

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7501

To require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the significant improvements and potential alternatives necessary to offset extended closures associated with Interstate Route 70, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2022

Mrs. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. BUCK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the significant improvements and potential alternatives necessary to offset extended closures associated with Interstate Route 70, 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 “I–70 Detour Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Interstate Route 70 is the gateway to the
2 Rocky Mountains and a major east-west interstate
3 highway that runs through and connects 10 different
4 states from Baltimore, Maryland, to Cove Fort,
5 Utah.

6 (2) Because of natural hazards, Interstate
7 Route 70 through Glenwood experiences significant
8 closures that last greater than 1 week, three or four
9 times a decade.

10 (3) Substantial improvements to existing roads
11 and possible alternative routes should be studied and
12 then funded in a timely manner to ensure the con-
13 tinuation of commerce as well as the safe movement
14 of goods and people in the event that Interstate
15 Route 70 is shut down again in the future.

16 (4) Closures of Interstate Route 70 are ex-
17 tremely costly, with an economic impact estimated at
18 \$1 million per hour.

19 (5) At this time, the local counties directly im-
20 pacted by these closures and some of the alternatives
21 proposed in this bill prefer for any county route or
22 county road impacted by this bill to remain under
23 county control and not become a state highway.

24 **SEC. 3. ALTERNATIVES.**

25 (a) REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, but
2 not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall
4 submit to Congress a report with recommendations
5 for significant improvements and potential alter-
6 natives necessary to offset extended closures associ-
7 ated with Interstate Route 70, including—

8 (A) at least 1 alternative that includes the
9 possibility of improving Catherine’s Store Road,
10 as proposed by Garfield County, Colorado;

11 (B) at least 1 alternative that includes the
12 possibility of improving the 6 spot locations to
13 existing roads, as proposed by Eagle County,
14 Colorado;

15 (C) at least 1 alternative that includes the
16 possibility of improving an existing road down
17 Cottonwood Creek, as proposed by Eagle Coun-
18 ty stakeholders and the Colorado Department
19 of Transportation;

20 (D) at least 1 alternative that includes the
21 possibility of improving Interstate Route 70
22 system resilience and reducing risks from near-
23 by hazards; and

24 (E) any other significant improvements
25 and alternatives proposed by Garfield County,

1 Colorado, Eagle County, Colorado, the Colorado
2 Department of Transportation, or the Secretary
3 before the date of enactment of this Act.

4 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under
5 paragraph (1) shall include information regarding
6 the cost and feasibility of each alternative or im-
7 provement described in such report.

8 (b) LEGISLATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
10 the Secretary submits the report to Congress under
11 subsection (a), the Committee on Transportation
12 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
13 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
14 Transportation of the Senate shall produce legisla-
15 tion based on the recommendations provided by the
16 Secretary in such report.

17 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
18 The legislation produced under paragraph (1) shall
19 include a provision to authorize appropriations to
20 carry out any activities authorized in such legisla-
21 tion.

22 (3) CONSIDERATION.—Not later than 60 days
23 after producing legislation under paragraph (1), the

- 1 committees referred to in such paragraph shall move
- 2 to consider such legislation.

