

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5181

To require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program relating to the digitization of county roads and the creation of publicly accessible road datasets, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2026

Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program relating to the digitization of county roads and the creation of publicly accessible road datasets, 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 “Modernizing Access
5 to Public Roads Act” or “MAP Roads Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY ROAD ACCESS AND**
7 **MAPPING PILOT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) COUNTY.—The term “county” has meaning
2 given the term in section 101 of title 23, United
3 States Code.

4 (2) COUNTY ROAD.—The term “county road”
5 means a public road (as defined in section 101 of
6 title 23, United States Code) that is recognized and
7 maintained by a county government.

8 (3) DIGITIZATION.—The term “digitization”
9 means the process of converting physical or analog
10 map-based information into standardized electronic
11 formats to produce geospatial data.

12 (4) GEOSPATIAL DATA.—The term “geospatial
13 data” has the meaning given the term in section 752
14 of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C.
15 2801).

16 (5) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
17 the pilot program established under subsection (b).

18 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Transportation.

20 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
22 tablish a pilot program to provide grants to States to sup-
23 port rural commerce, increase public safety, and improve
24 public access and navigation by funding the digitization

1 of county roads and the creation of centralized, publicly
2 accessible road datasets.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
5 grant under the program, a State shall submit to
6 the Secretary an application at such time, in such
7 form, and containing such information as the Sec-
8 retary may require.

9 (2) REQUIREMENT.—An application submitted
10 under paragraph (1) shall demonstrate the capacity
11 of the State to administer—

12 (A) a subgrant program to distribute funds
13 to counties; and

14 (B) a statewide repository for county road
15 data.

16 (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting an application for
17 a grant under the program, the Secretary shall give
18 priority to an application in which the applicant
19 State—

20 (A) identifies a significant deficiency in
21 digitized county roads within the State; and

22 (B) expresses a commitment to coordi-
23 nating with counties to create shared geospatial
24 data standards.

25 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

1 (1) COUNTY ACTIVITIES.—Funds distributed to
2 counties under the program may be used—

3 (A) to digitize official county road records;

4 (B) to convert paper maps or outdated for-
5 mats to standardized geospatial datasets; and

6 (C) to train personnel or hire contractors
7 to assist in data creation and conversion.

8 (2) STATE REPOSITORY.—The State depart-
9 ment of transportation of each State participating in
10 the program shall—

11 (A) serve as the centralized data repository
12 for all road data produced by counties in the
13 applicable State under the program;

14 (B) ensure that such data—

15 (i) is published on a publicly acces-
16 sible website;

17 (ii) is organized in a manner that dis-
18 tinguishes between public and private
19 roads;

20 (iii) is compatible with third-party
21 mapping platforms; and

22 (iv) is updated not less frequently
23 than annually; and

1 (C) to the maximum extent practicable, co-
2 ordinate with Federal agencies and mapping
3 authorities to align data formats and metadata.

4 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than
5 180 days after the establishment of the program, and an-
6 nually thereafter for 3 years, each State awarded a grant
7 under the program shall submit to the Secretary a report,
8 which shall include, with respect to the period of time
9 since the previous report—

10 (1) a list of counties that received a subgrant;

11 (2) the amount of funding distributed to each
12 county;

13 (3) the number of miles of county roads
14 digitized under the program;

15 (4) the status of State repository development
16 and data integration efforts; and

17 (5) any recommendations for improvement or
18 expansion of the program.

19 (f) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this Act—

20 (1) confers any new authority on a county or
21 State to declare, designate, or assert jurisdiction
22 over a road as a county road where such designation
23 or jurisdiction does not otherwise exist under appli-
24 cable State or local law;

1 (2) alters, affects, or determines the legal sta-
 2 tus of any road for purposes of ownership, jurisdic-
 3 tion, or public access; or

4 (3) limits or expands any existing rights,
 5 claims, or defenses relating to road ownership,
 6 rights-of-way, or public access under Federal, State,
 7 or local law.

8 (g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
 9 permits the public disclosure of geographic information
 10 system data regarding the nature, location, character, or
 11 ownership of historic, paleontological, or archaeological re-
 12 sources that is protected under any other provision of law.

13 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
 15 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
 16 tion \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
 17 through 2031, to remain available until expended.

18 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the
 19 amounts made available to carry out the program
 20 for each fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more
 21 than 2 percent to administer the program.

22 (i) SUNSET.—The authority to make grants under
 23 this section shall terminate on September 30, 2031.

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