2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 279

## BY REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

PUBLIC WORKS: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to study conditions on Louisiana Highway 44 in Reserve, Louisiana, to add sidewalks

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study conditions
3	on Louisiana Highway 44 in Reserve, Louisiana, to add sidewalks.
4	WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 44 is a state highway that serves Ascension, St.
5	James, and St. John the Baptist Parishes; and
6	WHEREAS, the Reserve Historic District is located in St. John the Baptist Parish in
7	Louisiana; and
8	WHEREAS, for many rural communities such as Reserve, accessing state and federal
9	funds to improve infrastructure such as sidewalks has been difficult and expensive; and
10	WHEREAS, there are no sidewalks along the highway or the elevated piped bridge,
11	which creates a safety hazard for motorists and pedestrians; and
12	WHEREAS, the frequently used highway is busy during most hours of the day and
13	extremely busy during certain peak times; and
14	WHEREAS, the addition of sidewalks separate from the roadway is a safety measure
15	that would be beneficial to pedestrians and would eliminate the wait time for those traveling
16	the busy intersection by bicycles incapable of accelerating at the speed of a vehicle; and
17	WHEREAS, aside from enhanced safety, adding a sidewalk would provide other
18	benefits such as mobility and healthier communities; and

1	WHEREAS, the addition of sidewalks would reduce pedestrian crashes and allow
2	a designated area for pedestrians to walk, run, or jog without the risk of being struck by a
3	vehicle; and
4	WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration Safety Program's guidance
5	statement recommends providing accessible sidewalks or pathways along both sides of the
6	streets on highways in urban areas particularly near school zones and transit locations where
7	there is frequent pedestrian activity; and
8	WHEREAS, for less developed areas with occasional pedestrian traffic expected, the
9	guidance statement provides that walkable shoulders be provided along both sides of
10	highways at a minimum of four feet of stabilized or paved surface; and
11	WHEREAS, Reserve, Louisiana, particularly River Road, has several schools,
12	churches, and local businesses, resulting in constant pedestrian travel; and
13	WHEREAS, Reserve, Louisiana, is a rural area that is in need of sidewalks to better
14	serve the local population and promote safety.
15	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and
17	Development to study conditions on Louisiana Highway 44 in Reserve, Louisiana, to add
18	sidewalks.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
20	Development shall submit a report detailing its findings to the House Committee on
21	Transportation, Highways and Public Works by January 3, 2025.
22	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
23	secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to study conditions on La. Hwy. 44 in Reserve, La., to add sidewalks to better serve the local population and promote safety. Requires the DOTD to submit a written report detailing its findings to the House transportation committee by Jan. 3, 2025.