

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3261

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Smart Technology Traffic Signals Grant Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2019

Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Smart Technology Traffic Signals Grant Program, 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 “Less Traffic with
5 Smart Stop Lights Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. SMART TECHNOLOGY TRAFFIC SIGNALS GRANT**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-

1 portation shall establish a Smart Technology Traffic Sig-
2 nals Grant Program (in this section referred to as the
3 “Program”) to improve the functioning of traffic signals
4 in a manner that—

5 (1) reduces traffic congestion;

6 (2) improves the safety and effectiveness of
7 roadways;

8 (3) reduces fuel costs for drivers; and

9 (4) reduces air pollution.

10 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the Pro-
11 gram, the Secretary may make grants, on a competitive
12 basis, to a State, local, or Tribal government entity.

13 (c) GRANT USES.—An entity awarded a grant under
14 the Program shall use the grant to improve traffic signals
15 through the implementation of innovative technology, in-
16 cluding—

17 (1) adaptive signal control technology; and

18 (2) real-time data measurement technology.

19 (d) TIMING.—A grant awarded to an entity under the
20 Program shall be fully expended not later than the date
21 that is 3 years after the date on which initial grant
22 amounts are made available to the entity.

23 (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
25 graph (2), the Federal share of the costs of a project

1 assisted with a grant under the Program may not
2 exceed 80 percent.

3 (2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may waive
4 paragraph (1) if a State, local, or Tribal government
5 entity demonstrates, as determined by the Secretary,
6 extreme financial hardship.

7 (3) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-
8 eral share of the costs of a project assisted with a
9 grant under the Program may be derived in whole
10 or in part from in-kind contributions.

11 (f) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under
12 the Program, a State, local, or Tribal government entity
13 shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
14 in such form, and containing such information as the Sec-
15 retary determines appropriate.

16 (g) PROHIBITION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded under the
18 Program may not be used to purchase, operate, or
19 maintain an automated traffic enforcement system.

20 (2) AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SYS-
21 TEM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “auto-
22 mated traffic enforcement system” means any device
23 that captures an image of or information from a ve-
24 hicle for the purposes of traffic law enforcement.

1 (h) CROWDSOURCING.—Notwithstanding section
2 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may
3 accept, subject to regulations issued by the Office of Per-
4 sonnel Management, voluntary services if—

5 (1) such services are accepted by the Secretary
6 for an authorized use under subsection (c);

7 (2) volunteers are not financially compensated;
8 and

9 (3) volunteers will not be used to displace any
10 employee of the Federal Government.

11 (i) FUNDING.—

12 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
13 the Secretary may use amounts made available to
14 carry out the surface transportation block grant pro-
15 gram (established under section 133(a) of title 23,
16 United States Code) and the congestion mitigation
17 and air quality improvement program (established
18 under section 149(a) of title 23, United States
19 Code) to carry out the Program.

20 (2) Paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to
21 fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of
22 this Act.

○