

By: Senator(s) Hewes

To: Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2781

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ADD CERTAIN PROJECTS TO THE GAMING COUNTIES STATE-ASSISTED
3 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH THE PRIORITY OF PROJECTS IN
4 SUCH 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 and, except as otherwise provided for in this section, in the
34 following order of priority:

35 (a) Beginning at the Interstate 10 Canal Road
36 interchange (Exit 31), then in a southeasterly direction to a
37 point near the intersection of 28th Street and 30th Avenue in
38 Gulfport, and then in a southeasterly direction to a point
39 adjacent to the west side of the Kansas City Southern railroad
40 line near 28th Street and then southerly adjacent to the Kansas
41 City Southern railroad line across U.S. Highway 90 to the State
42 Port at Gulfport.

43 (b) Beginning at the Interstate 10 Woolmarket Road
44 interchange (Exit 41) then in a southeasterly direction across the
45 Tchoutabouffa River continuing south across the Back Bay of Biloxi
46 to a point near Hiller Park and then in a southerly direction
47 terminating at grade at U.S. Highway 90.

48 (c) Beginning at the Interstate 10 Red Creek Road
49 interchange (Exit 28) in a southerly direction along the Red Creek
50 Road and Espy Avenue route where practical to an intersection with
51 U.S. Highway 90.

52 (d) Construction of a new Interstate 10 interchange
53 between the I-110 interchange (Exit 46) and the Ocean Springs
54 interchange (Exit 50) and then from such new interchange in a
55 southerly direction across the Back Bay of Biloxi to connect with
56 the existing OAK Street Route and then to an intersection at
57 grade with U.S. 90.

58 (e) U.S. Highway 90 from its intersection with
59 Mississippi 607 in Hancock County to Ocean Springs, and including

60 Lakeshore Road in Hancock County from its intersection with U.S.
61 Highway 90 to Beach Boulevard;

62 (f) Mississippi 4 from U.S. Highway 61 to Mississippi
63 3;

64 (g) Mississippi 4 from Mississippi 3 to Senatobia;

65 (h) Lorraine Cowan Road from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10;

66 (i) U.S. Highway 49 from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10 in
67 Gulfport;

68 (j) Mississippi 304 beginning at the Tennessee State
69 Line at or near U.S. 72 and thence running in a southwesterly
70 direction to intersect with U.S. 78 at or near Byhalia and thence
71 running in a westerly direction to intersect I-55 at or near
72 Hernando and thence running in a westerly direction to intersect
73 with U.S. 61 in DeSoto County, with a spur extending southwesterly
74 to or near Robinsonville in Tunica County;

75 (k) I-10 from Exit 28 to Exit 57;

76 (l) A new location from the northernmost point on I-110
77 to U.S. 49;

78 (m) U.S. Highway 61 from the Tunica County line to the
79 Tennessee state line;

80 (n) (i) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16
81 beginning at its intersection with Mississippi 25 and extending
82 easterly to join the existing four-lane on the west side of
83 Carthage within the corporate boundaries;

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

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

92 (o) Lorraine Cowan Road Extension from I-10 North to
93 relocated/reconstructed Mississippi 67;

94 (p) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 82
95 and Mississippi 1 in the City of Greenville;

96 (q) At various locations on and along I-20, U.S.
97 Highway 61 and U.S. Highway 80 in the City of Vicksburg, including
98 a truck route from Harbor Industrial Park to U.S. Highway 61 north
99 and an extension of South Frontage Road with railroad bridge to
100 Interstate Highway 20;

101 (r) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 61,
102 U.S. Highway 65 and Washington Street in the City of Natchez;

103 (s) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 90
104 in the City of Pass Christian;

105 (t) Mississippi 43/603 beginning where the existing
106 four-lane ends north of I-10 and extending northerly to a point
107 approximately one (1) mile north of Kiln where Mississippi 43/603
108 divides into Mississippi 43 and Mississippi 603;

109 (u) Mississippi 43 beginning where Mississippi 43 and
110 Mississippi 603 divide and extending northwesterly to or near
111 Picayune;

112 (v) U.S. 49 from U.S. 61 west to the Mississippi River
113 bridge.

114 * * *

115 (3) * * * The projects described in paragraphs (2)(a), (b),
116 (c) and (d) shall be constructed for four-lanes of traffic and
117 shall utilize existing roads where practical.

118 (4) All planning, construction, reconstruction and
119 performance of the projects authorized under this section,
120 including the letting of contracts, shall commence, proceed and be
121 performed by the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the
122 Mississippi Department of Transportation according to the
123 priorities * * * provided for in subsection (2) of this section;
124 provided, however, this priority shall not apply to segments or

125 projects authorized under this section for which contract have
126 been let.

127 (5) * * * Funds for the projects authorized under this
128 section may be provided through the issuance of bonds under
129 Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33, through the issuance of notes
130 for such purposes under Section 31-17-127 or from such monies as
131 may be available in the Gaming Counties State-Assisted
132 Infrastructure Fund created under Section 65-39-17.

133 * * *

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