

By: Senator(s) Farris

To: Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 3020

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 65-3-97 AND 65-39-1, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE A REEVALUATION OF PHASE FOUR OF THE 1987
3 FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY PROGRAM AND HIGHWAY SEGMENTS IN THE GAMING
4 COUNTIES BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN PHASE
5 TWO OR PHASE THREE, AND TO REVISE THE MANNER IN WHICH HIGHWAY
6 SEGMENTS IN PHASE FOUR AND HIGHWAY SEGMENTS IN THE GAMING COUNTIES
7 STATE-ASSISTED INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM ARE PRIORITIZED; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. Section 65-3-97, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 65-3-97. (1) In addition to and including all other
13 highways designated as a part of the state highway system, there
14 is hereby designated as a part thereof a four-lane highway system
15 to connect various areas of the state with interstate and primary
16 highways. The Mississippi Department of Transportation shall
17 construct and reconstruct four-lane highways, that is, not less
18 than two (2) lanes for traffic flowing in each direction, along
19 the routes designated in this section.

20 (2) In the construction and reconstruction of the four-lane
21 highway system designated in this section, the Mississippi
22 Department of Transportation may utilize the roadway of any
23 existing highway under its jurisdiction and control and shall do
24 so when such utilization is feasible, provided that such highways
25 which are utilized shall be constructed to current standards for
26 such roadways. When it is not feasible to utilize existing
27 designated highways, the Transportation Department shall relocate
28 such highways and construct entirely new facilities whether in
29 urban or rural areas.

30 (3) Construction of the four-lane highway system designated
31 in this subsection shall commence, proceed and be performed by the
32 Mississippi Department of Transportation strictly in accordance
33 with the following set of priorities established for the letting
34 of contracts on and along various segments thereof:

35 (a) Of the following group of highway segments not less
36 than fifteen percent (15%) of all contracts necessary to be let
37 for completion of all segments within the group shall be let by
38 June 30, 1988, not less than thirty percent (30%) of such
39 contracts shall be let by June 30, 1989, not less than fifty
40 percent (50%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1990, not
41 less than seventy percent (70%) of such contracts shall be let by
42 June 30, 1991, not less than ninety percent (90%) of such
43 contracts shall be let by June 30, 1992, and one hundred percent
44 (100%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1993:

45 (i) Highway segments along or near U.S. 45
46 beginning at the Clarke/Lauderdale county line and extending
47 northerly to I-59; then beginning at Macon and extending northerly
48 to Brooksville; then beginning at Columbus Air Force Base and
49 extending northerly to Aberdeen; then beginning at U.S. 278 and
50 extending northerly to Shannon; then beginning at Saltillo and
51 extending northerly to Corinth.

52 (ii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 45A
53 beginning at U.S. 82 and extending northerly to West Point; then
54 beginning four (4) miles south of Okolona and extending northerly
55 to Shannon.

56 (iii) A highway segment along or near U.S. 49W
57 beginning at U.S. 49 and extending westerly through Yazoo City to
58 the Yazoo River.

59 (iv) A highway segment along or near U.S. 49W
60 beginning at Inverness and extending northerly to Indianola.

61 (v) A highway segment along or near U.S. 61
62 beginning at Port Gibson and extending northerly to the four-lane
63 south of Vicksburg.

64 (vi) Highway segments along or near U.S. 72
65 beginning at or near Mt. Pleasant and extending southeasterly to
66 Mississippi 5; then beginning at Walnut and extending
67 southeasterly to Corinth; then beginning at Strickland and
68 extending southeasterly to Burnsville.

69 (vii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 78
70 beginning at Holly Springs and extending southeasterly to the New
71 Albany bypass; then beginning at Mississippi 25 and extending
72 southeasterly to Tremont.

73 (viii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 82
74 beginning at I-55 and extending easterly to Kilmichael; then
75 beginning at Eupora and extending easterly to Mathiston; then
76 beginning at Mississippi 12 and extending easterly to the Alabama
77 state line.

78 (ix) A highway segment along or near U.S. 84
79 beginning at I-59 and extending easterly to the Jones/Wayne county
80 line.

81 (x) Highway segments along or near U.S. 98
82 beginning at Columbia and extending easterly to the Marion/Lamar
83 county line; then beginning at U.S. 49 and extending southeasterly
84 to the Alabama state line.

