

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 279

BY REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study conditions on Louisiana Highway 44 in Reserve, Louisiana, to add sidewalks.

WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 44 is a state highway that serves Ascension, St. James, and St. John the Baptist Parishes; and

WHEREAS, the Reserve Historic District is located in St. John the Baptist Parish in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, for many rural communities such as Reserve, accessing state and federal funds to improve infrastructure such as sidewalks has been difficult and expensive; and

WHEREAS, there are no sidewalks along the highway or the elevated piped bridge, which creates a safety hazard for motorists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the frequently used highway is busy during most hours of the day and extremely busy during certain peak times; and

WHEREAS, the addition of sidewalks separate from the roadway is a safety measure that would be beneficial to pedestrians and would eliminate the wait time for those traveling the busy intersection by bicycles incapable of accelerating at the speed of a vehicle; and

WHEREAS, aside from enhanced safety, adding a sidewalk would provide other benefits such as mobility and healthier communities; and

WHEREAS, the addition of sidewalks would reduce pedestrian crashes and allow a designated area for pedestrians to walk, run, or jog without the risk of being struck by a vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration Safety Program's guidance statement recommends providing accessible sidewalks or pathways along both sides of the streets on highways in urban areas particularly near school zones and transit locations where there is frequent pedestrian activity; and

WHEREAS, for less developed areas with occasional pedestrian traffic expected, the guidance statement provides that walkable shoulders be provided along both sides of highways at a minimum of four feet of stabilized or paved surface; and

WHEREAS, Reserve, Louisiana, particularly River Road, has several schools, churches, and local businesses, resulting in constant pedestrian travel; and

WHEREAS, Reserve, Louisiana, is a rural area that is in need of sidewalks to better serve the local population and promote safety.

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 study conditions on Louisiana Highway 44 in Reserve, Louisiana, to add sidewalks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development shall submit a report detailing its findings to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works by January 3, 2025.

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