

WHEREAS, Memphis is a city of high commercial, business, and leisure travel;
and

WHEREAS, the City of Memphis desires to enjoy economic growth, urban revitalization, and the benefits of tourism, all which depend on uninterrupted interstate access across the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the recent Hernando Desoto Bridge closure for repairs had an adverse affect on thousands of commuters demonstrating a dire need to construct an enhanced, multi-modal bridge across the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Transportation has prepared and released a Mississippi River Crossing Feasibility and Location Study for a new Tennessee-Arkansas bridge, but seeks additional funding to complete an environmental study which is necessary to advance the project; and

WHEREAS, the economic condition and safety of our citizens and community is at risk; therefore, the Memphis City Council asks the Tennessee General Assembly to take immediate action toward meeting the funding needs of the Department of Transportation for construction of a new bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council urges the State of Tennessee to take up this issue in the Transportation Committee, and recognize it as a 2008 legislative initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Memphis City Council urges Tennessee legislators to work diligently with Memphis' House Transportation Committee member Representative G. A. Hardaway, Sr., the Shelby County Legislative Delegation, the Tennessee Department of Transportation and Memphis officials on the proposed Tennessee-Arkansas bridge project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Memphis City Council urges the Tennessee Legislature to support the legislation sponsored by Representative G. A. Hardaway, Sr. to ensure that the Tennessee-Arkansas bridge project will be given priority attention in 2008 for the promotion of safety, security, and economic prosperity for the future of Tennesseans, also ensuring that our state maintains a competitive edge in the major distribution network.