SLS 16RS-4005 ORIGINAL

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 183

BY SENATORS LAMBERT AND BROWN

TRANSPORTATION/DEV DEPT. Requests 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 LA 30.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to repurpose
3	congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the
4	Pointe Clair Expressway for the widening and improvement of certain portions of
5	Louisiana 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 Highway 10 and the strong possibility that a
16	new 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

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1	the added capacity of a new one billion dollar bridge; and
2	WHEREAS, ultimately, a widened Louisiana Highway 30 and a new Mississippi
3	River bridge would provide much needed traffic relief that is needed for the parishes of
4	Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, and would also provide an alternate route to a
5	congested Interstate Highway 10 between Gonzales and Baton Rouge; and
6	WHEREAS, prior to September 30, 2005, two million four hundred three thousand
7	five hundred forty dollars were earmarked for the plan, design, and construction of the
8	Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish; and
9	WHEREAS, Section 125 of the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act,
10	2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-113, Division L, Title I), provides the authority for a state or territory
11	to repurpose any earmark that was designated on or before September 30, 2005, and is less
12	than ten percent obligated, or to apply unexpended balances of funds from projects or
13	activities the state or territory certifies have been closed and for which payments have been
14	made under a final voucher; and
15	WHEREAS, the repurposed funds may be obligated on a new or existing project in
16	the state within fifty miles of the earmark designation; and
17	WHEREAS, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 requires the repurpose of
18	these funds occur prior to the end of the 2016 federal fiscal year; and
19	WHEREAS, the potential repurpose of these funds does not diminish the importance
20	of the Pointe Clair Expressway project; and
21	WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 30 in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge,
22	and Iberville is within the congressional designated fifty-mile radius of the geographical area
23	for which the funding was originally designated; and
24	WHEREAS, these funds could be used to make much needed improvements to the
25	Louisiana Highway 30 corridor in the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and
26	Iberville by construction of intersection improvements with left turn lanes.
27	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
28	does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to
29	repurpose congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the

Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish to fund the design and construction of needed

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improvements to the intersections of Louisiana Highway 74 and Louisiana Highway 30 in Saint Gabriel, Louisiana, Louisiana Highway 73 and Louisiana Highway 30 in Geismar, Louisiana, Louisiana Highway 30 at Veterans in Gonzales, Louisiana, and any other intersections on Louisiana Highway 30.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development should repurpose these funds prior to the end of the 2016 federal fiscal year as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development should fund and utilize the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Planning Organization, which includes the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, and should enter into construction contracts for the improvements of any intersection in the Louisiana Highway 30 corridor within one year.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

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Lambert

Requests DOTD to repurpose congressional funds earmarked for the planning, design, and construction of the Pointe Clair Expressway in Iberville Parish for the design and construction of intersection improvements on LA 30.

Requests DOTD to repurpose the earmarked funds prior to the end of the 2016 federal fiscal year as mandated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016.

Requests DOTD to fund and utilize the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Planning Organization which includes the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville.

Requests DOTD to enter into construction contracts for the improvement of any intersection in the LA 30 corridor within one year.