

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2481

To establish a grant program to improve safety on high risk rural roads,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2021

Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself and Mr. WESTERMAN) introduced the following
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
structure

A BILL

To establish a grant program to improve safety on high
risk rural roads, 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 “High Risk Rural Roads
5 Safety Grant Program Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. HIGH RISK RURAL ROADS SAFETY GRANT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amended
9 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“§ 171. High risk rural roads safety grant program**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
3 lish a program to award grants, on a competitive basis,
4 to eligible entities for projects to improve safety on high
5 risk rural roads in the United States.

6 “(b) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may use
8 funds provided under this section only for a project
9 described in paragraph (2) that makes improvements
10 to a high risk rural road.

11 “(2) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—A project re-
12 ferred to in paragraph (1) only includes 1 or more
13 of the following activities:

14 “(A) A road safety audit.

15 “(B) An intersection safety improvement.

16 “(C) Installation of rumble strips or an-
17 other warning device, if the rumble strips or
18 other warning devices do not adversely affect
19 the safety or mobility of bicyclists, pedestrians,
20 and individuals with disabilities.

21 “(D) Activities that improve the safety of
22 pedestrians, bicyclists, or individuals with dis-
23 abilities.

24 “(E) Construction of a railway-highway
25 crossing safety feature, including installation of
26 protective devices.

1 “(F) Construction of a traffic calming fea-
2 ture.

3 “(G) Improvement of highway signage and
4 pavement markings, including to meet min-
5 imum levels of retroreflectivity established by
6 the Department of Transportation.

7 “(H) Installation of a priority control sys-
8 tem for emergency vehicles at signalized inter-
9 sections.

10 “(I) Installation of a traffic control or
11 other warning device at a location with high ac-
12 cident potential.

13 “(J) Installation of guardrails, barriers
14 (including barriers between construction work
15 zones and traffic lanes for the safety of motor-
16 ists and workers), and crash attenuators.

17 “(K) The addition or retrofitting of struc-
18 tures or other measures to eliminate or reduce
19 accidents involving vehicles and wildlife.

20 “(L) Installation and maintenance of signs
21 (including fluorescent, yellow-green signs) at
22 pedestrian-bicycle crossings and in school zones.

23 “(M) Installation of a skid-resistant sur-
24 face at any intersection or other location with
25 a high frequency of accidents.

1 “(N) Improvement of an edge drop-off that
2 is greater than 4 inches.

3 “(O) Spot pavement and shoulder wid-
4 ening.

5 “(P) Elimination of a roadside obstacle.

6 “(Q) Systemic improvements focusing on
7 low-cost safety infrastructure investments.

8 “(R) Traffic enforcement or other activi-
9 ties relating to work zone safety.

10 “(S) Installation of vehicle-to-infrastruc-
11 ture communication equipment.

12 “(T) Installation or improvement of high-
13 way signage and pavement markings to accom-
14 modate advanced technologies to assist with the
15 deployment of automated and connected vehi-
16 cles.

17 “(c) SET-ASIDE.—Of the total amounts made avail-
18 able under this section for each fiscal year, not less than
19 \$100,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian Tribes.

20 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the
21 cost of a project carried out with funds made available
22 under this section may be 100 percent.

23 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
25 tity’ means—

1 “(A) a unit of local government;

2 “(B) a special purpose district or public
3 authority with a transportation function;

4 “(C) a metropolitan planning organization
5 (as defined in section 134(b));

6 “(D) a regional transportation authority;
7 or

8 “(E) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
9 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe
10 List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130)).

11 “(2) HIGH RISK RURAL ROAD.—The term ‘high
12 risk rural road’ means any roadway functionally
13 classified as a rural major or minor collector or a
14 rural local road with respect to which—

15 “(A) there is a significant likelihood of ac-
16 cidents resulting in fatalities or incapacitating
17 injuries; or

18 “(B) there is a physical condition that pre-
19 sents to users of the roadway an increased risk
20 of an accident, including an accident resulting
21 in serious injury.

22 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 is authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust
24 Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) to carry out

- 1 this section \$600,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
- 2 through 2027, to remain available until expended.”.

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