



LOUISIANA SENATE

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SEN. THOMPSON ANNOUNCES STATE PLANS TO INVEST IN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

CITES IMPORTANT PROJECTS INCLUDED IN STATE CONSTRUCTION BUDGET

District 34 State Senator Francis Thompson (D-Delhi), along with the Northeast Legislative Delegation, announce state plans to invest in important infrastructure and community projects in Northeast Louisiana. The 2012 state construction budget totals over \$4.3 billion and includes almost 100 projects in the parishes of Concordia, East Carroll, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland and Tensas.

"This year we were able to provide funding for many projects that are vital to our region while focusing on developing infrastructure and making improvements to parish courthouses, roads, bridges, university buildings and hospitals," said Sen. Thompson.

"Providing for our people and giving the community the tools they need to improve the quality of life of our citizens remains our top priority."

New projects in Concordia Parish include:

- Red River Headquarters/Research Facility/Bunkhouse Renovation \$780,600
- Concordia Parish Public Health Center Renovation \$150,000
- Clayton School Gymnasium \$100,000
- Development of a Slackwater Port on the Mississippi River \$5,000,000

Projects receiving additional funding in East Carroll Parish include:

- East Carroll Parish Courthouse and Jail Renovations \$565,000
- East Carroll Parish Government and/or Head Start Complex \$175,000
- Mississippi River Levee Raising, Arkansas to Old River \$2,500,000

New projects and projects receiving additional funding in Madison Parish include:

- Madison Parish Courthouse Renovations \$685,000
- Richmond Street Improvements \$1,000,000
- Mississippi River Levee Raising, Arkansas to Old River \$2,500,000

New projects and projects receiving additional funding in Morehouse Parish include:

- Chemin-a-Haut State Park Acquisition \$770,000
- Bastrop Central Fire Station & City Hall Improvements \$450,000

New projects and projects receiving additional funding in Ouachita Parish include:

- Chennault Aviation and Military Museum \$310,000
- Headquarters/Bunkhouse Russell Sage WMA \$225,204
- Storage Building - Monroe Fish Hatchery, District 2 Headquarters \$260,000
- ULM Sandel Hall Renovation \$17,200,000
- ULM Stubbs Hall Re-roofing \$635,000
- I-20 Interchange Improvement, Kansas Garrett Connector and Kansas Lane Connector \$3,850,000
- US Highway 165 South, US Highway 165 Business Route Connector \$4,125,000
- Monroe Regional Airport Terminal \$1,000,000
- Sterlington Service Road \$120,000
- Rays of Sonshine, Project Elevate! \$50,000

New projects and projects receiving additional funding in Richland Parish include:

- Floy W. McElroy Education Center \$50,000
- Richland Parish Courthouse Renovations \$535,000
- Sapa Drive Improvements \$250,000
- Richland Parish Recreational and Learning Center \$800,000
- Rayville Railroad Spur \$250,000

Projects receiving additional funding in Tensas Parish include:

- Tensas Parish Port/Port Priority Site Plan \$163,808
- Mississippi River Levee Raising, Arkansas to Old River \$2,500,000
- Lake Bruin State Park - Acquisition \$275,000

Senator Thompson notes that these projects are only a few of the many projects receiving funding dedications in this year's state construction budget, in addition to continued funding for the Mainline Mississippi River Levee to protect parishes along the Mississippi Delta.

The state construction budget, House Bill 2, has been approved by the governor and is now ACT 23 of the 2012 Regular Session, which adjourned on June 4th. 875 other measures have been signed by the governor, nine of which are constitutional amendments which will be on the November 6, 2012 statewide ballot. The Governor vetoed nine bills. Sen. Thompson is proud to note that all of the bills he pushed forward this session, which improve and protect area agriculture and higher education, have been signed by the Governor.

"I am very proud of the work we have done this session and I am pleased with the funding we were able to secure for important area projects. I would like to thank area delegation members including Senators Gallot, Kostelka, Riser and Walsworth and Representatives

Anders, Chaney, Fannin, Hoffmann, Hunter, Jackson, Morris, Pylant and Shadoin for all of their hard work to secure funding for these important projects and I look forward to continuing to work with all of my constituents to continue to better the community and livelihood of our people," said Sen. Thompson.

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