

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to provide support and assistance to the University of New Orleans Transportation Institute in its efforts to conduct a planning study for the South Claiborne Avenue Link Development project.

WHEREAS, the South Claiborne Avenue corridor serves as a vital artery for the city of New Orleans, providing access to numerous businesses, schools, churches, and recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to improve accessibility, safety, and economic development opportunities along South Claiborne Avenue through the implementation of sustainable transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the proposed South Claiborne Avenue Link Development project will utilize the neutral ground along South Claiborne Avenue to develop a dedicated bike and pedestrian path, increasing mobility for residents and enhancing connectivity to local businesses and community amenities; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of the South Claiborne Avenue Link will extend from the intersection of South Claiborne Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the intersection of South Claiborne Avenue and Louisiana Avenue, providing a safe and accessible corridor for dozens of businesses and thousands of residents, including children and parents accessing area schools and parks; and

WHEREAS, this project has the potential to be a catalyst for broader economic and community development by linking major destinations such as the Superdome and the Smoothie King Center, located within a half-mile of the project area; and

WHEREAS, prior to design and construction, a comprehensive planning study is necessary to determine technical specifications, engage local communities, estimate costs and scheduling, identify funding sources, and develop maintenance strategies; and

WHEREAS, the University of New Orleans Transportation Institute (UNOTI), recognized by the United States Department of Transportation as Louisiana's only Tier I University Transportation Center, possesses unique qualifications and experience to participate in this study; and

WHEREAS, UNOTI has demonstrated its expertise through previous research and community engagement related to bike and pedestrian path development, including successful studies of the Lafitte Greenway and other transformational projects.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislation of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to provide support and assistance to the University of New Orleans Transportation Institute in its efforts to conduct a planning study for the South Claiborne Avenue Link Development project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study include a community engagement process, technical assessments, funding strategies, and recommendations for long-term maintenance to ensure the successful implementation of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of New Orleans Transportation Institute report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library, as required by R.S. 24:771 no later than sixty days prior to the start of the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE