

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, eastern Kentucky is actively pursuing other industries to maintain
20 economic development~~[the war on coal in eastern Kentucky is pushing the area to look~~
21 ~~towards other industries to maintain economic development]~~, and these industries rely on
22 commercial trucking for business; and

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

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

27 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly directs the Transportation Cabinet to conduct

1 a feasibility study on the cost of widening the Hal Rogers Parkway from Interstate 75 into
2 Hazard, Kentucky, from two lanes into four lanes and to utilize internal funds to cover the
3 cost of the study.

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

7 →Section 3. The Transportation Cabinet and the Economic Development Cabinet
8 shall report the findings from the studies identified in Sections 1 and 2 of this Resolution
9 to the Legislative Research Commission's Interim Joint Committee on Transportation and
10 Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Tourism by October 31, 2018.

11 →Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of
12 this Resolution to Governor Matthew G. Bevin, 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100 Frankfort,
13 Kentucky 40601; Secretary Greg Thomas, Transportation Cabinet, 200 Mero Street,
14 Frankfort, Kentucky 40622; and Secretary Terry Gill, Economic Development Cabinet,
15 300 West Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.