85 (b) Of the following group of highway segments not less
86 than five percent (5%) of all contracts necessary to be let for
87 completion of all segments within the group shall be let by June
88 30, 1991, not less than ten percent (10%) of such contracts shall
89 be let by June 30, 1992, not less than twenty-five percent (25%)
90 of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1993, not less than
91 forty percent (40%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30,
92 1994, not less than fifty-five percent (55%) of such contracts
93 shall be let by June 30, 1995, not less than seventy percent (70%)

94 of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1996, not less than
95 eighty-five percent (85%) of such contracts shall be let by June
96 30, 1997, and one hundred percent (100%) of such contracts shall
97 be let by June 30, 1998:

98 (i) Highway segments along or near Mississippi 25
99 beginning at Mississippi 471 and extending northeasterly to
100 Mississippi 43; then beginning at the Winston/Oktibbeha county
101 line and extending northeasterly to Starkville.

102 (ii) A highway segment along or near Mississippi
103 63 beginning at the Jackson/George county line and extending
104 northerly to Lucedale.

105 (iii) A highway segment along or near Mississippi
106 302 beginning at I-55 in Southaven and extending easterly to U.S.
107 72 at or near Mt. Pleasant.

108 (iv) Highway segments along or near U.S. 45
109 beginning at the Alabama state line and extending northerly to the
110 Clarke/Lauderdale county line; then beginning at Lauderdale and
111 extending northerly to Macon; then beginning at Aberdeen and
112 extending northerly to U.S. 278.

113 (v) A highway segment along or near U.S. 45A
114 beginning at West Point and extending northerly to four (4) miles
115 south of Okolona.

116 (vi) A highway segment beginning at Brooksville
117 along or near U.S. 45 or U.S. 45A and extending northerly to U.S.
118 82, such segment having been designated by the Transportation
119 Commission pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) (c) of this
120 section.

121 (vii) A highway segment along or near U.S. 49W
122 beginning at the Yazoo River and extending northerly to Inverness.

123 (viii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 61
124 beginning at the Louisiana state line and extending northerly to
125 the Wilkinson/Adams county line; then beginning at Washington and
126 extending northerly to Port Gibson; then beginning at Merigold and

127 extending northerly to Shelby; then beginning at the north end of
128 the Clarksdale bypass and extending northerly to the Tennessee
129 state line.

130 (ix) A highway segment along or near U.S. 72
131 beginning at Mississippi 5 and extending southeasterly to Walnut.

132 (x) A highway segment along or near U.S. 78
133 beginning at Tremont and extending southeasterly to the Alabama
134 state line.

135 (xi) Highway segments along or near U.S. 82
136 beginning at the Montgomery/Webster county line and extending
137 easterly to Eupora; then beginning at Mathiston and extending
138 easterly to Starkville.

139 (xii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 84
140 beginning at Leesdale and extending easterly to Roxie; then
141 beginning at Auburn Road and extending easterly to I-55; then
142 beginning at the east end of the Brookhaven bypass and extending
143 easterly to Prentiss; then beginning at the Jones/Covington county
144 line and extending easterly to Horse Creek; then beginning at the
145 Jones/Wayne county line and extending easterly to Waynesboro.

146 (xiii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 98
147 beginning at the Pike/Walthall county line and extending easterly
148 to Columbia; then beginning at the Marion/Lamar county line and
149 extending easterly to the four-lane west of Hattiesburg.

150 No contract for the construction and/or reconstruction of
151 highway segments designated within this paragraph (b) (Phase 2)
152 shall be let by the Transportation Commission until such time as
153 the reevaluation of the priority of highway segments designated in
154 paragraph (d) (Phase 4) has been completed as required in
155 subparagraph (d) (iii).

156 (c) Of the following group of highway segments not less
157 than ten percent (10%) of all contracts necessary to be let for
158 completion of all segments within the group shall be let by June
159 30, 1996, not less than twenty percent (20%) of such contracts

160 shall be let by June 30, 1997, not less than forty percent (40%)
161 of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1998, and one hundred
162 percent (100%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1999:

163 (i) A highway segment along or near Mississippi 25
164 beginning at Mississippi 43 and extending northeasterly to the
165 Winston/Oktibbeha county line.

166 (ii) A highway segment along or near Mississippi
167 63 beginning at Lucedale and extending northerly to U.S. 45 at
168 State Line.

169 (iii) A highway segment along or near U.S. 61
170 beginning at Shelby and extending northerly to U.S. 49.

171 (iv) A highway segment along or near U.S. 82
172 beginning at Kilmichael and extending easterly to the
173 Montgomery/Webster county line.

174 (v) Highway segments along or near U.S. 84
175 beginning at Eddiceton and extending easterly to Auburn Road; then
176 beginning at Prentiss and extending easterly to Collins; then
177 beginning at Waynesboro and extending easterly to the Alabama
178 state line.

