

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3092

To establish a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved communities to green spaces, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2023

Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To establish a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved communities to green spaces, 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 “Transit to Trails Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSIT TO TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term “com-  
4 munity of color” means a geographically distinct  
5 area in which the population of any of the following  
6 categories of individuals is higher than the average  
7 populations of such category for the State in which  
8 the community is located:

9 (A) Black.

10 (B) African American.

11 (C) Asian.

12 (D) Pacific Islander.

13 (E) Other non-White race.

14 (F) Hispanic.

15 (G) Latino.

16 (H) Linguistically isolated.

17 (I) Middle Eastern and North African.

18 (2) CRITICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—

19 The term “critically underserved community”  
20 means—

21 (A) a community that can demonstrate to  
22 the Secretary that the community has inad-  
23 equate, insufficient, or no park space or recre-  
24 ation facilities, including by demonstrating—

25 (i) quality concerns relating to the  
26 available park space or recreation facilities;

1 (ii) the presence of recreational facili-  
2 ties that do not serve the needs of the com-  
3 munity; or

4 (iii) the inequitable distribution of  
5 park space for high-need populations based  
6 on income, age, or other measures of vul-  
7 nerability and need;

8 (B) a community in which at least 50 per-  
9 cent of the population is not located within  $\frac{1}{2}$   
10 mile of park space;

11 (C) an environmental justice community;  
12 or

13 (D) any other community that the Sec-  
14 retary determines to be appropriate.

15 (3) DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA.—The term  
16 “designated service area” means a geographical area  
17 recommended by a designated official planning agen-  
18 cy that defines the community in which coordinated  
19 transportation services are provided to the transpor-  
20 tation disadvantaged.

21 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
22 ty” means—

23 (A) a State;

1 (B) a political subdivision of a State (in-  
2 cluding a city or a county) that represents or  
3 otherwise serves an urban area or a rural area;

4 (C) a special purpose district (including a  
5 park district);

6 (D) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section  
7 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
8 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) that  
9 represents or otherwise serves an urban area or  
10 a rural area; or

11 (E) a metropolitan planning organization  
12 (as defined in section 134(b) of title 23, United  
13 States Code).

14 (5) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—  
15 The term “environmental justice community” means  
16 a community with significant representation of com-  
17 munities of color, low-income communities, or Tribal  
18 or indigenous communities that experiences, or is at  
19 risk of experiencing, a disproportionate burden of  
20 adverse human health or environmental effects.

21 (6) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term “low-  
22 income community” means any census block group  
23 in which 30 percent or more of the population are  
24 individuals with an annual household income equal  
25 to, or less than, the greater of—

1 (A) an amount equal to 80 percent of the  
2 median income of the area in which the house-  
3 hold is located, as reported by the Department  
4 of Housing and Urban Development; or

5 (B) 200 percent of the Federal poverty  
6 line.

7 (7) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
8 the Transit to Trails Grant Program established  
9 under subsection (b)(1).

10 (8) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area”  
11 means a community that is not an urban area.

12 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
13 the Secretary of Transportation.

14 (10) TRANSPORTATION CONNECTOR.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “transportation  
16 connector” means a system that—

17 (i) connects 2 ZIP Codes or commu-  
18 nities within a 175-mile radius of a des-  
19 ignated service area; and

20 (ii) offers rides available to the public.

21 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “transportation  
22 connector” includes microtransits, bus  
23 lines, bus rails, light rail, rapid transits, or per-  
24 sonal rapid transits.

1           (11) URBAN AREA.—The term “urban area”  
2 means a community that—

3                   (A) is densely developed;

4                   (B) has residential, commercial, and other  
5 nonresidential areas; and

6                   (C) is—

7                           (i) an urbanized area with a popu-  
8 lation of 50,000 or more; or

9                           (ii) an urban cluster with a population  
10 of—

11                                   (I) not less than 2,500; and

12                                   (II) not more than 50,000.

