

HOUSE BILL 437

By Shipley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, to enact the "State Route 126 (Memorial Boulevard) Safety Improvement Act."

WHEREAS, the 8.8 mile-segment of State Route 126 between Interstate 81 and East Center Street in Kingsport, in Sullivan County, is one of the state's most dangerous highways as documented by fatality and crash data; and

WHEREAS, immediate safety enhancements are sought by area residents and supported by city and county legislators for this dangerous, outdated highway; and

WHEREAS, State Route 126 is the state's first Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) project, and immediate safety improvements fit perfectly within the CSS-approved long-range plan as recommended by the CSS Team; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "State Route 126 (Memorial Boulevard) Safety Improvement Act".

SECTION 2. The department of transportation shall initiate the following safety improvements to State Route 126 (Memorial Boulevard) in Sullivan County:

(1) Assist in the construction of an alternate access to condominium development on Milton Court and provide appropriate signage;

(2) Straighten curves, develop shoulder for east-bound traffic and pull-off area for west-bound traffic and provide appropriate signage between Old Stage Road and Holiday Hills Road in coordination with the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Team's recommended improvements;

(3) At the intersection of State Route 126 and Chestnut Ridge Road, fill in the intersection depression, develop highway shoulder, install appropriate guardrail and provide appropriate signage;

(4) Construct a west-bound left-turn lane at Cooks Valley Road and provide appropriate signage;

(5) Construct an east-bound turn lane and straighten curve at Island Road, modify entrances to commercial developments and provide appropriate signage;

(6) Construct a west-bound left-turn lane at Fall Creek Road and provide appropriate signage, including "Stop Ahead" signage;

(7) Increase sight distance near Cassidy Road by reducing the roadside bank west of Cassidy Road, construct a center turning lane between Cassidy Road and east-bound left-turn lane at Harr Town Road and provide appropriate signage;

(8) Construct a west-bound left-turn lane at Cochise Trail, improve sight distance by reducing roadside bank on State Route 126 opposite Cochise Trail;

(9) Install a four-inch wide hatched center median with rumble strips along both sides from the intersection with Center Street to the intersection with Orebank Road;

(10) Install lateral rumble strips and appropriate signage from the intersection with Orebank Road to mile marker four point four zero (4.40);

(11) Remove certain commercial entrances near State Route 93;

(12) Install pavement markings and edge-of-pavement rumble strips, develop shoulder and provide appropriate signage from intersection with Stratford Drive to intersection with Harbor Chapel Road;

(13) Install post delineators and edge-of-pavement and lateral rumble strips, widen shoulder and clear vegetation from intersection with Harbor Chapel Road to intersection with Old Stage Road;

(14) Install guardrails, stop bars and edge-of-pavement rumble strips, widen shoulders, provide even pavement, remove obstacles in clear zones and provide appropriate signage from intersection with Old Stage Road to intersection with Shuler Drive;

(15) Install guardrails and edge-of-pavement rumble strips, widen shoulders, fill rutting in asphalt, remove obstacles in clear zones and provide appropriate signage from intersection with Shuler Drive to mile marker seven point four (7.4);

(16) Install guardrails and stop bars, widen shoulders, fill rutting in asphalt, remove or relocate utility poles and provide appropriate signage from mile marker seven point four (7.4) to mile marker seven point seven (7.7);

(17) Widen shoulders, clear vegetation and remove obstacles in clear zones, add stop bars, lower speed limit and provide appropriate signage from intersection with Fisher Drive to intersection with Country Drive;

(18) Widen shoulders, fill rutting in asphalt, clear vegetation and remove obstacles in clear zones, install stop bars and edge-of-pavement rumble strips, lower speed limit and provide appropriate signage from intersection with Country Drive to intersection with Montezuma Road;

(19) Widen shoulders, fill rutting in asphalt, remove obstacles in clear zones, install edge-of-pavement rumble strips, lower speed limit and provide appropriate signage from intersection with Montezuma Road to intersection with Harr Town Road;

(20) Install guardrails and edge-of-pavement rumble strips, widen shoulders, fill rutting in asphalt, remove obstacles in clear zones, lower speed limit and provide appropriate signage from intersection with Harr Town Road to intersection with Samlola Road;

(21) Widen shoulders, fill rutting in asphalt, clear vegetation and remove obstacles in clear zones, install edge-of-pavement rumble strips, lower speed limit and provide appropriate signage from intersection with Samlola Road to mile marker eleven point one (11.1); and

(22) Install lateral rumble strips and signage from mile marker eleven point one (11.1) to mile marker eleven point four (11.4).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.