

By: Janus

To: Transportation

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1523

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 ASSIGN CERTAIN DUTIES OF THE MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
3 RELATING TO FEASIBILITY STUDIES UNDER THE GAMING COUNTIES  
4 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM AFFECTING CERTAIN PROJECTS ON THE GULF  
5 COAST TO THE CITIES OF GULFPORT AND BILOXI, THE COUNTY OF HARRISON  
6 AND THE HARRISON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION; TO MAKE CERTAIN  
7 REVISIONS TO THE LIST OF PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE GAMING COUNTIES  
8 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM AND TO EXEMPT THOSE PROJECTS FROM THE  
9 REQUIREMENT THAT ALL PROJECTS UNDER THE PROGRAM BE PERFORMED  
10 ACCORDING TO CERTAIN PRIORITIES; TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL SOURCES  
11 OF FUNDING FOR SUCH PROJECTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

13 SECTION 1. Section 65-39-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
14 amended as follows:

15 65-39-1. (1) (a) The Mississippi Transportation Commission  
16 is authorized, subject to the availability of funds in the Gaming  
17 Counties State-Assisted Infrastructure Fund created in Section  
18 65-39-17, to conduct feasibility studies and, pursuant to  
19 information gathered in such studies, select routes and locations,  
20 perform preliminary engineering, acquire necessary right-of-way  
21 and property, construct and/or reconstruct and improve existing or  
22 new highways, roads, streets and bridges, including two-lane,  
23 four-lane and multi-lane roads (or segments thereof), perform  
24 intersection improvements, provide signal retiring, turnbay  
25 extensions, additional interchanges and other traffic  
26 modifications, within and approaching those counties in this state  
27 where legal gaming is being conducted or is authorized. Any  
28 highway, road, street or bridge that is authorized to be  
29 constructed, reconstructed or improved shall meet design standards  
30 established by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, shall

31 be constructed to bear a load limit of at least eighty thousand  
32 (80,000) pounds and, upon completion, shall become a part of the  
33 state highway system, and thereafter shall be under the  
34 jurisdiction of the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the  
35 Mississippi Department of Transportation for construction and  
36 maintenance.

37 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of  
38 this subsection, with regard to the projects authorized under  
39 subsection (2)(s) and subsection (2)(t) of this section, the  
40 Mississippi Transportation Commission, within sixty (60) days from  
41 the effective date of this act, subject to the availability of  
42 funds, shall delegate to the City of Gulfport, the City of Biloxi,  
43 the County of Harrison or the Harrison County Transportation  
44 Commission the authority, with regard to the projects authorized  
45 in subsection (2)(s) and subsection (2)(t) of this section, to  
46 conduct feasibility studies, select routes and location, perform  
47 preliminary engineering, acquire necessary right-of-way and  
48 property, construct and/or reconstruct and improve existing or new  
49 highways, roads, streets and bridges, including two-lane,  
50 four-lane and multi-lane roads (or segments thereof), perform  
51 intersection improvements, provide signal retiring, turnbay  
52 extensions, additional interchanges and other traffic  
53 modifications. Such projects, however, shall meet design  
54 standards established by the Mississippi Department of  
55 Transportation for state aid roads or for major urban  
56 thoroughfares, shall be constructed to bear a load limit of at  
57 least eighty thousand (80,000) pounds and, upon completion, shall  
58 thereafter become a part of the state highway system under the  
59 jurisdiction of the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the  
60 Mississippi Department of Transportation for construction and  
61 maintenance.

62 (2) The projects authorized in subsection (1) of this  
63 section shall include, but shall not be limited to, highways,  
64 roads, streets and bridges on and along the following locations:

65 (a) U.S. Highway 90 from its intersection with  
66 Mississippi 607 in Hancock County to Ocean Springs, and including  
67 Lakeshore Road in Hancock County from its intersection with U.S.

68 Highway 90 to Beach Boulevard;

69           (b) Mississippi 4 from U.S. Highway 61 to Mississippi  
70 3;

71           (c) Mississippi 4 from Mississippi 3 to Senatobia;

72           (d) Lorraine\_Cowan Road from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10;

73           (e) U.S. Highway 49 from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10 in  
74 Gulfport;

75           (f) Mississippi 304 beginning at the Tennessee state  
76 line at or near U.S. 72 and thence running in a southwesterly  
77 direction to intersect with U.S. 78 at or near Byhalia and thence  
78 running in a westerly direction to intersect I-55 at or near  
79 Hernando and thence running in a westerly direction to intersect  
80 with U.S. 61 in DeSoto County, with a spur extending southwesterly  
81 to or near Robinsonville in Tunica County;

82           (g) I-10 from Exit 28 to Exit 57;

83           (h) A new location from the northernmost point on I-110  
84 to U.S. 49;

