

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 183

BY SENATORS LAMBERT AND BROWN

TRANSPORTATION/DEV DEPT. Requests the Department of Transportation and Development to repurpose certain congressional earmarked funds for the planning, design, and construction of the widening and improvement of certain portions of LA 30.

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, studies have shown that building a new bridge without an improved  
18 Louisiana Highway 30 would leave traffic stuck on that highway, effectively undermining

1 the added capacity of a new one billion dollar bridge; and

2 WHEREAS, ultimately, a widened Louisiana Highway 30 and a new Mississippi  
3 River bridge would provide much needed traffic relief that is needed for the parishes of  
4 Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, and would also provide an alternate route to a  
5 congested Interstate Highway 10 between Gonzales and Baton Rouge; and

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

9 WHEREAS, Section 125 of the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act,  
10 2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-113, Division L, Title I), provides the authority for a state or territory  
11 to repurpose any earmark that was designated on or before September 30, 2005, and is less  
12 than ten percent obligated, or to apply unexpended balances of funds from projects or  
13 activities the state or territory certifies have been closed and for which payments have been  
14 made under a final voucher; and

15 WHEREAS, the repurposed funds may be obligated on a new or existing project in  
16 the state within fifty miles of the earmark designation; and

17 WHEREAS, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 requires the repurpose of  
18 these funds occur prior to the end of the 2016 federal fiscal year; and

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

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

24 WHEREAS, these funds could be used to make much needed improvements to the  
25 Louisiana Highway 30 corridor in the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and  
26 Iberville by construction of intersection improvements with left turn lanes.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
28 does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to  
29 repurpose congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the  
30 Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish to fund the design and construction of needed

