

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

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

1 A CONCURRENT 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, sidewalks separate from the roadway would be a safety measure that  
15 is beneficial to pedestrians and would eliminate the wait time for those traveling the busy  
16 intersection by bicycles incapable of accelerating at the speed of a vehicle; and

17 WHEREAS, adding a sidewalk would provide many benefits such as safety,  
18 mobility, and healthier communities; and

19 WHEREAS, the addition of sidewalks would reduce pedestrian crashes and allow  
20 a designated area for pedestrians to walk, run, or jog without the risk of being struck by a  
21 vehicle; and

1           WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration Safety Program's guidance  
2 statement recommends providing accessible sidewalks or pathways along both sides of the  
3 streets on highways in urban areas particularly near school zones and transit locations where  
4 there is frequent pedestrian activity; and

5           WHEREAS, for less developed areas with occasional pedestrian traffic expected, the  
6 guidance statement provides that walkable shoulders be provided along both sides of  
7 highways at a minimum of four feet stabilized or paved surface; and

8           WHEREAS, Reserve, Louisiana, particularly River Road, has several schools,  
9 churches, and local businesses resulting in constant pedestrian travel; and

10          WHEREAS, Reserve, Louisiana is a rural area that is in need of sidewalks to better  
11 serve the local population and promote safety.

12          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
13 urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study conditions on  
14 Louisiana Highway 44 in Reserve, Louisiana to add sidewalks.

15          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and  
16 Development shall submit a report detailing its findings to the House Committee on  
17 Transportation, Highways and Public Works and Senate Committee on Transportation,  
18 Highways, and Public Works by August 1, 2025.

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

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#### 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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HCR 137 Original

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Taylor

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 and Senate transportation committees by Aug. 1, 2024.