

By: Representatives Compretta (By Request),
Eakes, Mitchell, Scott (80th)

To: Transportation

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1667

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 65-3-97 AND 65-39-1, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE HIGHWAY SEGMENTS
3 IN PHASE FOUR OF THE 1987 FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY PROGRAM AND HIGHWAY
4 SEGMENTS IN THE GAMING COUNTIES STATE-ASSISTED INFRASTRUCTURE
5 PROGRAM ARE PRIORITIZED; TO ADD A SEGMENT OF MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY 7
6 TO THE FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY PROGRAM; TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL
7 FUNDS TO BE USED FOR THE 1987 FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY PROGRAM; TO
8 PROVIDE THAT SUCH FEDERAL FUNDS MAY BE USED IN LIEU OF STATE
9 FUNDING THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE USED FOR SUCH PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE
10 THAT THE ANNUAL TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING FOR THE 1987 FOUR-LANE
11 HIGHWAY PROGRAM SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN IT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE
12 BEEN WITHOUT THE USE OF SUCH ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS; TO REVISE
13 THE PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE GAMING COUNTIES STATE-ASSISTED
14 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE ANY PROJECT AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
15 ON, ALONG AND APPROACHING U.S. HIGHWAY 90 IN THE CITY OF OCEAN
16 SPRINGS WHICH THE MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION DETERMINES
17 WILL ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS;
18 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

20 **SECTION 1.** Section 65-3-97, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
21 amended as follows:

22 65-3-97. (1) In addition to and including all other
23 highways designated as a part of the state highway system, there
24 is hereby designated as a part thereof a four-lane highway system
25 to connect various areas of the state with interstate and primary
26 highways. The Mississippi Department of Transportation shall
27 construct and reconstruct four-lane highways, that is, not less
28 than two (2) lanes for traffic flowing in each direction, along
29 the routes designated in this section.

30 (2) In the construction and reconstruction of the four-lane
31 highway system designated in this section, the Mississippi
32 Department of Transportation may utilize the roadway of any
33 existing highway under its jurisdiction and control and shall do
34 so when such utilization is feasible, provided that such highways
35 which are utilized shall be constructed to current standards for



36 such roadways. When it is not feasible to utilize existing
37 designated highways, the Transportation Department shall relocate
38 such highways and construct entirely new facilities whether in
39 urban or rural areas.

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

45 (a) Of the following group of highway segments not less
46 than fifteen percent (15%) of all contracts necessary to be let
47 for completion of all segments within the group shall be let by
48 June 30, 1988, not less than thirty percent (30%) of such
49 contracts shall be let by June 30, 1989, not less than fifty
50 percent (50%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1990, not
51 less than seventy percent (70%) of such contracts shall be let by
52 June 30, 1991, not less than ninety percent (90%) of such
53 contracts shall be let by June 30, 1992, and one hundred percent
54 (100%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1993:

55 (i) Highway segments along or near U.S. 45
56 beginning at the Clarke/Lauderdale County line and extending
57 northerly to I-59; then beginning at Macon and extending northerly
58 to Brooksville; then beginning at Columbus Air Force Base and
59 extending northerly to Aberdeen; then beginning at U.S. 278 and
60 extending northerly to Shannon; then beginning at Saltillo and
61 extending northerly to Corinth.

62 (ii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 45A
63 beginning at U.S. 82 and extending northerly to West Point; then
64 beginning four (4) miles south of Okolona and extending northerly
65 to Shannon.

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



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

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

74 (vi) Highway segments along or near U.S. 72
75 beginning at or near Mt. Pleasant and extending southeasterly to
76 Mississippi 5; then beginning at Walnut and extending
77 southeasterly to Corinth; then beginning at Strickland and
78 extending southeasterly to Burnsville.

79 (vii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 78
80 beginning at Holly Springs and extending southeasterly to the New
81 Albany bypass; then beginning at Mississippi 25 and extending
82 southeasterly to Tremont.

83 (viii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 82
84 beginning at I-55 and extending easterly to Kilmichael; then
85 beginning at Eupora and extending easterly to Mathiston; then
86 beginning at Mississippi 12 and extending easterly to the Alabama
87 state line.

