

By: Representatives West, Evans, Green,
Middleton, Mims

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1277

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE GAMING COUNTIES STATE-ASSISTED
3 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE A PROJECT IN THE CITY OF NATCHEZ
4 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO
5 MATCH FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEMS ON SUCH
6 PROJECTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 65-39-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

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

30 Mississippi Department of Transportation for construction and
31 maintenance.

32 (b) The Mississippi Transportation Commission is
33 authorized to match other federal programs to enhance, construct,
34 reconstruct and improve storm drainage systems connected to the
35 projects authorized in this section. Such drainage systems shall
36 not be a part of the state highway system and shall not be under
37 the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Transportation Commission or
38 the Mississippi Transportation Department.

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

42 (a) U.S. Highway 90 from its intersection with
43 Mississippi 607 in Hancock County to Ocean Springs, and including
44 Lakeshore Road in Hancock County from its intersection with U.S.
45 Highway 90 to Beach Boulevard;

46 (b) Mississippi 4 from U.S. Highway 61 to Mississippi
47 3;

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

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

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

52 (f) Mississippi 304 beginning at the Tennessee state
53 line at or near U.S. 72 and thence running in a southwesterly
54 direction to intersect with U.S. 78 at or near Byhalia and thence
55 running in a westerly direction to intersect I-55 at or near
56 Hernando and thence running in a westerly direction to intersect
57 with U.S. 61 in DeSoto County, with a spur extending southwesterly
58 to or near Robinsonville in Tunica County;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

85 (n) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 61,
86 U.S. Highway 65 and Washington Street, and Canal Street from John
87 R. Junkin Drive to Madison Street that connects to D.A. Biglane
88 Street, Silver Street, Roth Hill Road and Learned Mill Road and
89 the surrounding area in the City of Natchez;

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

92 (p) Mississippi 43/603 beginning where the existing
93 four-lane ends north of I-10 and extending northerly to a point

94 approximately one (1) mile north of Kiln where Mississippi 43/603
95 divides into Mississippi 43 and Mississippi 603;

96 (q) Mississippi 43 beginning where Mississippi 43 and
97 Mississippi 603 divide and extending northwesterly to or near
98 Picayune;

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

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

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

108 (u) At various locations on, along and approaching U.S.
109 Highway 90 in Harrison, Hancock and Jackson Counties, which the
110 Mississippi Transportation Commission determines will alleviate
111 traffic congestion in Harrison, Hancock and Jackson Counties.

112 (3) Authorization for the project described in paragraph
113 (2)(s) of this section is conditioned upon receipt by the
114 Mississippi Transportation Commission of a written commitment by
115 the Mississippi Development Authority to make available for such
116 project not less than Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00).

117 (4) If a project authorized in this section is also included
118 in the four-lane highway program under Section 65-3-97(3), then
119 all contracts necessary to be let for the completion of the
120 project under this section shall be let not later than the
121 priorities established for the letting of contracts for the
122 project under Section 65-3-97(3). Prioritization of construction
123 for all other projects authorized in this section shall be
124 conducted as provided for in Section 65-3-97(4).

125 (5) (a) Funds for the projects authorized under this
126 section may be provided through the issuance of bonds under

127 Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33, through the issuance of notes
128 for such purposes under Section 31-17-127 or from such monies as
129 may be available in the Gaming Counties State-Assisted
130 Infrastructure Fund created under Section 65-39-17.

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

136 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
137 and after its passage.