85           (i) U.S. Highway 61 from the Tunica County line to the  
86 Tennessee state line;

87           (j) (i) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16  
88 beginning at its intersection with Mississippi 25 and extending  
89 easterly to join the existing four-lane on the west side of  
90 Carthage within the corporate boundaries;

91                   (ii) Passing lanes and turn lanes, as needed,  
92 along Mississippi 16 beginning at a point on the east side of  
93 Carthage within the corporate boundaries where the existing  
94 four-lane ends and extending easterly to the Leake/Neshoba county  
95 line; and

96                   (iii) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16  
97 beginning at the Leake/Neshoba county line and extending easterly  
98 to not more than ten (10) miles east of Mississippi 15;

99           (k) Lorraine\_Cowan Road Extension from I-10 North to  
100 relocated/reconstructed Mississippi 67;

101 (l) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 82  
102 and Mississippi 1 in the City of Greenville;

103 (m) At various locations on and along I-20, U.S.  
104 Highway 61 and U.S. Highway 80 in the City of Vicksburg, including  
105 a truck route from Harbor Industrial Park to U.S. Highway 61 north  
106 and an extension of South Frontage Road with railroad bridge to  
107 I-20;

108 (n) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 61,  
109 U.S. Highway 65 and Washington Street in the City of Natchez;

110 (o) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 90  
111 in the City of Pass Christian;

112 (p) Mississippi 43/603 beginning where the existing  
113 four-lane ends north of I-10 and extending northerly to a point  
114 approximately one (1) mile north of Kiln where Mississippi 43/603  
115 divides into Mississippi 43 and Mississippi 603;

116 (q) Mississippi 43 beginning where Mississippi 43 and  
117 Mississippi 603 divide and extending northwesterly to or near  
118 Picayune;

119 (r) U.S. 49 from U.S. 61 west to the Mississippi River  
120 bridge;

121 (s) Subject to the conditions prescribed in subsection  
122 (3) of this section, a central Harrison County connector from I-10  
123 to U.S. 90 in the vicinity of Canal Road to the Mississippi State  
124 Port at Gulfport; and

125 (t) (i) An east Harrison County connector from U.S. 90  
126 to I-10 to be located at the Cedar Lake Road interchange; and

127 (ii) A connector from U.S. 90 to I-10 between the  
128 I-110 interchange and the Ocean Springs interchange and at U.S. 90  
129 at Oak Street.

130 (3) The level of service to be required for projects  
131 authorized under subsections (2)(t)(i) and (2)(t)(ii) of this  
132 section shall not exceed the level of service for U.S. 90.

133 (4) Authorization for the project described in paragraph

134 (2)(s) of this section is conditioned upon receipt by the  
135 Mississippi Transportation Commission of a written commitment by  
136 the Department of Economic and Community Development to make  
137 available for such project not less than Six Million Dollars  
138 (\$6,000,000.00).

139 (5) Except for any projects authorized in subsections (2)(s)  
140 and (2)(t) of this section and delegated by the Mississippi  
141 Transportation Commission to be carried out by the City of  
142 Gulfport, the City of Biloxi, the County of Harrison or the  
143 Harrison County Transportation Commission as provided in  
144 subsection (1) of this section, all planning, construction,  
145 reconstruction and performance of the projects authorized under  
146 this section, including the letting of contracts, shall commence,  
147 proceed and be performed by the Mississippi Transportation  
148 Commission and the Mississippi Department of Transportation  
149 according to priorities based on volume capacity and traffic  
150 congestion in comparative project areas; however, if a project  
151 authorized in this section is also included in the four-lane  
152 highway program under Section 65-3-97, then all contracts  
153 necessary to be let for the completion of the project under this  
154 section shall be let not later than the priorities established for  
155 the letting of contracts for the project under Section 65-3-97.

156 (6) (a) Funds for the projects authorized under this  
157 section may be provided through the issuance of bonds under  
158 Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33, through the issuance of notes  
159 for such purposes under Section 31-17-127 or from such monies as  
160 may be available in the Gaming Counties State-Assisted  
161 Infrastructure Fund created under Section 65-39-17.

162 (b) In addition to the funds provided for under  
163 paragraph (a) of this subsection, funds for the project described  
164 in subsection (2)(s) of this section also may be provided from any  
165 available federal, state, county or municipal funds authorized for  
166 such project, including the Economic Development Highway Act.

167           (c) In addition to the funds provided under paragraph  
168 (a) of this subsection, funds for the projects described in  
169 subsection (2)(t) of this section also may be provided from any  
170 available federal, state, county, municipal or Harrison County  
171 Transportation Commission funds authorized for such projects,  
172 including, but not limited to, Defense Access Roads funds  
173 authorized by the United States government.

174           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
175 and after its passage.