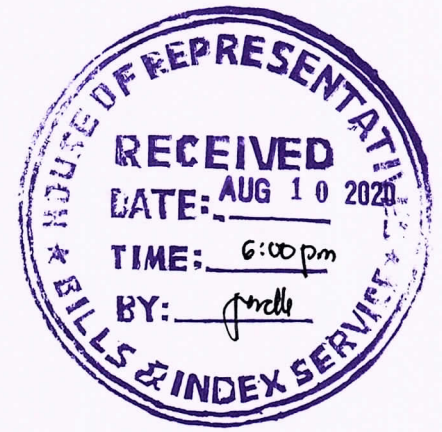


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7346



Introduced by HON. ALETA C. SUAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Infrastructure development has been the centerpiece of this administration's economic development program, ushering in the "Golden Age of Infrastructure". The International Monetary Fund (IMF)¹ reported that public infrastructure investment increased from an average of 3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) during 2011 to 2016, to 5.1 percent in 2018, with a projected investment up to 6 percent of GDP by 2022. Despite the ongoing increase in government spending on infrastructure, we are still behind in the Global Competitive Index infrastructure assessment.

Boosting infrastructure development remains crucial in recovering from economic setback, especially with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to the economy and the livelihood of our agricultural and tourism sectors. Building roads and bridges improve access to goods and services, reduce prices due to lesser transportation costs, and attract more investments as economic opportunities become distributed in many areas in the country.

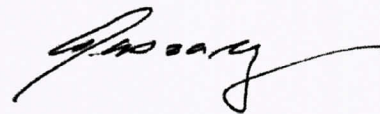
In response to the increasing need to improve infrastructure, a four-lane superhighway shall be constructed to link South Luzon Expressway, through the Toll Road 4 extension project, to the San Andres Port in San Andres, Quezon which serves as a point of entry for those coming from the Southern Luzon islands and Visayas to the

¹ International Monetary Fund. 06 February 2020. Philippines : 2019 Article IV Consultation-Press Release; and Staff Report. Retrieved from <https://www.imf.org/~media/Files/Publications/CR/2020/English/1PHLEA2020001.ashx>

Luzon island. The San Andres Superhighway shall cut travel time from Lucena City to the Municipality of San Andres by half, making travel to the port only two hours by car. With the TR-4 project, it will only take at least 3 hours from Metro Manila to reach San Andres port and board a RoRo.

This will also create a domino effect on infrastructure development as the increased volume of passengers and cargo will necessarily push for the expansion and improvement of the various ports in the country and the roads leading to those ports. Easing access to ports, in turn, will support the establishment of provinces as new centers of economic development in the country. In sum, this will contribute and serve as an impetus for inclusive rural growth.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. ALETA C. SUAREZ
Representative
Third District, Quezon Province

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7346

Introduced by HON. ALETA C. SUAREZ

1 **AN ACT**
2 **PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAN ANDRES**
3 **SUPERHIGHWAY, EASING TRAVEL FROM LUCENA CITY TO SAN ANDRES**
4 **PORT IN SAN ANDRES, QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:*

6 **SECTION 1. Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
7 optimum development among its regions, provinces, cities, and municipalities.

8 **SEC. 2. Creation of the Superhighway.** - There is hereby created the San Andres
9 Superhighway which shall be financed, constructed, operated, and maintained by a
10 grantee, offeror, consortium or proponent, under and by virtue of Republic Act No.
11 6957, as amended by Republic Act No. 7718, otherwise known as the Build-Operate-
12 Transfer (BOT) Law. The 134-kilometer four-lane superhighway shall connect to the
13 terminus of the Pagbilao by-pass road in Barangay Ikirin, Pagbilao to San Andres Port
14 in the Municipality of San Andres, Quezon. The San Andres Superhighway shall
15 facilitate ease of travel from the South Luzon Expressway Toll Road 4 (SLEX-TR4)
16 which shall end in Lucena, Quezon (Proposed TR4 Extension) to San Andres Port.

17 **SEC. 3. Implementing Agency.** - The Department of Public Works and Highways
18 shall be the lead implementing agency for this Act.

19 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to defray the cost of the
20 undertaking and completing the feasibility study for this project and other activities
21 relative thereto shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

22 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from the
23 approval of this Act, the DPWH shall, in consultation with the stakeholders, formulate
24 and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
25 this Act.

26 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** - Should any provision of this Act be declared
27 invalid or unconstitutional, no other provision hereof shall be thereby affected.

28 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars, and
29 memoranda inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
30 modified accordingly.

31 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
32 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

33 Approved.