

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATOR DONAHUE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the President of the Louisiana Senate to create and establish a special Senate committee to conduct a comprehensive study of the TIMED Program.

WHEREAS, Act No. 847 of the 1989 Regular Session, approved by the voters of Louisiana and effective on January 1, 1990, enacted Article VII, Section 27 of the Constitution of Louisiana to establish the Transportation Trust Fund as a special permanent fund in the state treasury; and

WHEREAS, monies in the Transportation Trust Fund are dedicated solely and exclusively for the costs for and associated with construction and maintenance of the roads and bridges of the state and federal highway systems, the Statewide Flood-Control Program, ports, airports, transit, state police for traffic control purposes, and the Parish Transportation Fund, and for the payment of debt service of bonds secured by the Transportation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, a tax of twenty cents per gallon is imposed on gasoline and motor fuels and on special fuels and deposited into the Transportation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, four cents of the twenty cents deposited into the Transportation Trust Fund is dedicated to the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED) Program, as created by Act No. 16 of the First Extraordinary Session of 1989; and

WHEREAS, the TIMED Program was developed in 1989 to expand 536 miles of state highways to four lanes along 11 corridors, to widen or construct three major bridges, and to improve the Port of New Orleans and the Louis Armstrong International Airport; and

WHEREAS, some eighteen years after the effective date of the Transportation Trust Fund and the TIMED Program, over half of the original projects in the TIMED Program have not been completed; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the TIMED Program to review the projects, construction costs, schedules, funding and all other matters pertaining to the TIMED Program, is deemed advisable.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the President of the Senate of Louisiana is hereby urged and requested to create a committee to conduct a comprehensive study of the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED) Program, including the following matters:

(1) The original intent of the TIMED Program, including the original projects, original estimates and projections of the costs of the projects and the projected schedule of funding the projects.

(2) The specifics of the mechanisms set up to fund the projects.

(3) The projects included in the constitution provision, including original estimated costs and schedules.

(4) The actual income generated by the funding mechanisms set up to fund the projects, by year since inception of the TIMED Program.

(5) The allocation and disposition of the dollars as collected on a yearly basis.

(6) Of the original scheduled projects, which ones were completed and the time frame and cost of those projects.

(7) The balance of the projects not yet completed, projected costs and schedules for those projects.

(8) Such other information as may be necessary to review and ascertain the overall results and effectiveness of the TIMED Projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate instruct the committee to make a written report of its findings to the Senate no later than April 6, 2009, together with any specific proposals for legislation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE