

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY SENATORS MCPHERSON, ALARIO, AMEDEE, BROOME, CHEEK, CLAITOR, DORSEY, DUPRE, ERDEY, GRAY EVANS, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, LAFLEUR, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MORRELL, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVES BOBBY BADON, BALDONE, BILLIOT, HENRY BURNS, DIXON, DOERGE, DOWNS, GISCLAIR, MICKEY GUILLORY, HARRISON, HILL, HINES, HOWARD, HUTTER, MICHAEL JACKSON, LAMBERT, MONTOUCET, NORTON, POPE, SIMON, PATRICIA SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, WHITE AND WILLIAMS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request formation of a Complete Streets Work Group in the Department of Transportation and Development.

WHEREAS, Louisianians need streets and roadways that are safe and convenient for travel by automobile, foot, bicycle, and transit regardless of age or ability; and

WHEREAS, the doubling of Louisiana's older adult population from 500,000 to almost 1 million between 2000 and 2030 increases the need for locally-based transportation options and a statewide transportation system less reliant on the automobile; and

WHEREAS, the state's commitment to providing community-based options for individuals with disabilities requires access to a broader range of transportation options than currently available in most communities; and

WHEREAS, streets that support and invite multiple uses are more conducive to public life and to efficient movement of people than are streets designed primarily to move automobiles and trucks; and

WHEREAS, the full integration of all modes in the design of streets and roadways will increase the capacity and efficiency of the road network, reduce traffic congestion, improve mobility options, and limit greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, regular walking and bicycling improve physical health, increase mental well-being and help reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, some cancers and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, increased physical activity is critical to combating the obesity crisis in Louisiana where sixty-four percent of adults and over one-third (36%) of children are obese or overweight; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, one hundred thirty-four pedestrians and bicyclists were killed, and in that same year over one thousand five hundred people were injured on Louisiana roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets is the practice of designing and constructing streets and roads to meet the needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and drivers; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets promotes the walkability and bicycle friendliness of communities through principles such as context-sensitive design, mobility-friendly design, mixed-use and infill developments; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development has the opportunity to create and improve transportation facilities for all users by implementing these principles and standards through its projects; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Complete Streets guidelines include:

(1) Creation of a comprehensive, integrated, connected transportation network that allows users to choose between different modes of transportation;

(2) A change in the decision-making and design process so that all users are considered in planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining all roadways;

(3) A recognition that all streets are different, and users needs should be balanced in order to ensure that the solution will enhance the community;

(4) The use of the latest and best design guidelines as they apply to bicycle, pedestrian, transit and highway facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Complete Streets guidelines shall accomplish the following:

(1) The development of model design guidelines for suburban, rural and urban contexts;

(2) The application of such guidelines to both new and reconstruction projects;

(3) A determination of what components of guideline implementation require administrative and legislative changes;

(4) The development of any necessary legislation for the 2010 legislative session;

(5) The coordination of Complete Street guidelines with metropolitan planning organizations;

(6) The balancing of costs with benefits;

(7) A prioritization of interventions to connect bike and pedestrian networks throughout the state;

(8) Building on the Department of Transportation and Development's draft revised bike and pedestrian plan;

(9) The development of model urban street design guidelines and model local ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets Work Group will be established to develop statewide policy on the design and construction of thoroughfares that maximizes use by all Louisianians whether they chose to bike, walk, ride transit, or drive a car.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the formation of a Complete Streets Work Group in the Department of Transportation and Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Complete Streets Work Group shall be convened by the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development and shall develop Complete Street guidelines that apply any time state or federal funds are used to build or construct a roadway or bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group members shall include a representative appointed by each of the following organizations:

(1) Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

(2) AARP.

(3) American Society of Landscape Architects, Louisiana Chapter.

(4) American Planning Association, Louisiana Chapter.

(5) Center for Planning Excellence.

(6) University of New Orleans Center for Urban and Public Affairs.

(7) Louisiana Municipal Association.

(8) Louisiana Police Jury Association.

(9) A member appointed by a majority of the metropolitan planning organizations participating in the member's selection as determined by the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

(10) Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

(11) Louisiana Department of Public Health.

(12) Tulane University's Prevention Research Center.

(13) Louisiana Engineering Society.

(14) Louisiana Realtors Association.

(15) Department of Education.

(16) A member appointed by a majority of the bicycle advocacy groups participating in the member's selection as determined by the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

(17) Louisiana Public Health Institute.

(18) Advocacy Center.

(19) Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

(20) Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs.

(21) Office on Aging and Adult Services.

(22) Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum.

(23) Louisiana Council on Obesity Prevention and Management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development shall notify the members of the Complete Streets Work Group and convene its first meeting no later than September 1, 2009. The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development shall submit the work group's interim report to the Senate and House committees on transportation, highways and public works no later than January 31, 2010, and the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development shall present the final report of the work group to such committees no later than the 2010 Regular Legislative Session. The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development shall call at least four meetings of the work group prior to

the secretary's presentation of the final report to the legislative committees. Each meeting of the work group shall be staffed by the Department of Transportation and Development employees.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES