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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a program to make grants for the improvement or construction of regionally or nationally significant greenway paths, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BOURDEAUX introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a program to make grants for the improvement or construction of regionally or nationally significant greenway paths, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National and Regional
5 Greenways Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GREENWAYS PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a
3 program to make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible
4 organizations to improve or construct safe and connected
5 greenway paths between communities that are designated
6 as regionally or nationally significant by the Secretary
7 under subsection (b).

8 (b) REGIONALLY OR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT
9 GREENWAY PATHS.—In carrying out the program under
10 this section, the Secretary shall establish a national green-
11 way paths network. The national greenway paths network
12 shall contain regionally or nationally significant greenway
13 paths designated by the Secretary that—

14 (1) cross multiple local jurisdictions or State
15 lines;

16 (2) reduce congestion and single-occupant vehi-
17 cle trips, improve safety and access to jobs, and
18 lower emissions for criteria pollutants (NO_x, VOC,
19 PM) and greenhouse gases;

20 (3) support community goals and objectives in
21 areas covered by metropolitan planning organiza-
22 tions; or

23 (4) meet any other criteria the Secretary deter-
24 mines appropriate.

25 (c) APPLICATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
2 this section, an eligible organization shall submit to
3 the Secretary an application in such manner and
4 containing such information as the Secretary may
5 require.

6 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS PARTIALLY ON FED-
7 ERAL LAND.—With respect to an application for eli-
8 gible greenway projects that are located in part on
9 Federal lands, an eligible organization shall enter
10 into a cooperative agreement with the appropriate
11 Federal agency with jurisdiction over such land to be
12 eligible for a grant under this section.

13 (d) APPLICATION CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a
14 grant for construction of a greenway path under this sec-
15 tion, the Secretary shall consider the following:

16 (1) Whether the proposed eligible greenway
17 project is likely to provide substantial additional op-
18 portunities for walking and bicycling, including by—

19 (A) creating greenway paths connecting
20 multiple communities, counties, metropolitan re-
21 gions, or States;

22 (B) integrating greenway paths with tran-
23 sit services, where available, to improve access
24 to public transportation; and

1 (C) integrating greenway paths with exist-
2 ing parks, recreation or scenic areas, adjacent
3 waterways, or transportation corridors.

4 (2) Whether the eligible organization proposing
5 a project demonstrates broad community support
6 through—

7 (A) prior public input in the development
8 of a plan for the proposed project; and

9 (B) the commitment of any project spon-
10 sors and community leaders, including elected
11 officials in the jurisdiction in which such project
12 is located, partner organization leaders, and
13 private or nongovernmental organizations in the
14 area in which such project is located, to the
15 success and timely implementation of an eligible
16 greenway project.

17 (3) The extent to which the eligible organiza-
18 tion provides evidence of commitment to traffic safe-
19 ty, regulations, financial incentives, or community
20 design policies that facilitate significant increases in
21 walking and bicycling.

22 (4) The extent to which the eligible organiza-
23 tion demonstrates commitment of State, local, or eli-
24 gible Federal matching funds, and land or in-kind
25 contributions, in addition to the local match required

1 under subsection (g)(1), unless the applicant quali-
2 fies for an exception under subsection (g)(2).

3 (5) The extent to which the eligible organiza-
4 tion demonstrates that the grant will address exist-
5 ing disparities in bicyclist and pedestrian fatality
6 rates based on race or income level or provide access
7 to schools, jobs, services, transit, or recreational op-
8 portunities for low-income communities and commu-
9 nities of color.

10 (6) Whether the eligible organization dem-
11 onstrates how investment in active transportation
12 will advance safety for pedestrians and cyclists, ac-
13 cessibility to schools, jobs and transit, accessibility
14 to national, State, or local parks, economic competi-
15 tiveness, environmental protection, and quality of
16 life.

17 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—

18 (1) PLANNING AND DESIGN GRANTS.—Each fis-
19 cal year, the Secretary shall set aside not less than
20 \$3,000,000 from the funds made available to carry
21 out this section to provide planning grants for eligi-
22 ble organizations to develop a local or regional
23 greenways and paths plan.

24 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Each fiscal year,
25 the Secretary shall set aside not more than

1 \$2,000,000 of the funds made available to carry out
2 this section to cover the costs of administration, re-
3 search, technical assistance, communications, and
4 training activities under the program.

5 (f) GRANT TIMING.—

6 (1) REQUEST FOR APPLICATION.—Not later
7 than 30 days after funds are made available to carry
8 out this section, the Secretary shall publish in the
9 Federal Register a request for applications for
10 grants under this section.

