



**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, GEORGE COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI REQUESTING THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE SAFETY AND PREVENTIVE
STEPS TO PROTECT THE HIGHWAY 26 BRIDGE OVER THE PASCAGOULA
RIVER FROM OVERHEIGHT VEHICLE COLLISIONS
AND SAFEGUARD THE BRIDGE'S STRUCTURAL**

WHEREAS, the Highway 26 Trestle Bridge is a vital link connecting the communities of Bennedale, Broome, and Merrill to the economic center of George County, the City of Lucedale, and the County Seat; and

WHEREAS, the Hwy. 26 Bridge is a critical public safety route for emergency situations and declared disasters providing the safest and shortest route to the County's hospital, public services, along with evacuation routes on Highway 63 and Highway 98; and

WHEREAS, the importance of the Hwy. 26 Bridge has only increased with the closure of the Hwy. 57 Bridge and the Merrill Bridge on the west side of Pascagoula River in recent years; and

WHEREAS, if the Hwy. 26 Bridge was again seriously damaged and forced to be closed by an over height vehicle or trucker with too high a load to pass safely under the bridge's overhead steel spans, the west side of George County would be effectively cut off from the entire east side of the Pascagoula River; and

WHEREAS, any alternative route around the Hwy. 26 Bridge would result in a 30 to 40 mile detour trip north to US Hwy. 98 for all residents, businesses, school buses, and commercial/logging truck drivers attending just to travel east; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is responsible for the Hwy. 26 Bridge's overall safety and maintenance and has previously installed "Overheight Warning Systems" which have prevented bridge collisions; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no “Overheight” warning signs or overhead safety devices to alert truckers or large vehicle drivers of height requirements before crossing the Hwy. 26 Bridge, and all previous warning signs and overhead devices have never been replaced after trucking impacts and/or weather damage; and

WHEREAS, traffic control technology has made major advances with infrared sensors, LED enhanced warning signage, and solar panels for remote power needs, MDOT now has more tools available than ever before to alert motorist and truckers of bridge height requirements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the George County Board of Supervisors does hereby formally request MDOT to immediately take all necessary safety steps to safeguard the Highway 26 Bridge from “Overheight” vehicle/trucking collisions and prevent costly, long, and dangerous detours for all motorists.

The motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Supervisor Henry Cochran.
Seconded by Supervisor Fred Croom and the following vote was recorded:

Supervisor Fred Croom	<u>aye</u>
Supervisor Kelly Wright	<u>absent</u>
Supervisor Larry McDonald	<u>aye</u>
Supervisor Larry Havard	<u>aye</u>
Supervisor Henry Cochran	<u>aye</u>

SO RESOLVED AND ORDERED this 6th day of August, 2018

ATTEST

Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Larry McDonald, President