88 (ix) A highway segment along or near U.S. 84
89 beginning at I-59 and extending easterly to the Jones/Wayne County
90 line.

91 (x) Highway segments along or near U.S. 98
92 beginning at Columbia and extending easterly to the Marion/Lamar
93 County line; then beginning at U.S. 49 and extending southeasterly
94 to the Alabama state line.

95 (b) Of the following group of highway segments not less
96 than five percent (5%) of all contracts necessary to be let for
97 completion of all segments within the group shall be let by June
98 30, 1991, not less than ten percent (10%) of such contracts shall
99 be let by June 30, 1992, not less than twenty-five percent (25%)
100 of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1993, not less than
101 forty percent (40%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30,



102 1994, not less than fifty-five percent (55%) of such contracts
103 shall be let by June 30, 1995, not less than seventy percent (70%)
104 of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1996, not less than
105 eighty-five percent (85%) of such contracts shall be let by June
106 30, 1997, and one hundred percent (100%) of such contracts shall
107 be let by June 30, 1998:

108 (i) Highway segments along or near Mississippi 25
109 beginning at Mississippi 471 and extending northeasterly to
110 Mississippi 43; then beginning at the Winston/Oktibbeha County
111 line and extending northeasterly to Starkville.

112 (ii) A highway segment along or near Mississippi
113 63 beginning at the Jackson/George County line and extending
114 northerly to Lucedale.

115 (iii) A highway segment along or near Mississippi
116 302 beginning at I-55 in Southaven and extending easterly to U.S.
117 72 at or near Mt. Pleasant.

118 (iv) Highway segments along or near U.S. 45
119 beginning at the Alabama state line and extending northerly to the
120 Clarke/Lauderdale County line; then beginning at Lauderdale and
121 extending northerly to Macon; then beginning at Aberdeen and
122 extending northerly to U.S. 278.

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

126 (vi) A highway segment beginning at Brooksville
127 along or near U.S. 45 or U.S. 45A and extending northerly to U.S.
128 82, such segment having been designated by the Transportation
129 Commission pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1)(c) of this
130 section.

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

133 (viii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 61
134 beginning at the Louisiana state line and extending northerly to



135 the Wilkinson/Adams County line; then beginning at Washington and
136 extending northerly to Port Gibson; then beginning at Merigold and
137 extending northerly to Shelby; then beginning at the north end of
138 the Clarksdale bypass and extending northerly to the Tennessee
139 state line.

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

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

145 (xi) Highway segments along or near U.S. 82
146 beginning at the Montgomery/Webster County line and extending
147 easterly to Eupora; then beginning at Mathiston and extending
148 easterly to Starkville.

149 (xii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 84
150 beginning at Leesdale and extending easterly to Roxie; then
151 beginning at Auburn Road and extending easterly to I-55; then
152 beginning at the east end of the Brookhaven bypass and extending
153 easterly to Prentiss; then beginning at the Jones/Covington County
154 line and extending easterly to Horse Creek; then beginning at the
155 Jones/Wayne County line and extending easterly to Waynesboro.

156 (xiii) Highway segments along or near U.S. 98
157 beginning at the Pike/Walthall County line and extending easterly
158 to Columbia; then beginning at the Marion/Lamar County line and
159 extending easterly to the four-lane west of Hattiesburg.

160 (c) Of the following group of highway segments not less
161 than ten percent (10%) of all contracts necessary to be let for
162 completion of all segments within the group shall be let by June
163 30, 1996, not less than twenty percent (20%) of such contracts
164 shall be let by June 30, 1997, not less than forty percent (40%)
165 of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1998, and one hundred
166 percent (100%) of such contracts shall be let by June 30, 1999:



167 (i) A highway segment along or near Mississippi 25
168 beginning at Mississippi 43 and extending northeasterly to the
169 Winston/Oktibbeha County line.

170 (ii) A highway segment along or near Mississippi
171 63 beginning at Lucedale and extending northerly to U.S. 45 at
172 State Line.

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

175 (iv) A highway segment along or near U.S. 82
176 beginning at Kilmichael and extending easterly to the
177 Montgomery/Webster County line.

