**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONSTRUCT A PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SEPTIMA P. CLARK PARKWAY AND COMING STREET IN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Whereas, on November 17, 2012, Ms. Hannah‑Rose Elledge, a twenty‑one year old College of Charleston student on a one‑year visit from Nottingham University in England, and a friend were struck by a Jeep Cherokee on the Septima P. Clark Parkway at Coming Street in the City of Charleston; and

Whereas, Ms. Elledge was dragged under the vehicle for one hundred twenty‑nine feet and died from her injuries, and her friend suffered a leg injury; and

Whereas, on January 13, 2014, Ms. Lindsey Taylor Ranz, another twenty‑one year old College of Charleston student, died from injuries sustained after being struck by a pick‑up truck while attempting to cross the Septima P. Clark Parkway at Coming Street; and

Whereas, both fatal accidents are proof that this intersection is unsafe for pedestrian traffic and support the need for the Department of Transportation to take immediate action to make this intersection safe for pedestrian traffic; and

Whereas, pursuant to Part 1B, Section 84, Proviso 84.16 of Act 286 of 2014, the South Carolina Department of Transportation was directed to perform a safety and feasibility study to determine if a pedestrian overpass could be constructed at the intersection of the Septima P. Clark Parkway and Coming Street in the City of Charleston; and

Whereas, in early 2015, CDM Smith, a full service consulting, engineering, construction and operations firm, completed a comprehensive safety and feasibility study on behalf of the Department of Transportation; and

Whereas, the CDM Smith study concluded that constructing a new pedestrian overpass at the parkway’s intersection with Coming Street is not only feasible, it is also the safest way for pedestrians to traverse the intersection; and

Whereas, the General Assembly has long recognized that its first duty is to protect the people and citizens of the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. The Department of Transportation is directed to construct a pedestrian overpass at the intersection of the Septima P. Clark Parkway and Coming Street in the City of Charleston.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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