

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 183

BY SENATORS LAMBERT AND BROWN

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

WHEREAS, prior to September 30, 2005, two million four hundred three thousand five hundred forty dollars were 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 to apply unexpended balances of funds from projects or activities the state or territory certifies have been closed and for which payments have been made under a final voucher; 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

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

WHEREAS, the potential repurpose 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; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate 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, Louisiana Highway 30 at Veterans in Gonzales, Louisiana, and any other intersections on Louisiana Highway 30.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development should repurpose these funds 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 should enter into construction contracts for the improvements of any intersection in the Louisiana Highway 30 corridor within one year.

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

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE