

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2007

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to assist the development of aerotropolis transportation systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2015

Mr. COHEN 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 grant program to assist the development of aerotropolis transportation systems, 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 “Leading and Expe-
5 diting Aerotropolis Development Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. AEROTROPOLIS GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
9 portation shall establish and carry out an aerotropolis

1 grant program (in this section referred to as the “pro-
2 gram”) to assist the development of aerotropolis transpor-
3 tation systems in accordance with this section.

4 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the pro-
5 gram, the Secretary is authorized to make a grant to an
6 eligible entity to assist planning, design, environmental re-
7 view, or land acquisition activities for any of the following
8 to benefit an aerotropolis transportation system:

9 (1) A project for the development or improve-
10 ment of a highway or bridge.

11 (2) A project for the development or improve-
12 ment of a public transportation system.

13 (3) A project to expand the capacity of or oth-
14 erwise improve freight or passenger rail transpor-
15 tation.

16 (4) A project for the development or improve-
17 ment of a port.

18 (5) A project that improves access to a port or
19 terminal facility.

20 (6) A project for the development or improve-
21 ment of a multimodal terminal facility.

22 (7) A project for the development or improve-
23 ment of an intelligent transportation system that—

24 (A) is primarily for the benefit of freight
25 movement; and

1 (B) reduces congestion or improves safety.

2 (c) AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDING.—Grant
3 funding awarded to a grant recipient under the program
4 shall remain available to be obligated by the recipient dur-
5 ing the fiscal year in which the grant funding is disbursed
6 and the three fiscal years following that fiscal year. Grant
7 funding not obligated by a grant recipient during the pe-
8 riod provided under this subsection shall be returned to
9 the Secretary and made available for making other grants
10 under the program.

11 (d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—In carrying out the
12 program, the Secretary shall establish a process for eligi-
13 ble entities to apply for grants, which shall include the
14 submission to the Secretary of an application containing
15 the following:

16 (1) A description of the aerotropolis transpor-
17 tation system to be assisted with the grant, includ-
18 ing—

19 (A) the geographic scope of the system;
20 and

21 (B) the components that comprise the sys-
22 tem.

23 (2) A description of the projects to be assisted
24 with the grant.

(3) With respect to each of the projects described under paragraph (2), a description of—

(A) the status of the project;

(B) how the project will develop the applicable aerotropolis transportation system;

(C) the jobs to be created by the project;

(D) the costs and benefits of the project;

and

(E) the plans and timeline for moving the project to completion.

(e) GRANT SELECTION.—

(1) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making grants under the program, the Secretary shall consider, with respect to a proposed project, whether the project facilitates any of the following:

(A) Improvement of the mobility of goods or passengers.

(B) Enhancement of intermodal connectivity with respect to freight or passenger transportation.

(C) Improvement of the condition of freight or passenger transportation infrastructure, including bringing such infrastructure into a state of good repair.

(D) Reductions in congestion.

1 (E) Improvement of safety, including
2 through reductions in transportation accidents,
3 injuries, and fatalities.

4 (F) Incorporation of new and innovative
5 technologies into the transportation system, in-
6 cluding intelligent transportation systems.

7 (G) Enhancement of national or regional
8 economic development, growth, and competitive-
9 ness.

10 (H) Non-Federal contributions to the
11 project, including contributions from public-pri-
12 vate partnerships.

13 (I) Reductions in dependence on foreign
14 oil.

15 (J) Reductions in air or water pollution.

16 (2) PRIORITIES.—In making grants under the
17 program, the Secretary shall give priority to appli-
18 cants that demonstrate any of the following:

19 (A) A strategic plan for the development of
20 an aerotropolis transportation system and fund-
21 ing directed to that development.

22 (B) Existing infrastructure and services
23 sufficient for the development of an aerotropolis
24 transportation system.

1 (C) A capacity for using grant funds to ef-
2 ficiently and effectively develop an aerotropolis
3 transportation system.

4 (D) Public-private partnerships that will
5 assist in completing proposed projects.

6 (E) An inability to complete pre-construc-
7 tion activities for proposed projects without
8 grant assistance.

9 (f) REPORTS.—In each year in which a grant recipi-
10 ent receives funding under the program, that recipient
11 shall submit to the Secretary a report that includes a de-
12 scription of the following:

13 (1) The activities carried out by that recipient
14 with grant funds in the preceding year.

15 (2) The impact of those activities, including in
16 comparison to the objectives for those activities.

17 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
18 nitions apply:

19 (1) AEROTROPOLIS TRANSPORTATION SYS-
20 TEM.—The term “aerotropolis transportation sys-
21 tem” means a planned and coordinated multimodal
22 freight and passenger transportation network that,
23 as determined by the Secretary, provides efficient,
24 cost-effective, sustainable, and intermodal

1 connectivity to a defined region of economic signifi-
2 cance centered around a major airport.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
4 ty” means any of the following:

5 (A) A State government or political sub-
6 division thereof.

7 (B) A local government or political subdivi-
8 sion thereof.

9 (C) A metropolitan planning organization.

10 (D) A regional planning organization.

11 (E) An organization comprised of more
12 than one entity specified in subparagraphs (A)
13 through (D).

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