

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development study and make recommendations and plans for contraflow, evaculanes, and siren system use throughout the state for public safety and to require the submission of a written report of its findings.

WHEREAS, contraflow is a highly effective action plan with economic and logistical benefits, as contraflow reduces the cost and time required to construct additional lanes to increase the capacity on the roadway necessary for accelerated evacuations; and

WHEREAS, contraflow lanes are easier to manage and enforce during emergency situations, as a driver can only enter or exit the contraflow at limited, designated points; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development is responsible for public works and engineering functions on the state infrastructure system to implement contraflow during natural and manmade disasters; and

WHEREAS, best practices for expediting and reducing implementation time for contraflow use during emergency situations need to be followed; and

WHEREAS, recommendations to local mayors and parish presidents, as well as the governor, would be beneficial to implementing contraflow plans and siren system use; and

WHEREAS, there is a necessity for identification of the needs resulting from contraflow implementation; such as, bottlenecks, bridges, existing construction that could present difficulties, and how to add an evaculane and a high-occupancy vehicle lane to the current spillway project as well as other evacuation routes; and

WHEREAS, evaculanes are designed to move traffic quickly prior to or during a catastrophic event by increasing capacity; and

WHEREAS, feasibility and costs for improving contraflow options and the ability to coordinate among parties are necessary to improving a successful evacuation plan; and

WHEREAS, the cost of bridge repairs and the ability to expedite repairs on the Highway 90 St. Tammany Parish evacuation route is unknown; and

WHEREAS, sirens are effective at notifying the public of impending danger, including natural or manmade disasters; and

WHEREAS, an additional benefit to Louisiana residents includes alternative safety systems such as sirens near at-risk populations to warn of impending disasters and prompt citizens to listen to local radio or television stations for emergency messages; and

WHEREAS, the state would benefit from a study that considers the following:

- (1) The immediate implementation of a seamless plan for contraflow.
- (2) The implementation and oversight of siren systems.
- (3) The impact of the lack of siren systems.
- (4) Other safety measures to mitigate hazardous conditions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to work with representatives from local political subdivisions and the Louisiana Task Force on Contraflow and Sirens to study contraflow in the state of Louisiana, the implementation of alternative safety mechanisms to alert residents of impending danger, and other safety measures to mitigate hazardous conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include the needs resulting from contraflow implementation; such as, bottlenecks, bridges, existing construction that could present difficulties, and how to add an evaculane to relevant evacuation routes and a high-occupancy vehicle lane to the current spillway project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall consider the cost of bridge repairs and the ability to expedite repairs on the Highway 90 evacuation route.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall culminate with the Department of Transportation and Development providing a written report of its findings to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works, and the Louisiana Task Force on Contraflow and Sirens by February 1, 2024.

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE