

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6270

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2022

Received

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to provide grants related to advanced air mobility infrastructure, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Advanced Aviation In-
3 frastructure Modernization Act” or the “AAIM Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT**
5 **PROGRAM.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
8 tablish a pilot program to provide grants that—

9 (1) assist an eligible entity to plan for the de-
10 velopment and deployment of infrastructure nec-
11 essary to facilitate AAM operations in the United
12 States; and

13 (2) make funding available for costs directly re-
14 lated to construction of public-use vertiports or asso-
15 ciated infrastructure.

16 (b) PLANNING GRANTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
18 grants to eligible entities to develop comprehensive
19 plans under paragraph (2) related to AAM infra-
20 structure.

21 (2) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
23 after receiving a grant under this subsection, an
24 eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary a
25 comprehensive plan in a format that may be

published on the website of the Department of Transportation.

(B) PLAN CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall establish content requirements for comprehensive plans submitted under this subsection, which may include the following:

(i) The identification of planned or potential public-use or private-use vertiport locations.

(ii) A description of infrastructure necessary to support AAM operations.

(iii) A description of types of planned or potential AAM operations.

(iv) The identification of physical and digital infrastructure required to meet the standards for vertiport design and performance characteristics established by the Federal Aviation Administration (as in effect on the date on which the Secretary issues a grant to an eligible entity), including modifications to existing infrastructure and ground sensors, electric charging and other fueling requirements, electric utility requirements, wireless and cybersecurity

1 requirements, and other necessary hard-
2 ware or software.

3 (v) A description of potential environ-
4 mental effects of planned construction or
5 siting of public-use vertiports, including ef-
6 forts to reduce the adverse effects of po-
7 tential aviation noise.

8 (vi) A description of how planned pub-
9 lic-use or private-use vertiport locations,
10 including new or repurposed infrastruc-
11 ture, fit into existing State and local trans-
12 portation systems and networks, includ-
13 ing—

14 (I) connectivity to existing public
15 transportation hubs and intermodal
16 and multimodal facilities;

17 (II) opportunities to create new
18 service to areas underserved by air
19 transportation, without compromising
20 safety and efficiency of other facilities
21 and airspace users; and

22 (III) any potential conflicts to ex-
23 isting aviation infrastructure that may
24 arise from the proposed location of
25 the vertiport.

1 (vii) A description of how public-use
2 vertiport planning will be incorporated in
3 State or metropolitan planning documents.

4 (viii) The identification of the process
5 an eligible entity will undertake to ensure
6 an adequate level of community engage-
7 ment for planned public-use vertiport loca-
8 tions and planned or anticipated AAM op-
9 erations, including engagement with under-
10 served communities, individuals with dis-
11 abilities, and racial and ethnic minorities,
12 to address equity of access and other prior-
13 ities.

14 (ix) The identification of the actions
15 necessary for an eligible entity to under-
16 take the construction of public-use
17 vertiports, such as planning studies to as-
18 sess existing infrastructure, environmental
19 studies, studies of projected economic ben-
20 efit to the community, lease or acquisition
21 of an easement or land for new infrastruc-
22 ture, and activities related to other capital
23 costs.

24 (x) The identification of State, local,
25 or private sources of funding an eligible

1 entity may use to assist with the construc-
2 tion or operation of a public-use vertiport.

3 (3) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant under
4 this subsection, an eligible entity shall provide to the
5 Secretary an application in such form, at such time,
6 and containing such information as the Secretary
7 may require.

8 (4) SELECTION.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants
10 under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-
11 sider the following:

12 (i) Geographic diversity.

13 (ii) The need for comprehensive plans
14 that—

15 (I) ensure the safe integration of
16 AAM operations into the National
17 Airspace System;

18 (II) improve transportation safe-
19 ty, connectivity, access, and equity in
20 both rural and urban regions in the
21 United States;

22 (III) leverage existing public
23 transportation systems and intermodal
24 and multimodal facilities;

1 (IV) reduce surface congestion
2 and the environmental impacts of
3 transportation;

4 (V) grow the economy and create
5 jobs in the United States; and

6 (VI) encourage community en-
7 gagement when planning for AAM re-
8 lated infrastructure.

9 (B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall
10 prioritize awarding grants under this subsection
11 to eligible entities that partner with commercial
12 AAM entities, institutions of higher education,
13 research institutions, or other relevant stake-
14 holders to develop and prepare a comprehensive
15 plan.

16 (5) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant made under
17 this subsection shall be made in an amount that is
18 not more than \$1,000,000.

19 (6) BRIEFING.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
21 days after the first comprehensive plan is sub-
22 mitted under paragraph (2), and every 180
23 days thereafter, the Secretary shall provide a
24 briefing to the appropriate committees of Con-

gress on the comprehensive plans submitted to the Secretary under such paragraph.

