

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806

August 28, 2020

Secretary Shawn D. Wilson
Department of Transportation and Development
State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94245
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Secretary Wilson:

Today we announced that the Federal Highway Administration will provide an additional \$14,350,478 for our state's highways. Considering that Louisiana has some of the worst traffic problems in America, I urge you to take advantage of these funds and make investments in Louisiana's future security and economic stability, including:

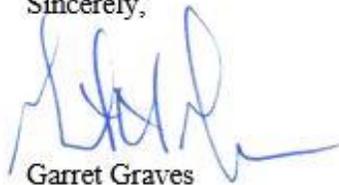
- Moving forward with secondary projects to support a new span of the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge, one of the largest return-on-investment opportunities for the state, which would dramatically reduce some of our nation's worst traffic bottlenecks; specifically:
 - LA-30 as the eastern approach to the new crossing.
 - LA-1 in West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes as the western approach to the crossing, including improvements to the Intracoastal Bridge.
 - Completing improvements to LA-415.
 - Investing in administrative hurdles of making this megaproject a reality, including pre-engineering, design, and environmental assessments.
- Elevating LA-1 between Leesville and Golden Meadow, a nationally important connection to the heart of our nation's energy industry at Port Fourchon. As you know, funds could be used to complement the recently announced \$135,000,000 federal grant for this phase of the project.
- Completing the Pecue Lane Interchange.

When passed, a surface transportation reauthorization, which will be needed by September 30, will set our nation's transportation priorities for decades. As you know, the above listed Capital Region roadways are designated as a National High Priority Corridor with my amendment to the House of Representatives-passed surface transportation bill; joining LA-1 as a key national highway.

Several years ago, when we negotiated the current authorization, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, we had Louisiana's highways in mind. This legislation resulted in more than \$1 billion in new grants and formula funds, as well as the reallocation of formula funds which have allowed the state to fund critical projects like the Terrace Street Exit, Pecue Lane Interchange, widening of I-10 from Highland Road to LA-73, and improvements to I-10 in Lafayette. Our amendment prioritizing projects benefiting national energy security laid the foundation for the most-recent announcement of a \$135 million federal investment into LA-1.

We can't lose steam now. These opportunities will allow our state to invest in our future security and competitiveness at a tough time for our state and nation. Advancing these key priorities will lay the groundwork for our state to receive future dollars through Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grants and make big-picture projects a reality for Louisianians.

Sincerely,



Garret Graves
Member of Congress