13 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

14           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-  
15 tablish a grant program, to be known as the “Tran-  
16 sit to Trails Grant Program”, under which the Sec-  
17 retary shall award grants to eligible entities for—

18                   (A) projects that develop transportation  
19 connectors or routes in or serving, and related  
20 culturally and linguistically appropriate edu-  
21 cation materials for, critically underserved com-  
22 munities to increase access and mobility to Fed-  
23 eral or non-Federal public land, waters, park-  
24 land, or monuments; or

1 (B) projects that facilitate transportation  
2 improvements to enhance access to Federal or  
3 non-Federal public land and recreational oppor-  
4 tunities in critically underserved communities.

5 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ad-  
7 minister the program to assist eligible entities  
8 in the development of transportation connectors  
9 or routes in or serving, and related culturally  
10 and linguistically appropriate education mate-  
11 rials for, critically underserved communities and  
12 Federal or non-Federal public land, waters,  
13 parkland, and monuments.

14 (B) JOINT PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary  
15 shall encourage joint partnership projects under  
16 the program, if available, among multiple agen-  
17 cies, including school districts, nonprofit organi-  
18 zations, metropolitan planning organizations,  
19 regional transportation authorities, transit  
20 agencies, and State and local governmental  
21 agencies (including park and recreation agen-  
22 cies and authorities) to enhance investment of  
23 public sources.

24 (C) ANNUAL GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL  
25 SOLICITATION, REVIEW, AND APPROVAL.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary  
2 shall—

3 (I) annually solicit the submis-  
4 sion of project proposals for grants  
5 from eligible entities under the pro-  
6 gram; and

7 (II) review each project proposal  
8 submitted under subclause (I) on a  
9 timeline established by the Secretary.

10 (ii) REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR  
11 PROJECT PROPOSAL.—A project proposal  
12 submitted under clause (i)(I) shall in-  
13 clude—

14 (I) a statement of the purposes  
15 of the project;

16 (II) the name of the entity or in-  
17 dividual with overall responsibility for  
18 the project;

19 (III) a description of the quali-  
20 fications of the entity or individuals  
21 identified under subclause (II);

22 (IV) a description of—

23 (aa) staffing and stake-  
24 holder engagement for the  
25 project;



1 (bb) the logistics of the  
2 project; and

3 (cc) anticipated outcomes of  
4 the project;

5 (V) a proposed budget for the  
6 funds and time required to complete  
7 the project;

8 (VI) information regarding the  
9 source and amount of matching fund-  
10 ing available for the project;

11 (VII) information that dem-  
12 onstrates the clear potential of the  
13 project to contribute to increased ac-  
14 cess to parkland for critically under-  
15 served communities; and

16 (VIII) any other information that  
17 the Secretary considers to be nec-  
18 essary for evaluating the eligibility of  
19 the project for funding under the pro-  
20 gram.

21 (D) PRIORITY.—To the extent practicable,  
22 in determining whether to approve project pro-  
23 posals under the program, the Secretary shall  
24 prioritize projects that—

- 1 (i) are designed to increase access and  
2 mobility to local or neighborhood Federal  
3 or non-Federal public land, waters, park-  
4 land, monuments, or recreational opportu-  
5 nities;
- 6 (ii) utilize low- or no-emission vehi-  
7 cles;
- 8 (iii) provide free or discounted rates  
9 for low-income riders;
- 10 (iv) provide opportunities for youth  
11 engagement;
- 12 (v) provide employment preference to  
13 individuals who reside in the community  
14 where the project is granted;
- 15 (vi) are established in communities of  
16 color, low-income communities, Tribal or  
17 indigenous communities, or rural areas;
- 18 (vii) would capitalize on existing es-  
19 tablished public-private partnerships; and
- 20 (viii) comply with relevant regulations  
21 issued under the Americans with Disabil-  
22 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et  
23 seq.).

