

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Butler

To: Highways and  
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2597

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.