

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 34**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Urges United States Congress and President to provide federal infrastructure funds for extension of Route 55.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



SCR34 TESTA

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging United States Congress and
2 President to provide federal infrastructure funds for the extension
3 of Route 55.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey is in urgent need of improvements
6 to its highway system, which are vital to the continued economic
7 prosperity of the State and the entire Northeast region; and

8 **WHEREAS**, In the 2017 Annual Highway Report issued by the Reason
9 Foundation, New Jersey's highway system ranked 50th in the
10 nation in overall highway performance; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Highway conditions and traffic congestion have
12 deteriorated over the years as certain State highways have not been
13 modernized to keep pace with the growth in traffic; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Notably, Route 55, which extends from State Highway
15 Route 42 in Deptford, Gloucester County, to an intersection with
16 Route 47 in Maurice River Township, Cumberland County has not
17 seen any upgrades in many years; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The extension of Route 55, which was initially planned to
19 extend from Gloucester County into Cape May County, was halted
20 in 1975 and the final stretch of Route 55, connecting the road to the
21 Garden State Parkway, was never built due to rising construction
22 costs and significant environmental obstacles; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Route 55 is one of the primary routes to reach the New
24 Jersey shore and experiences severe congestion in the summer
25 months resulting in an exasperating experience for motorists,
26 tourists, and local residents alike and also giving rise to significant
27 safety concerns; and

28 **WHEREAS**, In rural Cumberland County, the four lanes of Route 55
29 narrow to a single lane before merging with Route 47, a local road
30 not suitable for the heavy tourist and commuter traffic the highway
31 handles; and

32 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's coastal communities rely on a bustling
33 tourism industry, which generates over \$44 billion in economic
34 activity annually and supports over 800,000 jobs in the State; and

35 **WHEREAS**, In order to facilitate the flow of traffic to and from the
36 Jersey Shore and to relieve congestion on Route 47, as well as to
37 enhance opportunities for economic development in Cumberland
38 and Cape May counties, it is in the public interest for Route 55 to
39 be extended to the Garden State Parkway; now, therefore,

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41 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
42 *General Assembly concurring):*

43
44 1. The United States Congress and the President are urged to
45 adhere to their commitment to the motorists and industries that rely
46 on a seamless operation of highways by approving federal
47 infrastructure funds for the extension of Route 55 to the Garden
48 State Parkway.

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1 2. Copies of this resolution, filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
3 Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the
4 United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United
5 States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States
6 House of Representatives, and each member of the United States
7 Congress elected from this State.

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10 **STATEMENT**

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12 This resolution urges the United States Congress and the
13 President to approve federal infrastructure funds for the extension
14 of Route 55.

15 Highway conditions and traffic congestion have deteriorated
16 over the years as certain State highways have not been modernized
17 to keep pace with the growth in traffic. Notably, Route 55, which
18 extends from State Highway Route 42 in Deptford, Gloucester
19 County, to an intersection with Route 47 in Maurice River
20 Township, Cumberland County has not seen any upgrades in many
21 years. The extension of Route 55, which was initially planned to
22 extend from Gloucester County into Cape May County, was halted
23 in 1975 and the final stretch of Route 55, connecting the road to the
24 Garden State Parkway, was never built due to rising construction
25 costs and significant environmental obstacles.

26 Route 55 is one of the primary routes to reach the New Jersey
27 shore and experiences severe congestion in the summer months
28 resulting in an exasperating experience for motorists, tourists, and
29 local residents alike and also giving rise to significant safety
30 concerns. In order to facilitate the flow of traffic to and from the
31 Jersey Shore and to relieve congestion on Route 47, as well as to
32 enhance opportunities for economic development in Cumberland
33 and Cape May counties, it is in the public interest for Route 55 to
34 be extended to the Garden State Parkway.