178 (v) Highway segments along or near U.S. 84
179 beginning at Eddiceton and extending easterly to Auburn Road; then
180 beginning at Prentiss and extending easterly to Collins; then
181 beginning at Waynesboro and extending easterly to the Alabama
182 state line.

183 (d) (i) Contracts for the construction and/or
184 reconstruction of four-lane highways, that is, not less than two
185 (2) lanes for traffic flowing in each direction, shall be let by
186 the Mississippi Department of Transportation on and along the
187 following routes:

188 A. A highway segment along or near
189 Mississippi 6 beginning at the Clarksdale bypass and extending
190 easterly to Batesville.

191 B. A highway segment along or near
192 Mississippi 15 beginning at I-10 and extending northerly to the
193 Mississippi/Tennessee state line.

194 (ii) Contracts for the highway segments
195 designated in paragraph (d) (i) of this subsection shall be let
196 immediately upon the letting of all contracts necessary for
197 completion of the highway segments designated in paragraph (c) of
198 this subsection; however, such contracts may be let concurrently
199 with the letting of contracts for highway segments under paragraph



200 (c) of this subsection if funds are available. Contracts for the
201 highway segments designated in paragraph (d)(i) of this subsection
202 shall have priority over contracts for all highway segments and
203 projects under paragraph (e) of this subsection.

204 (e) (i) * * * The Transportation Commission shall
205 specifically consider the following highway segments when
206 establishing its prioritized schedule of projects:

207 * * *

208 A. A highway segment along or near
209 Mississippi 12 beginning at I-55 and extending easterly to
210 Kosciusko.

211 * * *

212 B. A highway segment along or near
213 Mississippi 19 beginning at Collinsville and extending
214 northwesterly to Kosciusko.

215 C. Highway segments along or near Mississippi
216 25 beginning at Aberdeen and extending northerly to Fulton; then
217 beginning at the Alabama state line and extending northerly to
218 U.S. Highway 72.

219 D. A highway segment along or near U.S.
220 Highway 61 beginning at Redwood and extending northerly to Leland.

221 E. A highway segment along or near U.S.
222 Highway 98 beginning at Meadville and extending southeasterly to
223 Summit.

224 F. A highway segment along or near
225 Mississippi Highway 24/48 beginning at Woodville and extending
226 easterly to McComb.

227 G. A highway segment along or near
228 Mississippi 35 beginning at the Mississippi/Louisiana state line
229 and extending northerly to or near Foxworth.

230 H. A highway segment along or near
231 Mississippi 27 beginning at I-20 and extending southeasterly to
232 I-55.



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

236 J. A highway segment along or near
237 Mississippi 7 beginning at I-55 and extending northeasterly to
238 Mississippi 9W.

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

253 (iii) With respect to the segments authorized in
254 this paragraph (e), the Transportation Commission shall consider
255 the level of service of the projects together with all projects
256 authorized in Section 65-39-1 and nonprogram highway construction
257 and shall devise a priority schedule for preliminary engineering,
258 right-of-way acquisition and construction which establishes a
259 schedule for completion of these projects and reflects the
260 relative need for the projects authorized in this paragraph (e)
261 and in Section 65-39-1 and nonprogram highways. The commission
262 shall establish and publish standards for setting priorities and
263 also may consider other factors, not in violation of federal law,
264 such as economic development and safety, as the commission
265 considers relevant. No funds deposited into the special funds



266 created in Section 65-39-3 or 65-39-17 may be expended on any
267 project authorized in this paragraph (e); however, funds generated
268 for the highway segments listed in this section may be expended on
269 any project within the prioritized schedule. The Transportation
270 Commission shall begin letting projects according to a prioritized
271 schedule of need not later than January 1, 2006.

272 (4) The construction priorities established in this section
273 shall not be construed as prohibiting the completion of highway
274 segments which, on July 1, 1987, are included in the current
275 three-year plan under Section 65-1-141, and for which, on July 1,
276 1987, grade and drainage has been completed or contracts for grade
277 and drainage have been let.

