

Existing law authorizes the secretary of DOTD, with approval of the House and Senate transportation committees, to implement a pilot program to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of combining the design and construction phases of a transportation facility, including but not limited to highways, interchanges, or bridges, into a single contract.

Existing law limits the department to utilizing the design-build method to construct the new Mississippi River Bridge at St. Francisville (connection to US 61), including approach structures and connecting roadways, and one additional project selected by the secretary; however, the cost of the additional project shall not exceed \$5 million.

New law adds authority for the department to utilize the design-build method for any transportation infrastructure project in an area impacted by a hurricane, including those areas where infrastructure is adversely impacted by increased population and traffic as a result of a hurricane. Further requires the department to comply with the provisions of existing law when selecting a design-build entity for any project authorized by new law.

Effective upon signature of the governor (December 6, 2005).

(Adds R.S. 48:250.4)