

January 23, 2012

From: Derek Babcock

Chairman, Board of Directors

Citizens for Highways and Infrastructure in Livingston Parish (CHILP)

To whom it may concern,

As Chairman of the CHILP board of directors I am writing to express the opinion of our board as it relates to the Baton Rouge Loop project. After asking numerous questions of the Loop Authority and carefully considering the impact of this loop on our community, our board has voted unanimously to **OPPOSE** the development of the Baton Rouge Loop.

Our organization, Citizens for Highways and Infrastructure in Livingston Parish, was created by citizens of the parish to secure funding for new roadway capacity and improvement projects and to promote smart infrastructure growth throughout our parish. We are sensitive to the traffic problems our citizens deal with every day and we are certainly encouraged by the prospect of a new major roadway development within our parish. When considering the Baton Rouge Loop, we feel the impact on our community and the liability that falls upon the citizens of Livingston parish does not justify the potential benefit of the project. Some of our concerns include: unanswered questions regarding land acquisition (Eminent Domain), the burden that falls upon tax payers to meet revenue gaps and guarantee investor profits, the use of toll roads, and the negative effects on current economic development projects such as Juban Crossing and the Bass Pro Retail center just to name a few.

Again, we are encouraged by the recognition of so many elected officials and investors in the infrastructure needs of our parish and specifically the need for increased highway capacity projects. We would like to offer our suggestions for projects that would better serve the citizens of Livingston Parish. These projects include the extension of Juban Rd. from Florida Blvd to Lockhart. This would provide direct interstate access to the thousands of people living north of Lockhart Rd. The extension of Hooper Rd. across the Amite River and connecting to Hwy 16 would provide another bridge across the Amite River and alleviate traffic congestion going south on Hwy 16 and on Magnolia Bridge Rd. The widening of Florida Blvd from Denham Springs to Hwy 449 in Walker, not only would this provide addition capacity and further reduce traffic congestion, but this highway is a contra-flow route during times of natural disaster. We also support the widening of Lockhart Rd. from Hwy 16 to Burgess Ave. We feel the development of these proposed projects would create an internal loop system utilizing current roads and better serving the citizens of Livingston Parish.

Kind Regards,

Derek Babcock

Chairman, CHILP Board of Directors