

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 90

BY SENATOR JOHN SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to designate the Louisiana Highway 8/Louisiana Highway 28 corridor as Future Interstate 14.

WHEREAS, Interstate 14 (I-14), also known as the "14th Amendment Highway", the Gulf-Coast Strategic Highway, and the Central Texas Corridor is a proposed interstate highway from Texas to Georgia; the original conceptual western terminus of the highway was from Natchez, Mississippi, and later from I-49 near Alexandria, Louisiana, extending east through the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, ending at Augusta, Georgia or North Augusta, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, advocates of the Gulf-Coast Strategic Highway proposed extending I-14 to the I-10 near Fort Stockton and the junction of US 277 and I-10 near Sonora, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the proposal for the 14th Amendment Highway has its origins in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); and

WHEREAS, the study and planning of I-14 has continued because of support and interest from both the Congress and the associated state highway departments; and

WHEREAS, the I-14 corridor provides a national strategic link to numerous major military bases and major Gulf Coast and Atlantic ports used for overseas deployments in six states from Texas to South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, signed by President Obama on December 14, 2015, officially assigned the Future I-14 designation to the US 190 Central Texas Corridor; and

WHEREAS, congressional advocacy for the legislation spiked following the post-logistics controversies; the act included the 14th Amendment Highway and the 3rd Infantry Division Highway; the legislation did not provide funding for either highway; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) currently has no funding identified beyond the Phase II studies to support long-range planning, environmental review

or construction which must be initiated at the state or regional level with any further direction from the Congress; and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment Highway and the Gulf-Coast Strategic Highway concepts continued through active studies to the present as local and state interest began to surface and support in the Congress, FHWA and, most importantly, in the associated state highway departments, all the key ingredients necessary to successfully justify funding any proposed federal-aid highway project; and

WHEREAS, the FHWA issued its report on the 14th Amendment Highway to the Congress in 2011 and made recommendation for further environmental and feasibility sub-studies; however, little action to fund these studies advanced in Congress after 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) also conducted the US 190/IH-10 Feasibility Study in 2011, which concluded that it was justified to upgrade US 190 to a divided four-lane arterial highway based on current traffic projections to 2040, but that upgrading US 190 to a full freeway through Texas was only justified if the 14th Amendment Highway is actually constructed from Louisiana to Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) has not endorsed designation of "Future I-14" in Louisiana as proponents of the Gulf-Coast Strategic Highway presented the LA 8/LA 28 corridor as a conventional four lane highway; and DOTD is pursuing its development of the LA 8/LA 28 corridor, having completed LA 28 between Alexandria and Fort Polk, and having included the relocation of LA 28 south of Alexandria in Priority A of the Statewide Transportation Plan and the section from Archie to Vidalia in Priority B of the Statewide Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Louisiana recognizes that the designation of the LA 8/LA 28 corridor in Louisiana as Future I-14 is vital as a national strategic link to numerous major military bases and major Gulf Coast and Atlantic ports used for overseas deployments in six states from Texas to South Carolina.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to designate the Louisiana Highway 8/Louisiana Highway 28 corridor in Louisiana as Future Interstate 14.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted

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ENROLLED

to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES