

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROWN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the feasibility of having two dedicated through lanes to exit eastbound from the Interstate 10 Horace Wilkinson Bridge.

WHEREAS, the Horace Wilkinson Bridge is the highest bridge on the Mississippi River and serves as a primary commuter route to more than one hundred thousand cars and trucks daily; and

WHEREAS, the Horace Wilkinson Bridge is listed as one of the most frequent sites of serious automobile accidents on bridges in the state; and

WHEREAS, the reduction to one lane on Interstate 10 eastbound from the Horace Wilkinson Bridge is one of the leading causes of daily traffic congestion and frequent accidents; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 10 eastbound from the Horace Wilkinson Bridge is reduced from three lanes to one through lane with a single exit lane to Washington Street around a sharp curve, creating hazardous situations which are heightened in case of emergency or dangerous weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, the unsafe merge that typically occurred at the exit lane to Washington Street was addressed with the addition of the Interstate 10 exit ramp to Terrace Avenue in 2019, creating an opportunity for the addition of two dedicated through lanes to exit eastbound from the Interstate 10 Horace Wilkinson Bridge to be more feasible; and

WHEREAS, two dedicated through lanes to exit eastbound from the Interstate 10 Horace Wilkinson Bridge would increase the safety measures for vehicles in emergency stops, enhance the safety of motorists, and drastically reduce the traffic congestion where more than one hundred thousand cars and trucks commute daily.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the feasibility of having two dedicated through lanes to exit eastbound from the Interstate 10 Horace Wilkinson Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development shall submit a report detailing the results of its study to the Legislature of Louisiana not later than February 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department's study should consider, at a minimum, the probable enhancement of safety on the bridge by having two lanes, the increased curve radius from adding a lane, as well as other highway safety improvements; such as enhanced delineation and friction on the dangerous curve.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE