

Regular Session, 2008

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 187

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the town of Abita Springs, with the assistance of the Department of Transportation and Development, to develop a model "complete streets" plan which could be used as a design template for building streets, highways, and communities that provide for travel by all citizens regardless of mode of travel.

WHEREAS, in post-World War II United States, facilitating efficient travel by automobile became the centerpiece of urban planning and street and highway design; and

WHEREAS, many of the detrimental effects of this emphasis on car travel have been well documented and include the ever increasing distances between where people live and where they work and the disintegration of neighborhoods by ever expanding interstate highways and other high-speed, controlled-access freeways; and

WHEREAS, this approach to urban planning and street and highway design further reenforced the trend toward automobile dependence as suburban sprawl made simple acts like acquiring groceries impossible without a car; and

WHEREAS, Americans have become increasingly aware of other impacts of automobile dependence, including a dependence of foreign oil, degradation of air quality, and health consequences of a lack of exercise; and

WHEREAS, Americans are also becoming aware that highways and streets do not have to be designed solely for the benefit of automobile travel and that thoroughfares can be designed in a way that integrates safe travel for everyone, young or old, motorist or bicyclist, walker or wheelchair user, bus rider or shopkeeper; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for Louisiana and its communities to join with other states and communities around the nation in insisting that highways and streets be planned and built or upgraded to incorporate "complete streets" design standards which provide for all forms of travel, not just automobiles.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the town of Abita Springs, with the assistance of the Department of Transportation and Development, to develop a model "complete streets" plan which could be used as a design template for building streets, highways, and communities that provide for travel by all citizens regardless of mode of travel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing this model, the town and the department shall explore the benefits, feasibility, and costs of development and implementation of plans that include the following elements:

- (1) Safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of travel.
- (2) Bicycle and pedestrian ways in urban and rural areas except where bicyclists and pedestrians are prohibited by law, where costs would be excessive, or where there is not a need for bicycle and pedestrian ways.
- (3) Paved shoulders on rural roads.
- (4) Safe pedestrian travel on sidewalks and street crossings along new roads throughout Louisiana.
- (5) Utilization of the latest and best design standards.
- (6) Consistency of the "complete streets" plan with community context.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE