

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5267

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration to establish a program to provide grants for reconnecting neighborhoods, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. JEFFRIES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration to establish a program to provide grants for reconnecting neighborhoods, 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 “Neighborhood Access
5 and Equity Grants Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RECONNECTING NEIGHBORHOODS.**

7 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be ap-
8 propriated from the General Fund of the Treasury,

1 \$3,950,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 for the purposes de-
2 scribed in this section.

3 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Administrator of the
4 Federal Highway Administration shall establish a pro-
5 gram to provide discretionary grants to eligible entities de-
6 scribed in subsection (c)—

7 (1) to improve walkability, safety, and afford-
8 able transportation access through construction (as
9 such term is defined in section 101 of title 23,
10 United States Code) of projects that are sensitive to
11 the context of the community—

12 (A) to remove, remediate, or reuse a facil-
13 ity described in subsection (d);

14 (B) to replace a facility described in sub-
15 section (d) with a facility that is at-grade or
16 lower speed; or

17 (C) to retrofit or cap a facility described in
18 subsection (d); and

19 (2) for planning and capacity building activities
20 in disadvantaged or underserved communities to—

21 (A) identify, monitor, or assess local and
22 ambient air quality, emissions of greenhouse
23 gases, hot spot areas of extreme heat or ele-
24 vated air pollution, gaps in tree canopy cov-
25 erage, or flood prone locations;

1 (B) assess transportation equity or pollu-
2 tion impacts and develop local anti-displacement
3 policies and community benefit agreements;

4 (C) conduct predevelopment activities for
5 projects eligible under this subsection;

6 (D) expand public participation in trans-
7 portation planning by individuals and organiza-
8 tions in disadvantaged or underserved commu-
9 nities; or

10 (E) administer or obtain technical assist-
11 ance related to activities described in this sub-
12 section.

13 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An eligible en-
14 tity referred to in subsection (b) is—

15 (1) a State (as such term is defined in section
16 101 of title 23, United States Code);

17 (2) a unit of local government;

18 (3) a political subdivision of a State (as such
19 term is defined in section 101 of title 23, United
20 States Code);

21 (4) a recipient of funds under section 202 of
22 title 23, United States Code;

23 (5) a territory of the United States;

1 (6) a metropolitan planning organization (as
2 defined in section 134(b) of title 23, United States
3 Code); or

4 (7) with respect to a grant described in sub-
5 section (a)(2), in addition to an eligible entity de-
6 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (6), a nonprofit
7 organization or institution of higher education that
8 has entered into a partnership with an eligible entity
9 described in paragraphs (1) through (6).

10 (d) FACILITY DESCRIBED.—A facility is a surface
11 transportation facility for which high speeds, grade sepa-
12 ration, or other design factors create an obstacle to
13 connectivity within a community.

14 (e) MINIMUM INVESTMENT.—Not less than 40 per-
15 cent of the amounts made available under subsection (a)
16 shall be distributed for projects in communities that—

17 (1) are economically disadvantaged, including
18 an underserved community or a community located
19 in an area of persistent poverty;

20 (2) have entered or will enter into a community
21 benefits agreement with representatives of the com-
22 munity;

23 (3) have an anti-displacement policy, a commu-
24 nity land trust, or a community advisory board in ef-
25 fect; or

1 (4) have demonstrated a plan for employing
2 local residents in the area impacted by the activity
3 or project proposed under this section.

4 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts made available
5 under subsection (a) shall be administered as if made
6 available under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code,
7 and a project carried out under this section shall be treat-
8 ed as a project on a Federal-aid highway under such chap-
9 ter.

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