179 No contract for the construction and/or reconstruction of
180 highway segments designated within this group (c) (Phase 3) shall
181 be let by the Transportation Commission until such time as the
182 reevaluation of the priority of the highway segments in paragraph
183 (d) (Phase 4) has been completed as required in subparagraph (d)
184 (iii).

185 (d) (i) Of the following group of highway segments not
186 less than five percent (5%) of all contracts necessary to be let
187 for completion of all segments within the group shall be let by
188 June 30, 2002, not less than fifteen percent (15%) of such
189 contracts shall be let by June 30, 2003, not less than twenty-five
190 percent (25%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 2004, not
191 less than thirty-five percent (35%) of such contracts shall be let
192 by June 30, 2005, not less than forty-five percent (45%) of such

193 contracts shall be let by June 30, 2006, not less than sixty
194 percent (60%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 2007, not
195 less than seventy percent (70%) of such contracts shall be let by
196 June 30, 2008, not less than eighty percent (80%) of such
197 contracts shall be let by June 30, 2009, not less than ninety
198 percent (90%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 2010, and
199 one hundred percent (100%) of such contracts shall be let by June
200 30, 2011:

201 A. A highway segment along or near
202 Mississippi 6 beginning at the Clarksdale bypass and extending
203 easterly to Batesville.

204 B. A highway segment along or near
205 Mississippi 12 beginning at I-55 and extending easterly to
206 Kosciusko.

207 C. A highway segment along or near
208 Mississippi 15 beginning at I-10 and extending northerly to
209 Mississippi 26; then beginning at U.S. Highway 98 and extending
210 northerly to the Mississippi Tennessee state line.

211 D. A highway segment consisting of two (2)
212 lanes of construction and two (2) lanes of right-of-way
213 acquisition along or near Mississippi 15 beginning at Mississippi
214 26 and extending northerly to U.S. Highway 98.

215 E. A highway segment along or near
216 Mississippi 19 beginning at Collinsville and extending
217 northwesterly to Kosciusko.

218 F. Highway segments along or near Mississippi
219 25 beginning at Aberdeen and extending northerly to Fulton; then
220 beginning at the Alabama state line and extending northerly to
221 U.S. Highway 72.

222 G. A highway segment along or near U.S.
223 Highway 61 beginning at Redwood and extending northerly to Leland.

224 H. A highway segment along or near U.S.
225 Highway 98 beginning at Meadville and extending southeasterly to
226 Summit.

227 I. A highway segment along or near
228 Mississippi Highway 24/48 beginning at Woodville and extending
229 easterly to McComb.

230 J. A highway segment along or near
231 Mississippi 35 beginning at the Mississippi/Louisiana state line
232 and extending northerly to or near Foxworth.

233 K. A highway segment along or near
234 Mississippi 27 beginning at I-20 and extending southeasterly to
235 I-55.

236 L. A highway segment along or near
237 Mississippi 57 beginning at I-10 and extending northerly ten (10)
238 miles to just north of the community of Van Cleave.

239 (ii) Contracts for the construction and/or
240 reconstruction of highway segments designated within this group
241 shall be let by the Transportation Commission strictly in
242 accordance with the level of service as defined by the
243 Transportation Research Board of the highway segment. If the
244 level of service of a highway segment is less than the level of
245 service threshold at which the Transportation Department
246 recommends the construction of a four-lane highway, then the
247 Transportation Department shall make other improvements and
248 highway modifications to such highway segment as needed, such as
249 straightening and realignment of the existing roadway, the
250 addition of passing lanes and the widening of existing lanes, and
251 may acquire any necessary right-of-way for such purposes and for
252 the purpose of future construction of four-lane highways along
253 such segments.

254 (iii) With respect to the segments authorized in
255 this paragraph (d), the Transportation Department shall consider
256 the level of service of the projects together with all projects

257 authorized in Section 65-39-1 and nonprogram highway construction
258 and shall devise a priority schedule for preliminary engineering,
259 right-of-way acquisition and construction which established a
260 schedule for completion of these projects and reflects the
261 relative need for the projects authorized in this paragraph (d)
262 and in Section 65-39-1 and nonprogram highways. The department
263 shall accord to Federal Highway Administration standards great
264 weight in setting priorities and may also consider other factors
265 as the department considers relevant where such is not a violation
266 of federal law. No funds deposited into the special funds created
267 in Section 65-39-3 or 65-39-17 shall be expended on any project
268 authorized in this paragraph (d).

