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## DIGEST

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HB 604 Original

2017 Regular Session

Havard

**Abstract:** Modifies the process of project development within the Highway Priority Program by requiring an annual project development schedule.

Present law requires the department to provide the legislature and public with the Highway Priority Program which must list projects to be constructed, in the ensuing fiscal year, in order of priority that is determined and prioritized by present law. (R.S. 48:229.1)

Proposed law retains present law and also requires the list of projects constructed be listed by parish and legislative district.

Proposed law establishes the following 7 stage project delivery system to identify stages of progress for selected projects:

STAGE 0- Feasibility Study. Develop a preliminary purpose and need for the project; examine technical feasibility; conduct a preliminary scan to identify potential impacts to the human and natural environment; and develop a preliminary scope and budget.

STAGE 1- Environmental Study. Develop alternative corridors and alignment; conduct public meetings and hearings; document impacts to both the human and natural environment; select preferred alternatives; identify mitigation for environment impacts; develop project scope; and develop project budget.

STAGE 2- Funding Project Prioritization. Identify funding for design and construction and establish project delivery date.

STAGE 3- Final Design Process. Develop final plans, specifications, and estimates; obtain any required federal or railroad permits or agreements; acquire right-of-way; obtain utility relocation agreements; and develop traffic management plans and procedures.

STAGE 4- Project Letting. Establish a letting date; determine the construction period; prepare the contract; develop public information plan; conduct bid letting; and award the contract.

STAGE 5- Construction. Implement public information plan; implement traffic management plan; follow through on environmental mitigation.

STAGE 6- Operation. Dispose of excess right-of-way; comply with environmental monitoring and commitments; document new utilities; monitor materials performance and warranties; evaluate project for ease of maintenance and for smooth traffic operations.

Proposed law requires the department prepare and make public a project development schedule for each project that identifies the following information for stages 2, 3, 4, and 5:

- (1) Project name
- (2) Parish
- (3) Route
- (4) Control section
- (5) Fund
- (6) Estimated cost
- (7) Category and subcategory
- (8) Stage of development with detail
- (9) Anticipated start date by quarter and year
- (10) Anticipated end date by quarter and year

Proposed law requires the department to submit a key performance indicator, which indicates whether each project is on-time, ahead of schedule, or behind schedule in each stage no later than Oct. 1st of every year.

Proposed law requires that any project identified in the key performance indicator as behind schedule be included in a detailed report submitted by the department that explains why the project failed to meet its anticipated deadline and must provide an updated cost of construction, a new anticipated start date, and a new anticipated end date.

Proposed law requires the project development schedule and key performance indicator be presented annually in accordance and conjunction with the provisions of present law. (R.S. 48:231(A))

Present law requires the department to annually provide to the legislature an additional list of projects proposed to be commenced within the ensuing four years, which are in various stages of planning and preparation and authorizes the list to change until the department finally approves each project for construction. (R.S. 48:230)

Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 48:229.1(B) and 230)