

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1315

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot grant program to provide assistance for the capital and startup costs of streetcar development and revitalization.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 establish a pilot grant program to provide assistance for the capital and startup costs of streetcar development and revitalization.

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 “Community Streetcar  
5 Development and Revitalization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY STREETCAR DEVELOPMENT AND REVI-**  
2 **TALIZATION PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-  
5 portation shall establish and begin implementation of a 5-  
6 year pilot grant program to provide assistance to States  
7 and local governmental authorities for the capital and  
8 startup costs of development and expansion of streetcar  
9 transportation.

10 (b) PROJECT SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select  
11 projects to be carried out under the pilot program solely  
12 based on the following considerations:

13 (1) The project is ready for construction.

14 (2) The project application demonstrates strong  
15 local and private sector financial participation in the  
16 project.

17 (3) The project will foster redevelopment oppor-  
18 tunities adjacent to the streetcar line for which as-  
19 sistance is being sought.

20 (4) The project requires the financial participa-  
21 tion of the private owners of real property abutting  
22 the streetcar line (excluding owner-occupied residen-  
23 tial properties) for some of the capital costs of the  
24 project.

25 (5) The project application demonstrates that  
26 development or redevelopment agreements are in

1 place with respect to the project and land use poli-  
2 cies complementary to the project have been adopted  
3 for land in close proximity to the streetcar line, in-  
4 cluding property zoned to accommodate mixed-use  
5 development is available adjacent to the streetcar  
6 line.

7 (6) The project application demonstrates either  
8 how redeveloping or new neighborhoods on vacant or  
9 underutilized land will be connected by the project to  
10 each other or to major attractors in the central city  
11 where the project will be carried out or how  
12 circulator or connector lines under the project will  
13 connect developed neighborhoods with one another  
14 or with the business district in the central city.

15 (c) APPLICATIONS.—In order to receive grant assist-  
16 ance under this Act, a sponsor of a project must submit  
17 to the Secretary an application that includes a detailed  
18 operating plan for the streetcar line for which such assist-  
19 ance is being sought, including frequency of service, hours  
20 of operation, and stop locations, and a demonstration of  
21 the financial capacity of the sponsor to operate the street-  
22 car line.

23 (d) TYPES OF PROJECTS.—A project for which grant  
24 assistance may be provided under this Act may include  
25 streetscaping, signalization modifications, and other modi-

1 fications to the road system or other public rights-of-way  
2 on which the project is to be carried out and acquisition  
3 of streetcars and project construction, design, and engi-  
4 neering.

5 (e) **MAXIMUM FUNDING LIMITATION.**—The max-  
6 imum amount of Federal grant assistance which the Sec-  
7 retary may provide with respect to any project under this  
8 Act in any fiscal year is \$15,000,000.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

11 (1) **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY; STATE.**—  
12 The terms “local government authority” and  
13 “State” have the meaning such terms have under  
14 section 5302 of title 49, United States Code.

15 (2) **STREETCAR.**—The term “streetcar” means  
16 a rail transit vehicle, including modern, antique, or  
17 reproduction vehicle, that is designed to fit the scale  
18 and traffic patterns of neighborhoods through which  
19 it travels, is powered by electricity, and operates at  
20 lower-speeds generally in existing rights-of-way  
21 through mixed traffic, with frequent stops.

22 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There shall be available from the  
24 Highway Trust Fund to carry out this Act \$75,000,000  
25 for fiscal year 2004, \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2005,

1 and \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006, 2007, and  
2 2008.

3 (b) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Funds made avail-  
4 able to carry out this Act shall remain available until ex-  
5 pended.

6 (c) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—A grant approved by  
7 the Secretary under this Act is a contractual obligation  
8 of the United States Government to pay the Government's  
9 share of the cost of the project and may provide authority  
10 for the Secretary to enter into multi-year agreements with  
11 respect to the project.

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