



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

No. 213

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 16, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BETTY MCCOLLUM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

REJECTING LIBERAL LOCKDOWNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, liberal Governors across the country have shown they know nothing about good governance.

Many times I have heard impassioned speeches from my Republican colleagues on how liberal Governors running their States have gone off the deep end. Today, I am here to share North Carolina's story.

For months, Governor Roy Cooper has avoided numerous opportunities to keep North Carolina open for business. He imposed phases of reopening that only caused more businesses to go under while he claimed it was the best option.

Now he believes a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew will somehow eliminate COVID-19 altogether. What this curfew will do in the end is remind North Carolinians that their Governor has no idea what he is doing.

COVID-19 is not a creature that roams the streets in the dead of night and retreats to its burrow once day-break hits. This is a virus. Necessary safety precautions can be taken to protect yourself, your loved ones, and those around you.

But when ill-conceived directives from Governor Cooper come into play, North Carolinians begin to question where the ambition ends and where leadership begins.

The American people hear time and time again that we must follow the science, but when we question the science that is used to justify lockdowns, we seldom receive true clarity.

We can all agree that the imperative here is to protect people from the scourge of the virus. That is abundantly clear. However, that imperative becomes horribly diluted when State and local economies suffer, people lose their jobs, and ends can't be met because of lockdowns. That is the sad reality of what lockdowns can do.

I have a message for Governor Cooper: Your abject failures during this pandemic have hurt the livelihoods of people who are proud to call North Carolina home. The last thing North Carolinians need is a bureaucrat sitting in the Governor's mansion who hands down blanketed mandates.

Hopefully, Governors across the country, including yourself, will look to common sense as a guide moving

forward; but based on what has been done to date, you would probably squander that opportunity, too.

Leadership is not a foreign concept. So why not lead the right way and put aside your desire to see North Carolina closed for business?

North Carolina is an economic powerhouse because of its hardworking citizens who show up to work and get the job done. It is high time it is treated that way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

HONORING THE LIVES OF GUADALUPE AND MARIA LOPEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Guadalupe and Maria Lopez, who were taken from us by COVID-19 in Chicago only a few weeks ago.

Like thousands during this pandemic, their children—Erica, Richie, and Andy—weren't even able to say a proper good-bye.

Guadalupe and Maria were loving parents, grandparents, and active members of the community who raised their family in Archer Heights in Chicago.

Lupe, as most people knew him, was a beloved 911 dispatcher for 33 years. Chicago police officers described him as a "voice of security and reassurance" who guided them on the radio through some of the most dangerous situations. Colleagues remember him as always ready to help jump-start a car or change a tire, even after a long, stressful shift.

Maria owned an income tax service in my neighborhood of Little Village. She served the community and, particularly, immigrants with kindness and dedication.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H7161

Lupe and Maria's marriage was a love story, and their children and grandchildren were the center of their universe. They are reunited in Heaven.

My wife, Evelyn, and I are keeping the Lopez family in our prayers.

BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week, Americans witnessed a remarkable achievement. Less than a year after the novel coronavirus reached the shores of America, the first doses of a safe and effective vaccine were administered to frontline healthcare workers in Pennsylvania and around the country.

This amazing accomplishment is not only a testament to America's unparalleled healthcare heroes, researchers and scientists, but it is also a testament to the promise of American innovation.

In just a matter of months, Operation Warp Speed has harnessed the full power of the Federal Government, the private sector, and the scientific community to deliver results for the American people, all in record time.

I am sincerely grateful to the leaders at the helm of this historic public/private partnership, including President Donald Trump and Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, who was born in my district, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Truly, all of those who have served in Operation Warp Speed have done an incredible job.

As our Nation continues to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that a safe and effective vaccine is key to restoring our communities, rebuilding our economy and, ultimately, saving lives. While the first COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer already has been granted emergency authorization from the FDA, we expect more to follow in the coming days and weeks.

Now, it is imperative for the American people to know the facts about these vaccines so that they can make informed consent.

Number one: As part of Operation Warp Speed, multiple COVID-19 vaccines are being developed by private companies and simultaneously produced, accelerating the typical production process so that, as soon as a safe and effective option is cleared, it is ready to go.

Number two: Each COVID-19 vaccine is undergoing the same rigorous safety, quality, and efficacy screenings as any other modern vaccine.

Number three: The FDA will only grant emergency use authorization to a vaccine following the recommendation of an independent advisory board.

Number four: The American people can be confident in the safety and the efficacy of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Madam Speaker, like many Americans, I recognize that this vaccine has

lifesaving potential, and I plan to take the vaccine as soon as I am eligible.

As part of Operation Warp Speed, our Nation is equipped to facilitate this vaccine distribution more efficiently than any other country in the world. At the same time, we know that it will take time before everyone can receive it.

As we wait, this is not the time to grow complacent. COVID-19 cases are rising in Pennsylvania and around the country, and it is up to all of us to do our part to protect our family, our friends, and our neighbors.

This year, I have been amazed by Americans' commitment to one another and to their communities. Together, we can defeat this virus. As we wait for the widespread immunization, we must continue to stand strong against this invisible enemy.

Yes, the coronavirus remains an ever-present threat to America and to our economy. Yes, we are in a shared fight to save lives and to save livelihoods. And, yes, there is hope on the horizon. It is arriving in communities every day in the coolers on UPS and FedEx trucks.

As we near the end of this incredibly challenging year, Americans have much to be grateful for. Thanks to our scientific community, to Operation Warp Speed, and especially to our healthcare heroes, there are brighter days ahead.

MOBILITY, INNOVATION, AND PLACEMAKING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak to the importance and interrelationship of mobility, innovation and placemaking.

In honor of my predecessor, the late Honorable John Lewis, I am happy to offer the John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop. The John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop envisions spurring over \$5 billion of economic development in Georgia's Fifth District in honor of the legacy of Congressman John Lewis' sacrifice and commitment to equity, justice, and economic empowerment.

Specifically, this project provides an opportunity to achieve justice in mobility and placemaking through strategic land use and transit-oriented development.

Campbellton Road, a major artery of this project, is the area where both of Congressman Lewis' homes were located. This funding will ultimately create a snowball effect for signature catalytic projects, such as Fort McPherson TOD, Tyler Perry Studios, Greenbriar, and Westgate redevelopment.

One of the first projects in the John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop is high-capacity transit in the Campbellton Road corridor. The project will introduce Light Rail Transit or Bus Rapid Transit to the area served by one of the city's busiest bus routes.

All told, this will create billions of dollars of economic revitalization, which will result in greater transportation options, better quality of life, and renewed civic engagement. I encourage my colleagues to support this project.

I include in the RECORD an appropriations request in honor of John Lewis.

CONGRESSMAN KWANZA HALL,

5th District, Georgia, December 14, 2020.

THE JOHN LEWIS TOD INNOVATION LOOP—TOWARDS JUSTICE IN MOBILITY AND PLACEMAKING

I am happy to submit this extraordinary appropriations request in honor of John Lewis. The John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop envisions spurring over \$5 Billion of economic development in Georgia's Fifth District in honor of the legacy of Congressman John Lewis' sacrifice and commitment to equity, justice and economic empowerment. Specifically this project provides an opportunity to achieve justice in mobility (transportation) and placemaking through strategic land use and transit oriented development (TOD). Campbellton Road, a major artery of this project, is the area where both of Congressman Lewis' homes were located.

IMMEDIATE 2020 FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE JOHN LEWIS TOD INNOVATION LOOP

1. \$5M for development of the conceptual plan.
2. \$50M for Accelerated Campbellton Road Bus Rapid Transit project.

This funding will ultimately create a snowball effect for signature catalytic projects listed below. Their estimated economic impacts are:

- Fort McPherson TOD / Tyler Perry Studios, \$800M.
- Oakland City TOD, \$200M.
- Campbellton Road or Bus Rapid Transit and future Light Rail, \$50M/\$250M.
- Greenbriar—Westgate Area, \$1B.
- John Lewis Senior Transit Center @ Barge Rd, \$500M.
- Camp Creek @ Campbellton Road, \$200M.
- Campbellton @ Fulton Industrial, \$200M.
- Fulton Industrial @ MLK Drive, \$200M.
- Aerotropolis (Atlanta Airport Area), \$1.7B.
- Total impact: \$5.05 Billion.

One of the first projects in the John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop is high-capacity transit in the Campbellton Road Corridor. This project will assist in transforming this corridor of established neighborhoods and businesses into a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use community and could incentivize major redevelopment efforts at Greenbriar Mall and Fort McPherson. The project will introduce Light Rail Transit or Bus Rapid Transit to the area served by one of the city's busiest bus routes. The budget is \$50 million and the project would be administered by Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority.

For more information visit: <https://www.itsmarta.com/campbellton-corridor.aspx>

PROBLEMS IN AMERICA'S PRISONS

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw the Chamber's attention to a second problem, a problem in America's prisons.

I include in the RECORD the following hyperlink to an article from Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/section/usa-jails>.

The article draws attention to the private prisons, the death penalty, and COVID. These are longstanding challenges in our criminal justice system. Also on the list of problems, but not