

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7751

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a program to make grants for the improvement or construction of greenway paths, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2026

Mrs. McIVER (for herself and Mrs. McBATH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a program to make grants for the improvement or construction of greenway paths, 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 “Parks to People Active  
5 Transportation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GREENWAYS PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a  
8 program to make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible  
9 organizations to improve or construct safe and connected

1 greenway paths between communities that are designated  
2 as regionally or nationally significant by the Secretary  
3 under subsection (b).

4 (b) REGIONALLY OR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT  
5 GREENWAY PATHS.—In carrying out the program under  
6 this section, the Secretary shall establish a national green-  
7 way paths network. The national greenway paths network  
8 shall contain regionally or nationally significant greenway  
9 paths designated by the Secretary that—

10 (1) cross multiple local jurisdictions or State  
11 lines;

12 (2) reduce congestion and single-occupant vehi-  
13 cle trips, improve safety and access to jobs, and  
14 lower emissions for criteria pollutants (NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC,  
15 PM) and greenhouse gases;

16 (3) support community goals and objectives in  
17 areas covered by metropolitan planning organiza-  
18 tions; or

19 (4) meet any other criteria the Secretary deter-  
20 mines appropriate.

21 (c) APPLICATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under  
23 this section, an eligible organization shall submit to  
24 the Secretary an application in such manner and

1 containing such information as the Secretary may  
2 require.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS PARTIALLY ON FED-  
4 ERAL LAND.—With respect to an application for eli-  
5 gible greenway projects that are located in part on  
6 Federal lands, an eligible organization shall enter  
7 into a cooperative agreement with the appropriate  
8 Federal agency with jurisdiction over such land to be  
9 eligible for a grant under this section.

10 (d) APPLICATION CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a  
11 grant for construction of a greenway path under this sec-  
12 tion, the Secretary shall consider the following:

13 (1) Whether the proposed eligible greenway  
14 project is likely to provide substantial additional op-  
15 portunities for walking, bicycling, and recreation, in-  
16 cluding by—

17 (A) creating greenway paths connecting  
18 multiple communities, counties, metropolitan re-  
19 gions, or States;

20 (B) integrating greenway paths with tran-  
21 sit services, where available, to improve access  
22 to public transportation; and

23 (C) integrating greenway paths with exist-  
24 ing parks, recreation or scenic areas, adjacent  
25 waterways, or transportation corridors.

1           (2) Whether the eligible organization proposing  
2       a project demonstrates broad community support  
3       through—

4                (A) prior public input in the development  
5       of a plan for the proposed project; and

6                (B) the commitment of any project spon-  
7       sors and community leaders, including elected  
8       officials in the jurisdiction in which such project  
9       is located, partner organization leaders, and  
10      private or nongovernmental organizations in the  
11      area in which such project is located, to the  
12      success and timely implementation of an eligible  
13      greenway project.

14           (3) The extent to which the eligible organiza-  
15      tion provides evidence of commitment to traffic safe-  
16      ty, regulations, financial incentives, or community  
17      design policies that facilitate significant increases in  
18      walking and bicycling.

19           (4) The extent to which the eligible organiza-  
20      tion demonstrates commitment of State, local, or eli-  
21      gible Federal matching funds, and land or in-kind  
22      contributions, in addition to the local match required  
23      under subsection (g)(1), unless the applicant quali-  
24      fies for an exception under subsection (g)(2).

1           (5) The extent to which the eligible organiza-  
2           tion demonstrates that the grant will address exist-  
3           ing disparities in bicyclist and pedestrian fatality  
4           rates based on race or income level or provide access  
5           to schools, jobs, services, transit, or recreational op-  
6           portunities for low-income communities and commu-  
7           nities of color.

8           (6) Whether the eligible organization dem-  
9           onstrates how investment in active transportation  
10          will advance safety for pedestrians and cyclists, ac-  
11          cessibility to schools, jobs, and transit, accessibility  
12          to national, State, or local parks, economic competi-  
13          tiveness, environmental protection, and quality of  
14          life.

15          (e) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under this  
16          section may be used—

17               (1) to improve or construct a greenway path;  
18          and

19               (2) to acquire real property necessary for the  
20          improvement or construction of a greenway path.

21          (f) SET ASIDE.—

22               (1) PLANNING AND DESIGN GRANTS.—Each fis-  
23          cal year, the Secretary shall set aside not less than  
24          \$5,000,000 from the funds made available to carry  
25          out this section to provide planning grants for eligi-

1 ble organizations to develop a local or regional  
2 greenways and paths plan.

3 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Each fiscal year,  
4 the Secretary shall set aside not more than  
5 \$3,500,000 of the funds made available to carry out  
6 this section to cover the costs of administration, re-  
7 search, technical assistance, communications, and  
8 training activities under the program.

