highway 30 would leave traffic stuck on that highway, effectively undermining the added capacity of a new one-billion-dollar bridge; and

WHEREAS, the traffic congestion on Louisiana Highway 30 has made the route inconvenient to motorists traveling in the area and the widening and improvement of the highway in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville would alleviate growing traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, prior to September 30, 2005, two million four hundred three thousand five hundred forty dollars was earmarked for the plan, design, and construction of the Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish; and

WHEREAS, Section 125 of the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-113, Division L, Title I), provides the authority for a state or territory to repurpose any earmark that was designated on or before September 30, 2005, and is less than ten percent obligated or final vouchered and closed; and

WHEREAS, the repurposed funds may be obligated on a new or existing project in the state within fifty miles of the earmark designation and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 requires the redesignation of these funds occur prior to the end of the 2016 federal fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the potential redirection of these funds does not diminish the importance of the Pointe Clair Expressway project; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30, in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, is within the congressional designated fifty-mile radius of the geographical area for which the funding was originally designated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to repurpose congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish to fund the design and construction of needed improvements to the intersections of Louisiana Highway 74 and Louisiana Highway 30 in Saint Gabriel, Louisiana, Louisiana Highway 73 and Louisiana Highway 30 in Geismar, Louisiana, and Louisiana Highway 30 at Veterans Boulevard in Gonzales, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the redesignation of these funds should occur prior to the end of the 2016 federal fiscal year as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development should fund and utilize the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville and enter into

design and construction phase contracts for the widening and improvement of any intersection on Louisiana Highway 30 within one year.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES