SENATE RESOLUTION No. 42

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL
District 10 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges United States Congress to dedicate additional federal funds for highway maintenance and infrastructure improvements in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

A SENATE RESOLUTION respectfully urging the United States Congress to dedicate additional federal funds for highway maintenance and infrastructure improvements in New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Transportation estimates that motorists travel more than 200 million miles per day on the approximately 39,000 miles of public roadways in the State; and

WHEREAS, According to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, 37 percent of New Jersey's roads are in poor condition, 41 percent of New Jersey's roads are in mediocre or fair condition, and 35 percent of New Jersey's bridges show significant deterioration or do not meet current design standards, of which nine percent are structurally deficient and 26 percent are functionally obsolete; and

WHEREAS, TRIP estimates that roads in poor condition cost motorists in the State approximately $3.9 billion per year in vehicle repairs and operating costs and $6.2 billion a year in congestion related delay costs; and

WHEREAS, TRIP estimates that roadway conditions are a significant factor in one-third of the approximately 600 annual traffic-related deaths in the State; and

WHEREAS, In the Annual Highway Report issued by the Reason Foundation, New Jersey's highway system ranked 36th in percent of bridges in deficient condition, 50th in urban interstate highway congestion, and 43rd in urban interstate mileage in poor condition; and

WHEREAS, According to the Reason Foundation Annual Highway Report, the State has spent more than the national per mile average on the maintenance of roads and bridges in New Jersey, and although New Jersey already invests more per mile of highway than any other state, its roads and bridges continue to rank among the worst in the country making additional federal investment in the State's roads and bridges crucial to the safety and convenience of those who use them; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is a key corridor state located between two major metropolitan areas, and the benefits derived from a well-maintained transportation infrastructure not only support commerce and economic activity between those metropolitan areas but also provide significant benefits to the region and the nation as a whole making it imperative that adequate funding be provided by the federal government to support the State's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's location in relation to the Port of New York and New Jersey, which handles over 3.3 million containers per year and provides much needed goods and inventory to businesses throughout the region and the nation, demonstrates a critical need for adequate transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, In addition to benefiting New Jersey residents, additional federal investment in the State's roads and bridges will make it safer and more reliable to transport goods through the State, extending the impact of such investment to the entire country; and

WHEREAS, It has been documented that for every dollar New Jersey sends in taxes to the federal government, the State receives a fraction in highway dollars in return; and

WHEREAS, This disparity needs to be diminished and adequate funding provided to New Jersey to support the maintenance of the State's highways and improvements to the State's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, In a struggling economy, investing in improvements to the transportation infrastructure creates much needed jobs in the construction and engineering industries and in every industry that relies on both intrastate and interstate commerce; and

WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper and in the best interests of the citizens of this State and the nation for this House to respectfully urge the United States Congress to invest additional dollars in maintaining highways and improving the transportation infrastructure in this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

1. This House respectfully urges the United States Congress to invest additional federal dollars in maintaining the highways and improving the transportation infrastructure in this State.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

STATEMENT

This resolution respectfully urges the United States Congress to invest additional federal dollars in maintaining the highways and improving the transportation infrastructure in this State.