

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

SCR 7

4
5 By: Senator Steele
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8 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 RECOMMENDING THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED
10 STATES AND THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
11 REAUTHORIZE THE TEA-21 HIGHWAY AUTHORIZATION LAW
12 AND FUND THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY PROGRAM AT THE
13 HIGHEST LEVEL POSSIBLE.
14

15 **Subtitle**

16 RECOMMENDING THAT THE TEA-21 HIGHWAY
17 AUTHORIZATION LAW BE REAUTHORIZED AND
18 FUNDED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL POSSIBLE.
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21 WHEREAS, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century expired
22 September 30, 2003; and
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24 WHEREAS, federal aid has been continued through an unprecedented series
25 of six (6) short-term extensions; and
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27 WHEREAS, these extensions have led to uncertainty about federal funding
28 levels resulting in difficulties for programming and scheduling projects and
29 committing to long-term investments; and
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31 WHEREAS, the current extension to the Transportation Equity Act for the
32 21st Century expires on May 31, 2005; and
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34 WHEREAS, timely reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for
35 the 21st Century will maximize the Arkansas highway construction season.
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1 NOW THEREFORE,

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
3 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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5 That the 85th Arkansas General Assembly recommends to the Congress of
6 the United States and the Arkansas Congressional Delegation that:

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8 (1) The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century be reauthorized
9 by May 31, 2005, to guarantee that federal highway funding will be maintained
10 at the highest level possible and the Federal Highway Trust Fund will be
11 drawn down to the minimum sustainable level; and

12 (2) The minimum guarantee of federal highway funding to states be
13 increased to ninety-five percent (95%), the Revenue Aligned Budget Authority
14 be continued and refined to avoid radical swings in funding, budget firewalls
15 be retained, transportation funds be fully used for transportation
16 improvements, federal-aid highway programs be combined into a minimum number
17 of programs and categories, and transportation financing options be expanded;
18 and

19 (3) The present emphasis for environmental streamlining for highway
20 project development be expanded, incentives and flexibility and not
21 sanctions, mandates, and penalties be used to encourage achievement of
22 certain program goals, annual transit funding guarantees be maintained, and
23 the matching share for transit be retained at an eighty percent (80%) to
24 twenty percent (20%) ratio.

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary
27 of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the presiding
28 officers of the United States Senate and the United States House of
29 Representatives, and to each member of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.