

RESOLUTION NO. 5 OF 2016

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE COMPLETION OF INTERSTATE 49 THROUGH AN INNER-CITY CONNECTOR AND OTHERWISE TO PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, The Caddo Parish Commission Shreveport area and Northwest Louisiana, and the mission of the organization *is to promote economic prosperity, serve as a business advocate, and celebrate the achievements of our region.*; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 49, once completed, will be an integral part of an international controlled-access, North-South highway system linking the State of Louisiana to markets and destinations in Canada, Northern United States, and all intermediate points; and

WHEREAS, the completion of I-49 through Shreveport is vital to the economic development of Caddo Parish and Northwest Louisiana, as it will attract new businesses and industries to this area and open new markets to existing business and industry; and

WHEREAS, I-49 has been, or soon will be, completed through Shreveport and Caddo Parish except for the final segment between Interstates 20 and 220, the location of which will be determined based upon studies currently underway; and

WHEREAS, an urgent need exists for the designation of the location of this remaining segment of I-49, so that funding can be obtained and construction commenced and completed without further delay; and

WHEREAS, the only feasible route for this remaining segment of I-49 is a direct route running within a 3.5-mile corridor between the existing intersection with Interstates 20 and the intersection with Interstate 220 presently under construction; and

WHEREAS, this direct route, in addition to being the shortest and the least expensive route, will promote the quality of life, safety and economic opportunity in downtown Shreveport and the neighborhoods that lie along the route, revitalizing those neighborhoods, promoting economic prosperity, and providing them with efficient transportation to other areas of the city;

WHEREAS, this direct route will also provide residents of the neighborhoods and towns to the north with faster access to the University Health Hospital Emergency level 1 Trauma Center and other health care facilities in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the so-called "Loop-It" alternative, by which I-49 would be routed in a circular manner along an existing path, is economically unfeasible when upgrading those highways to the required standards, and would deny the many benefits of the most direct route; and

WHEREAS, many of the perceived problems that some believe will result from the direct route can be mitigated or avoided with the use of modern, best practices; and

WHEREAS, further delay in the designation of the route of the remaining segment of I-49 will result in an unnecessary postponement of the benefits of completion of I-49.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the CADDO PARISH COMMISSION, in due and legal session convened that it goes on record as supporting the completion of Interstate 49 through an inner-city connector in Caddo Parish;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this Resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provision, items or applications of the Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolution or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Office of the Parish Attorney

Date