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

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

293 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that not less
294 than ten percent (10%) of the amounts authorized to be expended
295 for construction and reconstruction of the four-lane highway
296 segments designated in this section shall be expended with small
297 business concerns owned and controlled by socially and
298 economically disadvantaged individuals. The term "socially and



299 economically disadvantaged individuals" shall have the meaning
300 ascribed to such term under Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act
301 (15 USCS, Section 637(d)) and relevant subcontracting regulations
302 promulgated pursuant thereto; except that women shall be presumed
303 to be socially and economically disadvantaged individuals for the
304 purposes of this paragraph (b).

305 (7) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (6) (a)
306 of this section, the Mississippi Transportation Commission may
307 construct highway segments of less than ten (10) miles in length
308 if:

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

311 (ii) The segment will connect two (2) existing
312 four-lane highways;

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

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

318 (v) For a particular project, the costs of
319 constructing a single segment of at least ten (10) miles in length
320 would greatly exceed the aggregate costs of constructing two (2)
321 or more segments; or

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

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



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

336 (i) From matched federal funds or other federal
337 funds, Thirty-two Million Dollars (\$32,000,000.00) for fiscal year
338 1988, Twenty-five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000.00) for fiscal year
339 1989, Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000.00) for fiscal year 1990
340 and fifty percent (50%) of such federal funds for fiscal year 1991
341 and each fiscal year thereafter; and

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

347 (b) Federal funds in addition to the federal funds
348 specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (8) may be used for
349 the construction, reconstruction and relocation of the four-lane
350 highway system described in this section. Such federal funds may
351 be used in lieu of state funding that would otherwise be used for
352 such system; however, the annual total amount of funding for the
353 construction, reconstruction and relocation of the four-lane
354 highway system described in this section shall not be less than it
355 otherwise would have been without the use of such additional
356 federal funds.

357 (9) The Transportation Department shall submit a report to
358 the Legislature by January 10 of each calendar year setting forth
359 the current status of the construction program set forth in this
360 section to include, but not be limited to, the following
361 information:

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



- 364 (b) Specific segments for which right-of-way has been
365 acquired or is being acquired;
- 366 (c) Specific segments for which construction contracts
367 have been let;
- 368 (d) Specific segments on which construction is in
369 progress;
- 370 (e) Specific segments on which construction has been
371 completed;
- 372 (f) Projections for completion of the next step on each
373 segment;
- 374 (g) Revenue derived for such construction program from
375 each revenue source contained in Chapter 322, Laws, 1987, and in
376 Chapter 557, Laws, 1994;
- 377 (h) For each fiscal year beginning in 1994, a detailed
378 cash flow projection by source of program activities and an
379 estimate of when the program will encounter a funding shortage due
380 to costs exceeding original projections;
- 381 (i) A schedule of all complete and open-to-traffic
382 highway segments and the related total cost of each segment;
- 383 (j) A schedule of all highway segments on which all
384 contracts necessary for completion of the segments were not let as
385 of the date required by law;
- 386 (k) A complete recap of all program receipts by source,
387 and of all disbursements for the prior fiscal year and cumulative
388 totals since the inception of the program as compared to
389 projections; and
- 390 (l) A statement from the Department of Transportation
391 regarding the status of the funding of the program based on agency
392 cost experience and projections for the future.

393 The report shall be deemed submitted when ten (10) copies are
394 submitted to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and ten
395 (10) copies are submitted to the Secretary of the Senate.



396 **SECTION 2.** Section 65-39-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
397 amended as follows:

398 65-39-1. (1) The Mississippi Transportation Commission is
399 authorized, subject to the availability of funds in the Gaming
400 Counties State-Assisted Infrastructure Fund created in Section
401 65-39-17, to conduct feasibility studies and, pursuant to
402 information gathered in such studies, select routes and locations,
403 perform preliminary engineering, acquire necessary right-of-way
404 and property, construct and/or reconstruct and improve existing or
405 new highways, roads, streets and bridges, including two-lane,
406 four-lane and multi-lane roads (or segments thereof), perform
407 intersection improvements, provide signal retiring, turnbay
408 extensions, additional interchanges and other traffic
409 modifications, within and approaching those counties in this state
410 where legal gaming is being conducted or is authorized. Any
411 highway, road, street or bridge that is authorized to be
412 constructed, reconstructed or improved shall meet design standards
413 established by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, shall
414 be constructed to bear a load limit of at least eighty thousand
415 (80,000) pounds and, upon completion, shall become a part of the
416 state highway system, and thereafter shall be under the
417 jurisdiction of the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the
418 Mississippi Department of Transportation for construction and
419 maintenance.

