



## ST. TAMMANY PARISH

PATRICIA P. BRISTER  
PARISH PRESIDENT

June 19, 2018

The Honorable John Kennedy  
United States Senator, Louisiana  
SR383, Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy,

I am very happy to learn that the United States Senate Appropriations Committee has increased funding for Louisiana roads and transportation projects by \$74 million. As you know, I have been advocating for the widening of a 4.5 mile stretch of I-12 in St. Tammany Parish for many years to both make the roadway safer and ease the congestion that commuters endure daily.

The tragic accident on May 26 that led to the death of four people and injured nearly one dozen more heightened awareness of the severe traffic problem that threatens the lives of our commuters. It is unconscionable that the plea of my administration and other legislative leaders had largely been ignored until the fatal accident awakened transportation officials to the dire need for widening I-12 in St. Tammany. Today, I am more encouraged than ever that this problem will be addressed and construction on widening the risky corridor will be accelerated.

Senator, I am encouraged that you were able to raise funding levels approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee from the Federal Highway Trust fund to an estimated \$814 million for Louisiana next year. I also appreciated your outreach to Governor John Bel Edwards regarding the bi-partisan support for this critical measure. We, too, are asking the Governor to approve a Build Grant request for this widening project, and we have agreed to work collaboratively and sign as co-applicants for the major infrastructure grant to address this portion of the roadway.

Widening the Interstate to relieve congestion is among my highest priorities. If you need my assistance in any way, please let me know what is necessary to help St. Tammany begin building a safer, less congested roadway. I am willing to do everything from contacting your fellow congressional leaders to launching a grassroots advocacy campaign for funding to testifying before a federal committee on the need for transportation funding.

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

P.O. BOX 628 | COVINGTON, LOUISIANA | 70434 | PBRISTER@STPGOV.ORG | 985-898-2362

WWW.STPGOV.ORG

In the meantime, thank you for your service and your deep concern for the safety of our citizens and guests. I know you are in our corner on this matter, and I trust that you will be relentless – as will I – in your pursuit of dedicated funding to better protect our commuters. Wishing you all the best, I remain ...

Sincerely,



Patricia P. Brister  
Parish President  
St. Tammany Parish Government

PPB/lo