

## Editorial: Loopy loop spending

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Here's something from the Are You Kidding? Department, a little known state agency in charge of amazing us all. The Baton Rouge regional highway loop project that was put to death by Gov. Bobby Jindal's veto last year is still wasting millions of taxpayer dollars on studies.

This comes at a time, we are told, that all Louisianians must brace for the most severe budgetary crisis in our history. State agencies will be gutted, health care for the poor hobbled, teachers and college professors furloughed or laid off, on and on and on. And yet ...

Consultants hired to work on the "Loop" are still spending the last of a \$4 million state appropriation on a plan that has been discarded by three parish presidents, local lawmakers and constituents in the affected areas. How can this be?

According to an implementation timetable on the Loop website (brloop.com), a route through Livingston Parish should have been selected a year ago. Yet the loop has no political support here from public officials and such massive opposition that the governor of this state rejected an effort last year to save the exercise in "thinking outside the box."

Gov. Jindal reasoned that if the parish presidents to the south and east of East Baton Rouge Parish were not on board with the loop project, the fact that EBR Mayor-President Kip Holden wanted it was irrelevant. Why waste the money for further studies?

Yet money is still being thrown down this rathole. If this farce does not cease immediately, how will any of these politicians ever be able to go to their constituents again with a straight face and expect to be taken seriously? Are you kidding?

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