11 (2) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Not
12 later than 150 days after funds are made available
13 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall select
14 grant recipients for grants under this section.

15 (g) FEDERAL SHARE.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
17 graph (2), the Federal share of the cost of a project
18 under this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the
19 total project cost.

20 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—

21 (A) DISADVANTAGE COMMUNITIES.—For
22 projects serving communities with a poverty
23 rate of over 40 percent based on the majority
24 of census tracts served by such project, the Sec-
25 retary may increase the Federal share of the

1 cost of a project under this section to 100 per-
2 cent of the total project cost.

3 (B) RURAL AREAS.—For projects serving
4 rural areas, as such term is defined in section
5 101 of title 23, United States Code, the Federal
6 share of the cost of a project under this section
7 shall be 90 percent of the total project cost.

8 (h) REPORTS.—

9 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than Sep-
10 tember 30, 2023, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
11 gress a report containing the information described
12 in paragraph (3).

13 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September
14 30, 2025, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
15 report containing the information described in para-
16 graph (3).

17 (3) REPORT INFORMATION.—A report sub-
18 mitted under this subsection shall contain the fol-
19 lowing:

20 (A) A list of grants made under this sec-
21 tion.

22 (B) Best practices of recipients in imple-
23 menting projects funded under this section.

1 (C) Impediments experienced by recipients
2 of grants under this section in planning for and
3 delivering projects under this section.

4 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust
6 Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account)
7 \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026
8 to carry out this section.

9 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

10 (1) ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION.—The term “ac-
11 tive transportation” means alternative methods of
12 transportation to motor vehicles, including walking,
13 bicycling, or utilizing assistive mobility or micro mo-
14 bility devices.

15 (2) GREENWAY PATH.—The term “greenway
16 path” means a hard-surfaced or wheelchair-acces-
17 sible facility built for active transportation, including
18 a sidewalk, bikeway, or pedestrian path that con-
19 nects communities, cities, counties, metropolitan re-
20 gions, or States.

21 (3) COMMUNITY.—The term “community”
22 means a geographic area that is socioeconomically
23 interdependent and may include rural, suburban,
24 and urban jurisdictions.

1 (4) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.—The term “eligi-
2 ble organization” means—

3 (A) a local or regional governmental orga-
4 nization, including a metropolitan planning or-
5 ganization or regional planning organization or
6 council;

7 (B) a multi-county special district;

8 (C) a State;

9 (D) a multi-State group of governments;
10 and

11 (E) an Indian Tribe.

12 (5) ELIGIBLE GREENWAY PROJECT.—The term
13 “eligible greenway project” means an active trans-
14 portation project, or group of projects—

15 (A) that is designated as a regionally or
16 nationally significant greenway path under sub-
17 section (b);

18 (B) within or between a community or
19 group of communities, at least one of which
20 falls within the jurisdiction of an eligible orga-
21 nization, which has submitted an application
22 under this section;

23 (C) that has—

24 (i) a total cost of not less than
25 \$15,000,000; or

1 (ii) with respect to planning and de-
2 sign grants, planning and design costs of
3 not less than \$100,000;

4 (D) that construct path segments that
5 close local or regional network gaps or are lo-
6 cated within underserved areas;

7 (E) that support an accessible public
8 realm, connect to public transportation, support
9 opportunities for economic development, or pro-
10 mote health and safety; and

11 (F) that connect communities to public
12 spaces and parks, enhance ecological
13 connectivity, support land conservation and ac-
14 cess, or support sites for remediation and res-
15 toration.

16 (6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
17 has the meaning given the term in section 4(e) of
18 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
19 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

20 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Transportation.

22 (8) TOTAL PROJECT COST.—The term “total
23 project cost” means the sum total of all costs in-
24 curred in the development of a project that are ap-

1 proved by the Secretary as reasonable and nec-
2 essary, including—

3 (A) the cost of acquiring real property;

4 (B) the cost of site preparation, demoli-
5 tion, and development;

6 (C) expenses related to the issuance of
7 bonds or notes;

8 (D) fees in connection with the planning,
9 execution, and financing of the project;

10 (E) the cost of studies, surveys, plans, per-
11 mits, insurance, interest, financing, tax, and as-
12 sessment costs;

13 (F) the cost of construction, rehabilitation,
14 reconstruction, and equipping the project;

15 (G) the cost of land improvements;

16 (H) contractor fees;

17 (I) the cost of training and education re-
18 lated to the safety of users of any greenway
19 path constructed as part of an eligible greenway
20 project; and

21 (J) any other cost that the Secretary de-
22 termines is necessary and reasonable.