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

423 (a) U.S. Highway 90 from its intersection with
424 Mississippi 607 in Hancock County to Ocean Springs, and including
425 Lakeshore Road in Hancock County from its intersection with U.S.
426 Highway 90 to Beach Boulevard;

427 (b) Mississippi 4 from U.S. Highway 61 to Mississippi
428 3;



429 (c) Mississippi 4 from Mississippi 3 to Senatobia;
430 (d) Lorraine/Cowan Road from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10;
431 (e) U.S. Highway 49 from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10 in
432 Gulfport;
433 (f) Mississippi 304 beginning at the Tennessee state
434 line at or near U.S. 72 and thence running in a southwesterly
435 direction to intersect with U.S. 78 at or near Byhalia and thence
436 running in a westerly direction to intersect I-55 at or near
437 Hernando and thence running in a westerly direction to intersect
438 with U.S. 61 in DeSoto County, with a spur extending southwesterly
439 to or near Robinsonville in Tunica County;
440 (g) I-10 from Exit 28 to Exit 57;
441 (h) A new location from the northernmost point on I-110
442 to U.S. 49;
443 (i) U.S. Highway 61 from the Tunica County line to the
444 Tennessee state line;
445 (j) (i) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16
446 beginning at its intersection with Mississippi 25 and extending
447 easterly to join the existing four-lane on the west side of
448 Carthage within the corporate boundaries;
449 (ii) Passing lanes and turn lanes, as needed,
450 along Mississippi 16 beginning at a point on the east side of
451 Carthage within the corporate boundaries where the existing
452 four-lane ends and extending easterly to the Leake/Neshoba County
453 line; and
454 (iii) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16
455 beginning at the Leake/Neshoba County line and extending easterly
456 to not more than ten (10) miles east of Mississippi 15;
457 (k) Lorraine/Cowan Road Extension from I-10 North to
458 relocated/reconstructed Mississippi 67;
459 (l) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 82
460 and Mississippi 1 in the City of Greenville;



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

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

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

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

474 (q) Mississippi 43 beginning where Mississippi 43 and
475 Mississippi 603 divide and extending northwesterly to or near
476 Picayune;

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

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

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

486 (u) At various locations on, along and approaching U.S.
487 Highway 90 in the City of Ocean Springs which the Mississippi
488 Transportation Commission determines will alleviate traffic
489 congestion in the City of Ocean Springs.

490 (3) Authorization for the project described in paragraph
491 (2)(s) of this section is conditioned upon receipt by the
492 Mississippi Transportation Commission of a written commitment by



493 the Mississippi Development Authority to make available for such
494 project not less than Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00).

495 (4) All planning, construction, reconstruction and
496 performance of the projects authorized under this section,
497 including the letting of contracts, shall commence, proceed and be
498 performed by the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the
499 Mississippi Department of Transportation according to priorities
500 based on volume capacity and traffic congestion in comparative
501 project areas; however, if a project authorized in this section is
502 also included in the four-lane highway program under Section
503 65-3-97, then all contracts necessary to be let for the completion
504 of the project under this section shall be let not later than the
505 priorities established for the letting of contracts for the
506 project under Section 65-3-97. Prioritization of construction for
507 the projects authorized in this section shall be conducted as
508 provided for in Section 65-3-97(3)(e)(iii).

509 (5) (a) Funds for the projects authorized under this
510 section may be provided through the issuance of bonds under
511 Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33, through the issuance of notes
512 for such purposes under Section 31-17-127 or from such monies as
513 may be available in the Gaming Counties State-Assisted
514 Infrastructure Fund created under Section 65-39-17.

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

520 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
521 and after July 1, 2002.

