

~~Strikethrough~~ print represents text which has been deleted.

Bold and italicized print represents text which has been added or modified.

RESOLUTION

HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT

Delta Council commends the Mississippi Legislature for enacting the 1987 four-lane highway construction program. Completion of this four-lane highway network in the State of Mississippi is of paramount importance to the economic future and growth of our State, and the safety of our citizens. We applaud the opening of U.S. Highway 61 during 2005 and U.S. Highway 82 in 2006.

Delta Council commends the Mississippi Department of Transportation staff and the commissioners for exhibiting a strong commitment toward the completion of the 1987 four-lane program, the U.S. 82 Mississippi River crossing, the I-69 project and connector roads, the U.S. Highway 82 by-pass project joining the Mississippi River Bridge and a steady maintenance schedule.

Delta Council is aware that specific funding is being sought to secure federal dollars to be dedicated to high-priority road improvements in the area served by the Delta Regional Authority. Delta Council encourages members of Congress to include funds for the completion to four-lane U.S. Highway 6 throughout the remainder of North Mississippi, extending from Batesville to the Helena Bridge. We also emphasize the reconstruction of the bridge alignment on U.S. Highway 61 in Nitta Yuma. ***Also, we applaud the Mississippi Department of Transportation for its current schedule of final construction for Highway 8 from Ruleville to Cleveland.***

Delta Council continues to support the priorities established in previous highway committee resolutions, including the elective form of Commission for the Department of Transportation. In conclusion, Delta Council restates its support for the concept of utilizing all revenues from the sale of motor fuel to construct and maintain highways and opposes the use of motor fuel tax revenues for reconciling the State budget deficit. To the extent practicable, we encourage Commissioners of our Mississippi Department of Transportation to utilize State and federal resources in a way which allows us to “pay as you go”, rather than transferring the note to our children to pay for our highways through long-term bonds.

Also, Delta Council expresses its appreciation to Congressman Bennie Thompson for his efforts to include highway funding in the House-passed transportation authorization measure which would provide more efficient traffic management and four-lane access to Viking Range.

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Highway Development

Delta Council continues to view that any new initiative to expand future four-lane highway construction should include specific legislative authority consisting of:

- *Precisely which highway segments will be four-lane.*
- *The order of the schedule for four-lane to be determined by volume/capacity standards.*
- *The necessary fiscal policy for generating revenue to offset construction costs.*
- *Adequate funds for sustaining maintenance program which meets vehicle capacity ratings.*

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
November 6, 2008