269 (4) The construction priorities established in this section
270 shall not be construed as prohibiting the completion of highway
271 segments which, on July 1, 1987, are included in the current
272 three-year plan under Section 65-1-141, and for which, on July 1,
273 1987, grade and drainage has been completed or contracts for grade
274 and drainage have been let.

275 (5) Contracts may be let and construction may commence and
276 be performed concurrently on any of the highway segments
277 designated in subsection (3) of this section, notwithstanding the
278 priorities established for the letting of contracts on the various
279 segments designated therein, provided that funds are available
280 and, provided that, at all times, the percentages of all contracts
281 required to be let on the segments designated in paragraphs (3)
282 (a), (3) (b), (3) (c) and (3) (d), respectively, are, in fact, let
283 no later than the dates established therein.

284 (6) (a) All highway construction and reconstruction
285 authorized under this section shall be performed by contract let
286 on competitive bid in the manner provided by statute; however,
287 highway segments shall be constructed in lengths of not less than
288 ten (10) miles.

289 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that not less
290 than ten percent (10%) of the amounts authorized to be expended
291 for construction and reconstruction of the four-lane highway
292 segments designated in this section shall be expended with small
293 business concerns owned and controlled by socially and
294 economically disadvantaged individuals. The term "socially and
295 economically disadvantaged individuals" shall have the meaning
296 ascribed to such term under Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act
297 (15 USCS, Section 637(d)) and relevant subcontracting regulations
298 promulgated pursuant thereto; except that women shall be presumed
299 to be socially and economically disadvantaged individuals for the
300 purposes of this paragraph (b).

301 (7) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (6)
302 (a) of this section, the Mississippi Transportation Commission may
303 construct highway segments of less than ten (10) miles in length
304 if:

305 (i) The segment as described in subsection (3) of
306 this section is less than ten (10) miles in length;

307 (ii) The segment will connect two (2) existing
308 four-lane highways;

309 (iii) The segment will connect an existing
310 four-lane highway with an incorporated municipality;

311 (iv) The segment will connect an existing
312 four-lane highway with a river, the state boundary or any other
313 natural or man-made barrier;

314 (v) For a particular project, the costs of
315 constructing a single segment of at least ten (10) miles in length
316 would greatly exceed the aggregate costs of constructing two (2)
317 or more segments; or

318 (vi) The segment is in an urban area and involves
319 the completion of bypasses or other construction which will
320 facilitate and accommodate major traffic movement.

321 (b) In any case in which the Transportation Commission
322 authorizes the construction of a highway segment of less than ten
323 (10) miles in length, the commission shall set forth and record in
324 its official minutes explanation and justification therefor based
325 upon one or more of the conditions prescribed in paragraph (7) (a)
326 of this section.

327 (8) To assist in defraying the costs and expenses for
328 construction, reconstruction and relocation of the four-lane
329 highway system described in this section, the following revenues
330 shall be paid out of such funds made available to the
331 Transportation Commission and the Transportation Department:

332 (a) From matched federal funds or other federal funds,
333 Thirty-two Million Dollars (\$32,000,000.00) for fiscal year 1988,
334 Twenty-five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000.00) for fiscal year 1989,
335 Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000.00) for fiscal year 1990 and
336 fifty percent (50%) of such federal funds for fiscal year 1991 and
337 each fiscal year thereafter; and

338 (b) Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) from matched
339 federal bridge replacement funds for fiscal year 1988 and each
340 fiscal year thereafter when the segments proposed for construction
341 contain bridges that are eligible for replacement under the
342 Federal Aid Bridge Replacement Program.

343 (9) The Transportation Department shall submit a report to
344 the Legislature by January 10 of each calendar year setting forth
345 the current status of the construction program set forth in this
346 section to include, but not be limited to, the following
347 information:

348 (a) Specific segments on which engineering is being
349 performed or has been completed;

350 (b) Specific segments for which right-of-way has been
351 acquired or is being acquired;

352 (c) Specific segments for which construction contracts
353 have been let;

- 354 (d) Specific segments on which construction is in
355 progress;
- 356 (e) Specific segments on which construction has been
357 completed;
- 358 (f) Projections for completion of the next step on each
359 segment;
- 360 (g) Revenue derived for such construction program from
361 each revenue source contained in Chapter 322, Laws, 1987, and in
362 Chapter 557, Laws, 1994;
- 363 (h) For each fiscal year beginning in 1994, a detailed
364 cash flow projection by source of program activities and an
365 estimate of when the program will encounter a funding shortage due
366 to costs exceeding original projections;
- 367 (i) A schedule of all complete and open-to-traffic
368 highway segments and the related total cost of each segment;
- 369 (j) A schedule of all highway segments on which all
370 contracts necessary for completion of the segments were not let as
371 of the date required by law;
- 372 (k) A complete recap of all program receipts by source,
373 and of all disbursements for the prior fiscal year and cumulative
374 totals since the inception of the program as compared to
375 projections; and
- 376 (l) A statement from the Department of Transportation
377 regarding the status of the funding of the program based on agency
378 cost experience and projections for the future.

