

# SCALISE, ST. TAMMANY LEADERS ANNOUNCE \$5 MILLION IN HOUSE BILL FOR NEW U.S. 190 BRIDGE IN COVINGTON

July 20, 2021 Press Release

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Today, House Republican Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) announced that he has secured \$5 million in the Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) subcommittee bill to construct a new U.S. 190 bridge in Covington. The new bridge, which has the support of local and state leaders, will feature additional lanes to the east and west approaches over the Bogue Falaya River, freeing up traffic on the highway and improving a critical hurricane evacuation route for southeast Louisiana residents.

*"I am happy to get my request for the U.S. 190 bridge in Covington included in the House bill. The U.S. 190 bridge over the Bogue Falaya River has faced continued congestion as we have seen tremendous growth in the surrounding community in recent years. On any given day, you will often see long traffic backups on either side of the bridge. Replacement and widening of the bridge will help address many of the congestion and safety issues families in St. Tammany face with the current bridge. Additionally, because U.S. 190 serves as an important hurricane evacuation route in the area, a new bridge will improve the safe flow of traffic during times of emergency and evacuation. This project is a big priority for the entire community, and I will continue to fight for it as this bill moves through negotiations with the Senate,"* said Whip Scalise.

**Local and state leaders were critical in this effort. Read what they are saying about the funding for the new U.S. 190 bridge:**

*"The provided funding will have an immediate impact for improving this major highway and designated hurricane evacuation route to more safely accommodate travel to work, school, and recreational activities. I would like to thank Congressman Scalise for recognizing the significance of this long-awaited, multi-phased transportation project in St Tammany,"* **said Mike Cooper, President, St. Tammany Parish.**

*"This is great news for the citizens of St. Tammany Parish. Currently, three state highways converge into one lane to cross the Bogue Falaya River. This widening project has been on the books since I was a small boy. I doubted I would live to see it finished, but I was beginning to doubt I would live to even see it started. Thank you, Congressman Scalise,"* **said Mark Johnson, Mayor, Covington.**

*"Traffic is a critical issue across the Northshore, and the bridge over the Bogue Falaya is the top choke point in the state. Continued cooperation between our state and federal delegations is essential for infrastructure investments like this one. I am proud to work with Republican Whip Scalise to be part of the solution for our traffic problems,"* **said Patrick McMath, Louisiana State Senator, District 11.**

*"The Bogue Falaya bridge has been needed and anticipated for years. It's incredibly important that Congressman Scalise helped with these federal funds,"* **said Mark Wright, Louisiana State Representative, District 77.**

*"DOTD has had a long and successful relationship with Congressman Scalise's office and because of this, we have been able to advance major projects such as the I-12 widening in St. Tammany Parish. Now, we can add the U.S. 190 bridge project to the string of successes. The widening of the U.S. 190 bridge in Covington is crucial for this corridor. This two-lane bridge creates a choke point on U.S. 190, causing heavy congestion during peak hours. The \$5 million allocated from the Transportation,*

*Housing and Urban Development committee will go toward widening this bridge over the Bogue Falaya from two to four lanes. The Edwards Administration has been instrumental in advancing statewide infrastructure by working closely with our state and federal partners,"* said **Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.**

*"Highway Infrastructure investment is a critical component for future successful economic development and we are grateful for Congressman's Scalise's efforts to help make those resources a reality for St Tammany,"* said **Christopher Masingill, Chief Executive Officer, St. Tammany Corporation.**

*"This project is vital to relieve current traffic congestion and to St. Tammany Parish's future expansion and growth. The work completed by the State DOTD on the Highway 190 corridor greatly improved traffic flow but resulted in a bottleneck at the Bogue Falaya river. The expansion of this bridge will alleviate traffic congestion experienced by the residents and commercial businesses along this corridor,"* said **Ross Lagarde, Chairman, Northshore Business Council.**

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