9 (g) GRANT TIMING.—

10 (1) REQUEST FOR APPLICATION.—Not later  
11 than 60 days after funds are made available to carry  
12 out this section, the Secretary shall publish in the  
13 Federal Register a request for applications for  
14 grants under this section.

15 (2) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Not  
16 later than 180 days after funds are made available  
17 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall select  
18 grant recipients for grants under this section.

19 (h) FEDERAL SHARE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
21 graph (2), the Federal share of the cost of a project  
22 under this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the  
23 total project cost.

24 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—

1 (A) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.—For  
2 projects serving communities with a poverty  
3 rate of over 40 percent based on the majority  
4 of census tracts served by such project, the Sec-  
5 retary may increase the Federal share of the  
6 cost of a project under this section to 100 per-  
7 cent of the total project cost.

8 (B) RURAL AREAS.—For projects serving  
9 rural areas, as such term is defined in section  
10 101 of title 23, United States Code, the Federal  
11 share of the cost of a project under this section  
12 shall be 90 percent of the total project cost.

13 (i) REPORTS.—

14 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than Sep-  
15 tember 30, 2028, the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
16 gress a report containing the information described  
17 in paragraph (3).

18 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September  
19 30, 2030, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a  
20 report containing the information described in para-  
21 graph (3).

22 (3) REPORT INFORMATION.—A report sub-  
23 mitted under this subsection shall contain the fol-  
24 lowing:

1 (A) A list of grants made under this sec-  
2 tion.

3 (B) Best practices of recipients in imple-  
4 menting projects funded under this section.

5 (C) Impediments experienced by recipients  
6 of grants under this section in planning for and  
7 delivering projects under this section.

8 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
9 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
10 out this section \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027  
11 through 2031.

12 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

13 (1) ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION.—The term “ac-  
14 tive transportation” means alternative methods of  
15 transportation to motor vehicles, including walking,  
16 bicyling, or utilizing assistive mobility or micro mo-  
17 bility devices.

18 (2) GREENWAY PATH.—The term “greenway  
19 path” means a hard-surfaced or wheelchair-acces-  
20 sible facility built for active transportation, including  
21 a walkway, bikeway, or shared-use path that con-  
22 nects communities, cities, counties, metropolitan re-  
23 gions, or States.

24 (3) COMMUNITY.—The term “community”  
25 means a geographic area that is socioeconomically



interdependent and may include rural, suburban,  
and urban jurisdictions.

(4) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.—The term “eligible organization” means—

(A) a local or regional governmental organization, including a metropolitan planning organization or regional planning organization or council;

(B) a multi-county special district;

(C) a State (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory of the United States);

(D) a multi-State group of governments;

and

(E) an Indian Tribe.

(5) ELIGIBLE GREENWAY PROJECT.—The term “eligible greenway project” means an active transportation project, or group of projects—

(A) that is designated as a regionally or nationally significant greenway path under subsection (b);

(B) within or between a community or group of communities, at least one of which

1 falls within the jurisdiction of an eligible orga-  
2 nization, which has submitted an application  
3 under this section;

4 (C) that has—

5 (i) a total cost of not less than  
6 \$15,000,000; or

7 (ii) with respect to planning and de-  
8 sign grants, planning and design costs of  
9 not less than \$100,000;

10 (D) that construct path segments that  
11 close local or regional network gaps or are lo-  
12 cated within underserved areas;

13 (E) that support an accessible public  
14 realm, connect to public transportation, support  
15 opportunities for economic development, or pro-  
16 mote health and safety; and

17 (F) that connect communities to public  
18 spaces and parks, enhance ecological  
19 connectivity, support land conservation and ac-  
20 cess, or support sites for remediation and res-  
21 toration.

22 (6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
23 has the meaning given the term in section 4(e) of  
24 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
25 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

1           (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2     the Secretary of Transportation.

3           (8) TOTAL PROJECT COST.—The term “total  
4     project cost” means the sum total of all costs in-  
5     curred in the development of a project that are ap-  
6     proved by the Secretary as reasonable and nec-  
7     essary, including—

8           (A) the cost of acquiring real property;

9           (B) the cost of site preparation, demoli-  
10     tion, and development;

11          (C) expenses related to the issuance of  
12     bonds or notes;

13          (D) fees in connection with the planning,  
14     execution, and financing of the project;

15          (E) the cost of studies, surveys, plans, per-  
16     mits, insurance, interest, financing, tax, and as-  
17     sessment costs;

18          (F) the cost of construction, rehabilitation,  
19     reconstruction, and equipping the project;

20          (G) the cost of land improvements;

21          (H) contractor fees;

22          (I) the cost of training and education re-  
23     lated to the safety of users of any greenway  
24     path constructed as part of an eligible greenway  
25     project; and

- 1 (J) any other cost that the Secretary de-  
2 termines is necessary and reasonable.

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