

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Hewes, Dawkins

To: Highways and  
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2459

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 ADD AN EAST BILOXI CONNECTOR FROM U.S. 90 TO I-10 IN THE PROJECTS  
3 SPECIFIED IN THE GAMING COUNTIES STATE-ASSISTED INFRASTRUCTURE  
4 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 65-39-1. (1) The Mississippi Transportation Commission is  
9 authorized, subject to the availability of funds in the Gaming  
10 Counties State-Assisted Infrastructure Fund created in Section  
11 65-39-17, to conduct feasibility studies and, pursuant to  
12 information gathered in such studies, select routes and locations,  
13 perform preliminary engineering, acquire necessary right-of-way  
14 and property, construct and/or reconstruct and improve existing or  
15 new highways, roads, streets and bridges, including two-lane,  
16 four-lane and multi-lane roads (or segments thereof), perform  
17 intersection improvements, provide signal retiring, turnbay  
18 extensions, additional interchanges and other traffic  
19 modifications, within and approaching those counties in this state  
20 where legal gaming is being conducted or is authorized. Any  
21 highway, road, street or bridge that is authorized to be  
22 constructed, reconstructed or improved shall meet design standards  
23 established by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, shall  
24 be constructed to bear a load limit of at least eighty thousand  
25 (80,000) pounds and, upon completion, shall become a part of the  
26 state highway system, and thereafter shall be under the  
27 jurisdiction of the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the

28 Mississippi Department of Transportation for construction and  
29 maintenance.

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

33 (a) U.S. Highway 90 from its intersection with  
34 Mississippi 607 in Hancock County to Ocean Springs, and including  
35 Lakeshore Road in Hancock County from its intersection with U.S.  
36 Highway 90 to Beach Boulevard;

37 (b) Mississippi 4 from U.S. Highway 61 to Mississippi  
38 3;

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

40 (d) Lorraine/Cowan Road from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10;

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

43 (f) Mississippi 304 beginning at the Tennessee State  
44 Line at or near U.S. 72 and thence running in a southwesterly  
45 direction to intersect with U.S. 78 at or near Byhalia and thence  
46 running in a westerly direction to intersect I-55 at or near  
47 Hernando and thence running in a westerly direction to intersect  
48 with U.S. 61 in DeSoto County, with a spur extending southwesterly  
49 to or near Robinsonville in Tunica County;

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

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

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

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

59 (ii) Passing lanes and turn lanes, as needed,  
60 along Mississippi 16 beginning at a point on the east side of

61 Carthage within the corporate boundaries where the existing  
62 four-lane ends and extending easterly to the Leake/Neshoba county  
63 line; and

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

67 (k) Lorraine/Cowan Road Extension from I-10 North to  
68 relocated/reconstructed Mississippi 67;

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

71 (m) At various locations on and along I-20, U.S.  
72 Highway 61 and U.S. Highway 80 in the City of Vicksburg, including  
73 a truck route from Harbor Industrial Park to U.S. Highway 61 north  
74 and an extension of South Frontage Road with railroad bridge to  
75 Interstate Highway 20;

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

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

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

84 (q) Mississippi 43 beginning where Mississippi 43 and  
85 Mississippi 603 divide and extending northwesterly to or near  
86 Picayune;

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

89 (s) Subject to the conditions prescribed in  
90 subsection (3) of this section, a central Harrison County  
91 connector from I-10 to U.S. 90 in the vicinity of Canal Road to  
92 the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport; \* \* \*

93 (t) An east Harrison County connector from U.S. 90 to  
94 I-10 to be located between the Cowan-Lorraine Road interchange and  
95 the I-110 interchange; and

96 (u) An east Biloxi connector from U.S. 90 to I-10.

97 (3) Authorization for the project described in subsection  
98 (2)(s) of this section is conditioned upon receipt by the  
99 Mississippi Transportation Commission of a written commitment by  
100 the Department of Economic and Community Development to make  
101 available for such project not less than Six Million Dollars  
102 (\$6,000,000.00).

103 (4) All planning, construction, reconstruction and  
104 performance of the projects authorized under this section,  
105 including the letting of contracts, shall commence, proceed and be  
106 performed by the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the  
107 Mississippi Department of Transportation according to priorities  
108 based on volume capacity and traffic congestion in comparative  
109 project areas; however, if a project authorized in this section is  
110 also included in the four-lane highway program under Section  
111 65-3-97, then all contracts necessary to be let for the completion  
112 of the project under this section shall be let not later than the  
113 priorities established for the letting of contracts for the  
114 project under Section 65-3-97.

115 (5) (a) Funds for the projects authorized under this  
116 section may be provided through the issuance of bonds under  
117 Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33, through the issuance of notes  
118 for such purposes under Section 31-17-127 or from such monies as  
119 may be available in the Gaming Counties State-Assisted  
120 Infrastructure Fund created under Section 65-39-17.

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

126 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
127 and after July 1, 2001.