

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVES STEVE CARTER, BACALA, CHAD BROWN, DAVIS,
EDMONDS, FOIL, JAMES, PRICE, SMITH, AND THIBAUT

TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Directs the Department of Transportation and Development to repurpose certain congressional earmarked funds for the planning, design, and construction of the widening and improvement of certain portions of Louisiana Highway 30

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Transportation and Development to repurpose congressional
3 funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the Pointe Clair
4 Expressway for the widening and improvement of certain portions of Louisiana
5 Highway 30.

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30 is used as a major thoroughfare by those who
7 live and work in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville; and

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30 is a vitally important state route in the parishes
9 of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, not only because of the growth of new
10 residential neighborhoods and increased economic development in those areas, but because
11 the two-lane highway is already a major business and commuter corridor and widening
12 portions of this highway can ease heavy traffic congestion currently being experienced on
13 Interstate Highway 10; and

14 WHEREAS, the role of Louisiana Highway 30 as a commuter corridor will only
15 intensify with further congestion on Interstate 10 and the strong possibility that a new
16 Mississippi River bridge will tie into it; and

17 WHEREAS, studies have shown that building a new bridge without an improved
18 Louisiana Highway 30 would leave traffic stuck on that highway, effectively undermining
19 the added capacity of a new one-billion-dollar bridge; and

1 WHEREAS, the traffic congestion on Louisiana Highway 30 has made the route
2 inconvenient to motorists traveling in the area and the widening and improvement of the
3 highway in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville would alleviate
4 growing traffic congestion; and

5 WHEREAS, prior to September 30, 2005, two million four hundred three thousand
6 five hundred forty dollars was earmarked for the plan, design, and construction of the Pointe
7 Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish; and

8 WHEREAS, Section 125 of the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act,
9 2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-113, Division L, Title I), provides the authority for a state or territory
10 to repurpose any earmark that was designated on or before September 30, 2005, and is less
11 than ten percent obligated or final vouchered and closed; and

12 WHEREAS, the repurposed funds may be obligated on a new or existing project in
13 the state within fifty miles of the earmark designation and the Consolidated Appropriations
14 Act of 2016 requires the redesignation of these funds occur prior to the end of the 2016
15 federal fiscal year; and

16 WHEREAS, as of December 18, 2015, the total unobligated balance of the earmark
17 project to plan, design, and construct Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish was two
18 million four hundred three thousand five hundred forty dollars; and

19 WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30, in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge,
20 and Iberville, is within the congressional designated fifty-mile radius of the geographical
21 area for which the funding was originally designated; and

22 WHEREAS, in order to receive future participating federal funds, the next step
23 needed for the Louisiana Highway 30 improvements is a Stage I Environmental Study.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
25 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Transportation and
26 Development to repurpose congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and
27 construction of the Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish, and to secure the state match
28 of six hundred thousand eight hundred and eighty-five dollars for the planning, design, and
29 construction of the widening of Louisiana Highway 30 by first funding one million five
30 hundred thousand dollars of the three million four thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars

