

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-60

REFORMATION AND OPTIMIZATION OF THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, R.S. 36:501 provides for the general powers, duties and functions of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development ("Department");

WHEREAS, R.S. 36:502 et seq. establishes the organization of the Department through the creation of departmental offices and officers appointed by the Governor;

WHEREAS, R.S. 36:503-504 grant broad powers and authority to the Secretary of the Department ("Secretary") relative to the administration, control, and operations of the functions, programs, and affairs of the Department, subject to the general control and supervision of the Governor;

WHEREAS, R.S. 36:956 *et seq.* provides for the consolidation of administrative and programmatic divisions of departments, programs, and job positions and for the efficiency and economy in the delivery of services by the Department;

WHEREAS, R.S. 36:501(C)(2) provides that when the Secretary determines that the administration of the functions of the Department may be more efficiently performed by eliminating, merging, or consolidating existing offices or establishing new offices, he shall present a plan therefor to the legislature for its approval by statute;

WHEREAS, prior administrations have ignored the will of the Legislature expressed in statutes governing the Department, tolerated the previous Department leadership's dereliction of duties owed to the Citizens of Louisiana, and failed to undertake any coordinated effort to address deficiencies or improve efficiency in the Department's operation;

WHEREAS, the failure to address long-standing deficiencies in the operation of the Department have fostered distrust of the Department by the Legislature and the public, contributed to a serious decline in the adequacy, safety, and efficiency of Louisiana's transportation systems, and inhibited economic development throughout the state;

WHEREAS, Governor Jeff Landry has directed the Secretary to identify deficiencies within the Department and develop a comprehensive plan to correct these deficiencies and comply with legislative directives in order to increase efficiency and repair the Department's relationship with the Legislature and the public;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department has identified numerous areas of potential inefficiency within the Department and tasked Department personnel with evaluating the Department's existing policies and procedures and providing recommendations to increase efficiency and bring the Department into compliance with existing laws;

WHEREAS, to be most effective, efforts to reform the Department and increase efficiency cannot rely solely upon the recommendations of Department personnel, but must also consider views expressed by members of the public and private industry;

WHEREAS, instituting a comprehensive effort to address deficiencies within the Department and exercising the authority granted to the executive branch by the Legislature will ensure that public funds dedicated to transportation will be spent judiciously and provide maximum benefit to the people of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, a successful state transportation system provides a strong foundation for a robust economy.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: The Secretary of the Department shall continue his efforts to reform the Department by identifying and correcting existing deficiencies, increasing efficiency in the Department's operations, and shall do so in direct consultation with the public and private industry.

Section 2: All employees of the Department shall work diligently and cooperatively to identify deficiencies within the Department and opportunities for increased efficiency, and make recommendations for the implementation of measures to correct deficiencies and increase efficiency.

<u>Section 3:</u> The Secretary of the Department is directed to utilize all power and authority granted by the Legislature to its fullest extent to reform the Department as expeditiously as possible.

Section 4: No later than January 15, 2025, the Secretary shall provide a report to the Governor, the Commissioner of Administration, and the Secretary of the Department of Revenue

detailing: (1) efforts to rehabilitate the Department that were undertaken during the previous calendar year; (2) information and recommendations received from members of the public and private industry, and the Department's efforts to implement such recommendations and measures or explaining why such recommendations and measures were not pursued; (3) reforms that are planned to be introduced or that will continue in the upcoming year and thereafter; and (4) the extent to which the Department has identified and addressed existing deficiencies and increased efficiency in the Department's operation.

Section 5: If the Secretary determines the administration of the Department's functions may be more efficiently performed by eliminating, merging, or consolidating existing offices, establishing new offices, or other changes requiring legislative action, he shall present a plan for the Department's reorganization to the Legislature for its approval no later than January 15, 2025. Such report shall contain a specific statement of the reorganization and consolidation plan for the Department over the course of the following year.

<u>Section 6:</u> Upon issuing the report, the Secretary shall consult with the Commissioner of Administration, the Secretary of the Department of Revenue, and the Legislature regarding the contents of the report and institute a "Rebuild Louisiana" initiative with the goal of recommending measures that will increase funding for the state's transportation infrastructure to address the existing backlog of projects and substantially improve the adequacy, safety, and efficiency of Louisiana's transportation systems.



ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE **IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana on this 1st day of May, 2024.

OF LOUISIANA

Landry Nancy Landry

SECRETARY OF STATE