



## LOUISIANA GOOD ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

### NEWS RELEASE

News Release

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## Transportation group calls bridge report "a wake-up call"

BATON ROUGE - A national report that shows one in seven Louisiana's bridges should be repaired or replaced should be a wake-up call to state legislators who are considering several

proposed laws to increase funding for transportation, the head of the state's leading transportation advocacy group said on Tuesday.

A report from the [American Road & Transportation Builders Association](#) shows that Louisiana has 1,827 bridges classified as structurally deficient. That represents 14 percent of Louisiana's bridges, ranking the state 10th on the list of bridges that need to be repaired or replaced. Structurally deficient bridges are not necessarily unsafe, but the classification means the bridges are in need of repair or replacement.



*The Lake Charles I-10 bridge over the Calcasieu River, which is rated as structurally deficient, was built in 1952 and carries more than 65,000 vehicles a day.*

"Legislators need to give DOTD the tools they need to do the job, and the tool they need is more money to fix our bridges," said Kenneth Perret, president of the [Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation Association](#).

Perret said there are several pieces of legislation being considered this session that could give DOT D an immediate influx of cash without raising taxes. Some of those measures include protecting the Transportation Trust Fund from budget raids to balance the general fund and the immediate phase in of vehicle sales tax from the general fund to the TTF.

"We have been able to hide some of our transportation problems over the last few years by using surplus revenues and federal stimulus money, but both of those funding sources are gone," Perret said. "Safe bridges are a non-negotiable item."

*Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation Association is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering and promoting a program of planning, design, construction and maintenance of an adequate transportation system, sufficiently financed, which will conveniently and safely serve the transportation needs of the people of Louisiana.*

For more information, contact  
Mark Lambert  
[lambertmedia@eatel.net](mailto:lambertmedia@eatel.net)  
[www.lambert-media.com](http://www.lambert-media.com)  
225-937-8113