379 The report shall be deemed submitted when ten (10) copies are
380 submitted to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and ten
381 (10) copies are submitted to the Secretary of the Senate.

382 SECTION 2. Section 65-39-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
383 amended as follows:

384 65-39-1. (1) The Mississippi Transportation Commission is
385 authorized, subject to the availability of funds in the Gaming
386 Counties State-Assisted Infrastructure Fund created in Section

387 65-39-17, to conduct feasibility studies and, pursuant to
388 information gathered in such studies, select routes and locations,
389 perform preliminary engineering, acquire necessary right-of-way
390 and property, construct and/or reconstruct and improve existing or
391 new highways, roads, streets and bridges, including two-lane,
392 four-lane and multi-lane roads (or segments thereof), perform
393 intersection improvements, provide signal retiring, turnbay
394 extensions, additional interchanges and other traffic
395 modifications, within and approaching those counties in this state
396 where legal gaming is being conducted or is authorized. Any
397 highway, road, street or bridge that is authorized to be
398 constructed, reconstructed or improved shall meet design standards
399 established by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, shall
400 be constructed to bear a load limit of at least eighty thousand
401 (80,000) pounds and, upon completion, shall become a part of the
402 state highway system, and thereafter shall be under the
403 jurisdiction of the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the
404 Mississippi Department of Transportation for construction and
405 maintenance.

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

409 (a) U.S. Highway 90 from its intersection with
410 Mississippi 607 in Hancock County to Ocean Springs, and including
411 Lakeshore Road in Hancock County from its intersection with U.S.
412 Highway 90 to Beach Boulevard;

413 (b) Mississippi 4 from U.S. Highway 61 to Mississippi
414 3;

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

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

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

419 (f) Mississippi 304 beginning at the Tennessee State
420 Line at or near U.S. 72 and thence running in a southwesterly
421 direction to intersect with U.S. 78 at or near Byhalia and thence
422 running in a westerly direction to intersect I-55 at or near
423 Hernando and thence running in a westerly direction to intersect
424 with U.S. 61 in DeSoto County, with a spur extending southwesterly
425 to or near Robinsonville in Tunica County;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

460 (q) Mississippi 43 beginning where Mississippi 43 and
461 Mississippi 603 divide and extending northwesterly to or near
462 Picayune;

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

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

469 (t) An east Harrison County connector from U.S. 90 to
470 I-10 to be located between the Cowan-Lorraine Road interchange and
471 the I-110 interchange.

472 (3) Authorization for the project described in paragraph
473 (2)(s) of this section is conditioned upon receipt by the
474 Mississippi Transportation Commission of a written commitment by
475 the Department of Economic and Community Development to make
476 available for such project not less than Six Million Dollars
477 (\$6,000,000.00).

478 (4) All planning, construction, reconstruction and
479 performance of the projects authorized under this section,
480 including the letting of contracts, shall commence, proceed and be
481 performed by the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the
482 Mississippi Department of Transportation according to priorities
483 based on volume capacity and traffic congestion in comparative
484 project areas; however, if a project authorized in this section is

485 also included in the four-lane highway program under Section
486 65-3-97, then all contracts necessary to be let for the completion
487 of the project under this section shall be let not later than the
488 priorities established for the letting of contracts for the
489 project under Section 65-3-97. Provided, however, that no
490 construction or reconstruction contracts for any projects
491 authorized under this section shall be let by the Transportation
492 Commission until such time as the reevaluation of the priority of
493 the highway segments in Section 65-3-97 (3) (d) (Phase 4) and the
494 priority of the highway segments in this section is completed.
495 Prioritization of construction for the projects authorized in this
496 section shall be conducted as provided for in Section 65-3-97 (3)
497 (d) (iii).

498 (5) (a) Funds for the projects authorized under this
499 section may be provided through the issuance of bonds under
500 Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33, through the issuance of notes
501 for such purposes under Section 31-17-127 or from such monies as
502 may be available in the Gaming Counties State-Assisted
503 Infrastructure Fund created under Section 65-39-17.

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

509 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
510 and after July 1, 2001.