24 (3) TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCE-  
25 DURES.—

1 (A) PROCEDURES.—In consultation with  
2 the head of each appropriate Federal land man-  
3 agement agency, the Secretary shall develop, by  
4 rule, transportation planning procedures for  
5 projects conducted under the program that are  
6 consistent with metropolitan and statewide  
7 planning processes.

8 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the  
9 program, the Secretary shall ensure the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 (i) All projects carried out under the  
12 program shall comply with sections 5303  
13 and 5304 of title 49, United States Code.

14 (ii) All new transportation connectors  
15 and routes established under a project car-  
16 ried out under the program shall be acces-  
17 sible in accordance with the accessibility  
18 specifications for transportation vehicles  
19 under the Americans with Disabilities Act  
20 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

21 (iii) State department of transpor-  
22 tation agencies shall engage with relevant  
23 stakeholders consistent with sections  
24 5304(f)(3) and 5404(g)(3) of title 49,  
25 United States Code, and metropolitan

1           planning organizations shall engage with  
2           relevant stakeholders consistent with sec-  
3           tions 5303(g)(3)(B), 5303(i)(5), and  
4           5303(i)(6) of title 49, United States Code,  
5           in addition to faith-based and community-  
6           based organizations.

7           (iv) Except as otherwise provided  
8           under this section, a grant provided under  
9           this section shall be subject to the require-  
10          ments of section 5307 of title 49, United  
11          States Code.

12          (4) FEDERAL SHARE.—

13           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of  
14           the cost of a project carried out under the pro-  
15           gram shall not exceed 80 percent.

16           (B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Fed-  
17           eral share of the cost of a project carried out  
18           under the program may be derived from in-kind  
19           contributions.

20          (5) ELIGIBLE USES.—Grant funds provided  
21          under the program may be used—

22           (A) to develop transportation connectors or  
23           routes in or serving, and related culturally and  
24           linguistically appropriate education materials  
25           for, critically underserved communities to in-

1           crease access and mobility to Federal and non-  
2           Federal public land, waters, parkland, and  
3           monuments; and

4                   (B) to create or significantly enhance ac-  
5           cess to Federal or non-Federal public land and  
6           recreational opportunities in an urban area or  
7           a rural area.

8           (6) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant provided under  
9           the program shall be—

10                   (A) not less than \$25,000; and

11                   (B) not more than \$500,000.

12           (7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—It is the intent  
13           of Congress that grants provided under the program  
14           deliver project funds to areas of greatest need while  
15           offering technical assistance to all applicants and po-  
16           tential applicants for grant preparation to encourage  
17           full participation in the program.

18           (8) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary  
19           shall ensure that current schedules and routes for  
20           transportation systems developed after the receipt of  
21           a grant under the program are available to the pub-  
22           lic, including on a website maintained by the recipi-  
23           ent of a grant.

24           (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

1           (1) REPORTS BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The  
2 Secretary shall require a recipient of a grant under  
3 the program to submit to the Secretary at least 1  
4 performance and financial report that—

5                   (A) includes—

6                           (i) demographic data on communities  
7 served by the project; and

8                           (ii) a summary of project activities  
9 conducted after receiving the grant; and

10                   (B) describes the status of each project  
11 funded by the grant as of the date of the re-  
12 port.

13           (2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—In addition to the  
14 report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
15 may require additional reports from a recipient, as  
16 the Secretary determines to be appropriate, includ-  
17 ing a final report.

18           (3) DEADLINES.—The Secretary shall establish  
19 deadlines for the submission of each report required  
20 under paragraph (1) or (2).

21           (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
23 \$10,000,000 for the first and second fiscal years that  
24 begin after the date of enactment of this Act, \$20,000,000  
25 for the third and fourth fiscal year beginning after such

- 1 date, and \$40,000,000 for the fifth fiscal year beginning
- 2 after such date.

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