

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENSGENS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a study and make recommendations relative to a hurricane evacuation route for and economic development of a portion of Louisiana Highway 35, south of Rayne to Louisiana Highway 92.

WHEREAS, the maintenance of roads and highways is of great importance to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, economic development and transportation are closely linked; and

WHEREAS, economic development stimulates transportation demand by increasing the number of workers commuting to and from work, customers traveling to and from service areas, and products being shipped between producers and consumers; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Highway 35, south of the city of Rayne, to Louisiana Highway 92, is a major thoroughfare in the parishes of Acadia, Lafayette, and Vermilion, and is in need of significant maintenance and overlay; and

WHEREAS, Vermilion Parish sustained significant flood and wind damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, and a hurricane evacuation route is vital to emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, a designated hurricane evacuation route could be used to facilitate evacuation management on Louisiana Highway 35 south of Rayne to Louisiana Highway 92; and

WHEREAS, these improvements to the portion of Highway 35 south of Rayne to Highway 92 would support economic growth and hurricane evacuation and improve the quality of life of residents along this stretch of highway.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the Department of Transportation and Development conduct a study of Louisiana Highway 35, south of Rayne to Louisiana Highway 92, and make recommendations regarding a hurricane evacuation route and economic development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study by the Department of Transportation and Development should consider assessments of the following: (1) all safe and practical modes of transportation available for evacuations, including contraflow; (2) the extent to which evacuation plans are coordinated with adjoining jurisdictions; (3) methods of communicating evacuation plans and preparing citizens in advance of evacuations; (4) methods of coordinating communication with evacuees during plan execution; (5) the availability of food, water, restrooms, fueling stations, and shelter opportunities along evacuation routes; (6) the time required to evacuate under the plan; and (7) methods for increasing economic development along the portion of Louisiana Highway 35, south of Rayne, Louisiana to Louisiana Highway 92.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development shall make a written report to the Louisiana House of Representatives detailing their findings no later than January 1, 2016.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES