



NEWS from the LA 1 COALITION

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Legislators Direct \$2 Million of State Surplus to LA 1 Improvement Project

(Golden Meadow, Louisiana) In their recently completed second special legislative session, Louisiana legislators approved the allocation of \$2 million in state surplus funds for Phase 2 of the Louisiana Highway 1 (LA 1) Improvement Project in southern Lafourche Parish. The money will be used by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to purchase right-of-way access for a new two-lane, elevated highway that will stretch eight miles from Golden Meadow south to Leeville.

“Time and time again, the State of Louisiana has demonstrated their commitment to this critical infrastructure project by providing the necessary funds to keep it on track, and we are appreciative of that,” says LA 1 Coalition Chairman Ted Falgout. “This latest show of support by Governor Bobby Jindal and our 2008 Louisiana Legislature is just what the doctor ordered, so to speak, to allow DOTD to begin acquiring right-of-ways and plan for the final engineering and design of Phase 2.”

In December 2007, DOTD contracted with engineering firm Wilbur Smith and Associates to provide final right-of-way drawings by August 2008 for the eight-mile stretch of two-lane elevated highway from Golden Meadow to Leeville. While the recently approved \$2 million in surplus funds will be used to acquire the identified right-of-ways, the total estimate for the land acquisition is \$2.5 million. The LA 1 Coalition has submitted requests to the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for additional funds to fill that gap and help fund final engineering and design of Phase 2.

Construction is now underway on Phase 1 of the LA 1 Improvement project, which includes a fixed high-level bridge across Bayou Lafourche in Leeville and a two-lane, elevated highway from Leeville to Fourchon. The fixed high-level bridge in Leeville is scheduled for completion in 2009, while the 5.3 mile elevated highway between Leeville and Port Fourchon is scheduled to open in 2011. It is estimated that approximately \$250 million is needed for actual construction of Phase 2 of the LA 1 Project, and the LA 1 Coalition is working diligently to identify and secure federal funding sources.

The LA 1 Coalition is a 501(c)4 non-profit corporation working for highway improvements from U.S. Highway 90 to the coast in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, along the Louisiana Highway One corridor. For more information, visit www.la1coalition.org.

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