(B) CONTENTS.—The briefing required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an evaluation of all planned or proposed public-use vertiport locations included in the comprehensive plans submitted under paragraph (2) and how such planned or proposed public-use vertiport locations may fit into the overall United States transportation system and network; and

(ii) a description of lessons or best practices learned through the review of comprehensive plans and how the Secretary will incorporate any such lessons or best practices into Federal standards or guidance for the design and operation of AAM infrastructure and facilities.

(c) CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to covered recipients to carry out construction activities described under paragraph (2).

(2) ELIGIBLE USES.—A covered recipient may use grant funds awarded under this subsection for

1 design, bidding, and environmental study activities,
2 and other capital costs, as the Secretary determines
3 appropriate, directly related to the construction of a
4 public-use vertiport or associated infrastructure pur-
5 suant to the comprehensive plan submitted by such
6 covered recipient.

7 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of sub-
8 sections (b) and (c) of section 47112 of title 49,
9 United States Code, and section 50101 of such title,
10 shall apply to a grant awarded under this sub-
11 section.

12 (4) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not
13 award a grant under this subsection—

14 (A) for the acquisition, conversion, or ret-
15 rofitting of AAM aircraft; or

16 (B) for the construction of private-use
17 vertiports or associated infrastructure.

18 (5) GRANT TIMING.—The Secretary may not
19 issue a grant under this subsection until—

20 (A) the Administrator of the Federal Avia-
21 tion Administration has—

22 (i) issued type certificates for 2 or
23 more models of aircraft designed to provide
24 AAM transportation; and

1 (ii) published an advisory circular con-
2 taining appropriate standards for vertiport
3 design and performance characteristics and
4 vertiport siting; and

5 (B) the Secretary has—

6 (i) determined that 2 or more AAM
7 operators hold certificates under part 119
8 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations,
9 for such operators to perform air carrier
10 operations covered under part 135 of such
11 title; and

12 (ii) issued, to 2 or more air carriers
13 formed to provide AAM transportation,
14 certificates under chapter 411 of title 49,
15 United States Code.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
18 be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this
19 section \$12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
20 and 2023, to remain available until expended.

21 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the
22 amounts made available under paragraph (1), the
23 Secretary may retain up to 1 percent for personnel,
24 contracting, and other costs to establish and admin-
25 ister the pilot program under this section.

1 (e) TERMINATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—No grant may be awarded
3 under this section after September 30, 2023.

4 (2) CONTINUED FUNDING.—Funds authorized
5 to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (d) may
6 be expended after September 30, 2023—

7 (A) for grants awarded prior to September
8 30, 2023; and

9 (B) for administrative expenses.

10 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

11 (1) ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY; AAM.—The terms
12 “advanced air mobility” and “AAM” mean an air
13 transportation system that transports individuals
14 and property between points in the United States
15 using aircraft, such as remotely piloted, autonomous,
16 or vertical take-off and landing aircraft, including
17 those powered by electric or hybrid driven propul-
18 sion, in both controlled and uncontrolled airspace.

19 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
20 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
21 gress” means the Committee on Transportation and
22 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
23 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
24 portation of the Senate.

1 (3) COMMERCIAL AAM ENTITIES.—The term
2 “commercial AAM entities” means—

3 (A) manufacturers of aircraft, avionics,
4 propulsion systems, and air traffic management
5 systems related to AAM; and

6 (B) intended commercial operators of AAM
7 aircraft and systems.

8 (4) COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term “covered
9 recipient” means the recipient of a grant under sub-
10 section (b) who has submitted a comprehensive
11 plan—

12 (A) that has been reviewed by the Sec-
13 retary pursuant to subsection (b); and

14 (B) that the Secretary has determined con-
15 tains proposed projects that comply with the
16 standards for vertiport design, performance,
17 and siting characteristics described in a pub-
18 lished advisory circular.

19 (5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
20 ty” means—

21 (A) a State, local, or Tribal government,
22 including a political subdivision thereof;

23 (B) an airport sponsor;

24 (C) a transit agency;

25 (D) a port authority;

1 (E) a metropolitan planning organization;
2 or

3 (F) any combination or consortium of the
4 entities described in subparagraphs (A) through
5 (E).

6 (6) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZA-
7 TION.—The term “metropolitan planning organiza-
8 tion” has the meaning given such term in section
9 5303(b) of title 49, United States Code.

10 (7) PUBLIC-USE VERTIPOINT.—The term “pub-
11 lic-use vertiport” means a designated location used
12 or intended to be used for public purposes and to
13 support AAM operations, including the landing,
14 takeoff, loading, taxiing, parking, and storage of
15 vertical take-off and landing aircraft.

16 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means a State
17 of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puer-
18 to Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the
19 Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

20 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Transportation.

22 (10) VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING AIR-
23 CRAFT.—The term “vertical take-off and landing
24 aircraft” means an aircraft with lift/thrust units
25 used to generate powered lift and control and with

4 Nothing in this Act may be construed as conferring
5 upon any person, State, local, or Tribal government the
6 authority to determine the safety of any AAM operation
7 or the feasibility of simultaneous operations by AAM and
8 conventional aircraft within any given area of the National
9 Airspace System.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.