

SENATE CONCURRENT STUDY REQUEST NO. 1

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT STUDY REQUEST

To the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to meet and to function as a joint committee to study the feasibility of proposing a Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development 2 (TIMED 2) program for the state.

WHEREAS, Act 16 of the 1st Extraordinary Session of the 1989 Louisiana Legislature, effective January 1, 1990, enacted the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED) program through the Department of Transportation and Development; and

WHEREAS, the Act levies a tax of four cents per gallon on all gasoline, diesel fuels, and special fuels presently taxed in addition to any other tax imposed on gasoline, diesel fuel, and special fuels to provide dedicated funds exclusively to construct certain specifically listed projects in the state; and

WHEREAS, approved by vote of the people of Louisiana, the TIMED Program is the largest single transportation program in state history with a goal to provide jobs to Louisiana's residents and enhance economic development through investment in transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the TIMED program includes widening 536 miles of state highways to four lanes on eleven project corridors, widening or new construction on three major bridges, and improvements at both the Port of New Orleans and the Louis Armstrong International Airport; and

WHEREAS, the multibillion dollar TIMED program is quickly progressing to completion; and

WHEREAS, continued development, construction, improvement, and expansion of an efficient, safe, and well-maintained intermodal transportation system is essential to provide jobs, promote Louisiana's economic growth and the ability of business and industry to compete in regional, national, and international markets, and to provide a high quality of life for the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, input from community leaders through community outreach in coordination with the Department of Transportation and Development and local transportation planning groups is essential to develop a proposed TIMED 2 program; and

WHEREAS, available state and federal funds are not keeping pace with the state's growing transportation system needs; and

WHEREAS, a TIMED 2 program has been suggested by some community leaders as a means to provide needed transportation projects and additional funding dedicated to their construction subject to a vote of the people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana requests that the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works meet and function as a joint committee to study the feasibility of proposing a Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development 2 (TIMED 2) program for the state.

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