

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Transportation and Economic Development Cabinets to utilize internal funds and conduct feasibility studies for the cost of widening the Hal Rogers Parkway into four lanes from Interstate 75 to Hazard, Kentucky, and the economic benefit of such an expansion.

WHEREAS, there is a growing concern over increases in traffic flow on the mostly two-lane Hal Rogers Parkway, with calls for the road to be widened from two lanes to four lanes; and

WHEREAS, as gas prices continue to drop and more people are on the roads, traffic counts on the Hal Rogers Parkway are reaching as high as 15,000 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, by conducting feasibility studies, the Transportation and Economic Development Cabinets can identify and quantify the benefits of making eastern Kentucky more accessible to greater general and commercial traffic flows; and

WHEREAS, the accessibility of eastern Kentucky is directly tied to the growth and development of the area as a whole through the attraction of businesses and their reliance on commercial trucking; and

WHEREAS, commercial trucking handles more cargo than trains, ships, or planes and, without commercial trucking as a system of product transport, goods would never leave shipyards, rail yards, and airports; and

WHEREAS, the war on coal in eastern Kentucky is pushing the area to look towards other industries to maintain economic development, and these industries rely on commercial trucking for business; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Hal Rogers Parkway is paramount to the development of eastern Kentucky counties such as Leslie, Perry, Clay and Laurel;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The General Assembly directs the Transportation Cabinet to conduct a feasibility study on the cost of widening the Hal Rogers Parkway from Interstate 75 into

Hazard, Kentucky, from two lanes into four lanes and to utilize internal funds to cover the cost of the study.

➔Section 2. The General Assembly directs the Economic Development Cabinet to conduct a study on the economic impact of widening the Hal Rogers Parkway to four lanes.

➔Section 3. The Transportation Cabinet and the Economic Development Cabinet shall report the findings from the studies identified in Sections 1 and 2 of this Resolution to the Legislative Research Commission's Interim Joint Committee on Transportation and Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Tourism by October 31, 2016.

➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Matthew G. Bevin, 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; Acting Secretary Mike Hancock, Transportation Cabinet, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40622; and Acting Secretary Erik Dunnigan, Economic Development Cabinet, 300 West Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.