

St. Charles Parish

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

April 2, 2024

Scott Boyle
District 2 Engineer Administrator
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
P.O. Box 9180
Bridge City, LA 70096

Subject: Immediate Need for Installation of Cable Stay Barriers on Hwy 90

Dear Mr. Boyle,

I am reaching out to urgently request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to take immediate action to enhance road safety on Highway 90, between Willowdale Blvd in Luling and Live Oak Blvd in Waggaman

The dangers of this stretch of highway are well-known among St. Charles Parish residents. DOTD crash data from the past decade (2012 to 2022) highlights the dire situation: 246 accidents resulting in four fatalities. These statistics tragically exclude the recent loss of Hahnville resident Tyler Scott, on January 23, 2024, who died in a head-on collision after his vehicle crossed the unprotected median. Such accidents and fatalities, stemming from vehicles unintentionally crossing the median, are alarmingly common in this area. Additionally, there have been 69 reported injuries, many severe, further underscoring the critical need for preventive measures.

Implementing cable barriers is a proven, effective solution to prevent these types of accidents by restricting vehicles from crossing into oncoming traffic lanes. While I am aware of the challenges such projects may entail, including budgetary and logistical considerations, the urgency and importance of addressing this issue cannot be overstated.

Please find enclosed the resolution passed by the St. Charles Parish Council, unanimously supporting the urgent need for the installation of cable barriers on Highway 90. This resolution reflects our collective commitment to improving road safety and the community's strong desire for immediate action.

I respectfully request your immediate attention to this matter. Our community looks forward to your support and swift action to prevent further tragedies on our roads. Should you have any questions or require further discussion, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

With urgency,

Matthew Jewell Parish President St. Charles Parish

<u>2024-0133</u>

INTRODUCED BY: MATTHEW JEWELL, PARISH PRESIDENT ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO.

6766

A resolution requesting the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD) install cable barriers in the U.S. Highway 90 medians between Willowdale Blvd. in Luling and Live Oak Blvd. in Waggaman.

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 90 serves as a major thoroughfare heavily traveled by many motorists, not only local but regional and beyond, at high speeds; and,

WHEREAS, a review of DOTD crash data from 2012 to 2022 reveals that in the St. Charles Parish stretch of U.S. Highway 90 alone (Willowdale Blvd. eastbound to the parish line), an alarming 246 crashes occurred resulting in 69 injuries and 4 fatalities; and,

WHEREAS, many of the recorded injuries and fatalities were a result of unprotected median crossover crashes; and,

WHEREAS, these statistics do not include the recent tragic loss of Hahnville resident Tyler Scott, on January 23, 2024, who was killed in a head-on collision after his vehicle crossed the unprotected median; and,

WHEREAS, the installation of cable barriers in highway medians is a proven, effective solution to prevent these types of vehicular crashes by restricting vehicles from crossing into oncoming traffic lanes; and,

WHEREAS, DOTD is responsible for implementing highway safety improvements to reduce and eliminate hazardous conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL AND THE PARISH PRESIDENT, do hereby request the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD) install cable barriers in the U.S. Highway 90 medians between Willowdale Blvd. in Luling and Live Oak Blvd. in Waggaman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Transportation & Development Secretary Terrence (Joe) Donahue, Jr., and District 2 Engineer Administrator Scott Boyle, P.E.; State Senators Gregory A. Miller and Patrick Connick; State Representatives Beth Billings and Kyle M. Green, Jr.; and Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng and Councilmembers Jennifer Van Vrancken, Scott Walker, and Byron Lee.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:

MOBLEY, FONSECA, WILSON, SKIBA, PILIE, COMARDELLE,

O'DANIELS, FISHER, DEBRULER

NAYS:

NONE

ABSENT: NONE

And the resolution was declared adopted this <u>lst</u> day of <u>April</u>, 2024, to become effective five (5) days after publication in the Official Journal.

CHAIRMAN: DLVD/PARISH PRESIDENT: HOCK DISAPPROVED:

PARISH PRESIDENT

at: <u>3:53 pm</u> recd by