

1 WHEREAS, it takes an average of 3 to 5 years to develop highway projects for construction; and

2 WHEREAS, the schedule of the future construction program is severely disrupted by funding
3 fluctuations; and

4 WHEREAS, the 54th Legislature desires to maintain funding for the new High Priority Construction
5 Program; and

6 WHEREAS, if there are no new or additional diversions from the highway special revenue account
7 (state highway trust fund), projections indicate that there will be no need for an additional fuel tax increase
8 before the year 2006; and

9 WHEREAS, the 2006 financial plan provides for the repayment of debt incurred to complete
10 Montana's interstate system, which is a high priority to the state as well as a stable funding level for
11 highway construction.

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13 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 STATE OF MONTANA:

15 That the 54th Legislature demonstrate support and encouragement:

16 (1) to join Governor Racicot and support continuation of the wholly state-funded construction
17 program at the \$30 million level in fiscal year 1996 and at a level of \$35 million in each succeeding year
18 until the year 2006;

19 (2) to reject any new or additional diversions from the highway special revenue account (state
20 highways trust fund);

21 (3) to support putting the trust back into the highway trust fund by working to cleanse the trust
22 fund of existing diversions; and

23 (4) to work to avoid highway funding fluctuations that seriously disrupt the delivery of the planned
24 construction program.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation be urged to aggressively pursue
26 implementation of the future construction program with due diligence to improve the safety and welfare
27 of our citizens.

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