116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
H. R. _____

To establish the complete streets program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Cohen introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To establish the complete streets program, 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 “Complete Streets Act
5 of 2019”.
6 SEC. 2. COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM.
7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
8 (1) COMPLETE STREETS.—The term “complete
9 street” means a public road that provides safe and
accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities, including modes such as walking, cycling, transit, automobiles, and freight.

(2) COMPLETE STREETS POLICY.—The term “complete streets policy” means a policy adopted by an eligible entity under subsection (d)(1).

(3) COMPLETE STREETS PRINCIPLE.—The term “complete streets principle” means a principle at the local, State, or regional level that ensures—

(A) the safe and adequate accommodation, in all phases of project planning and development, of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, children, older individuals, individuals with disabilities, motorists, and freight vehicles; and

(B) the consideration of the safety and convenience of all users of the transportation system in all phases of project planning and development.

(4) COMPLETE STREETS PRIORITIZATION PLAN.—The term “complete streets prioritization plan” means a plan developed by an eligible entity under subsection (e)(1) that is a comprehensive
strategy and list of specific projects to design, and
carry out the design of, complete streets—

(A) to improve safety, mobility, or accessibility of a street;

(B) that identifies—

(i) the streets and infrastructure to be

affected by a project;

(ii) a cost estimate of the project; and

(iii) a timeline for the completion of

the project; and

(C) that aligns with local infrastructure

plans and roadway maintenance schedules.

(5) COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM.—The term

“complete streets program” means a program estab-

lished by a State under subsection (b)(1).

(6) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-

ty” means—

(A) a unit of local government;

(B) a regional planning organization;

(C) a metropolitan planning organization;

(D) a transit agency;

(E) a natural resource or public land agen-

cy;

(F) a Tribal government;
(G) a nonprofit entity responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs; or

(H) any other local or regional governmental entity, other than a State agency, with responsibility for or oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State in which the project will occur determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of this section.

(7) **Metropolitan Planning Organization.**—The term “metropolitan planning organization” means a metropolitan planning organization designated under—

(A) section 134 of title 23, United States Code; or

(B) section 5303 of title 49, United States Code.

(8) **Secretary.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(b) **Establishment.**—

(1) **In general.**—Not later than October 1 of the first fiscal year that begins not less than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each State shall establish a program for a competitive process for an eligible entity to seek—
(A) technical assistance for a project to design and construct a project included in the complete streets prioritization plan of the eligible entity under subsection (f)(4); and

(B) grants for the design and construction of complete streets under subsection (g).

(2) FUNDING.—Not later than October 1 of the first fiscal year that begins not less than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each State shall begin to provide grants for the design and construction of complete streets under subsection (g)(1).

(3) GOALS.—The goals of a complete streets program are—

(A) to provide technical assistance and incentives for the adoption of complete streets policies;

(B) to encourage eligible entities to adopt a strategic and comprehensive approach for the development of complete streets;

(C) to facilitate better pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit travel for users of all ages and abilities by addressing critical gaps in pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit infrastructure;
(D) to distribute funding to reward eligible entities that have committed to adopting complete streets best practices developed by the Secretary under subsection (c); and

(E) to ensure that underserved municipalities are served equitably by the complete streets program.

(c) Complete Streets Benchmarks and Guidance.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 450 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and make available to States and eligible entities benchmarks and guidance by which—

(A) States can carry out complete streets programs;

(B) eligible entities can carry out complete streets policies and complete streets principles; and

(C) eligible entities can evaluate the effectiveness of complete streets projects.

(2) Focus.—The benchmarks and guidance prepared and made available under paragraph (1) shall—
(A) be designed to result in the establishment of methods of effectively carrying out a complete streets policy, a complete streets program, and complete streets principles, as applicable;

(B) focus on modifying scoping, design, and construction procedures to more effectively combine modes of transportation into integrated facilities that meet the needs of each of those modes of transportation in an appropriate balance; and

(C) indicate the expected operational and safety performance of alternative approaches to facility design.

(3) TOPICS OF EMPHASIS.—In preparing the benchmarks and guidance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall emphasize—

(A) procedures for identifying the needs of users of all ages and abilities of a particular roadway;

(B) procedures for identifying the types and designs of facilities needed to serve each class of users;

(C) safety and other benefits provided by carrying out complete streets principles;
(D) common barriers to carrying out complete streets principles;

(E) procedures for overcoming the most common barriers to carrying out complete streets principles;

(F) procedures for identifying the costs associated with carrying out complete streets principles;

(G) procedures for maximizing local cooperation in the introduction of complete streets principles and carrying out those principles; and

(H) procedures for assessing and modifying the facilities and operational characteristics of existing roadways to improve consistency with complete streets principles.

(4) PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT.—The complete streets benchmarks and guidance prepared and made available under paragraph (1) shall be subject to a period of public review and comment.

(d) COMPLETE STREETS POLICIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking technical assistance or funds from a complete streets program shall adopt a complete streets policy using complete streets principles and approved by—

(A) the State of the eligible entity; or
(B) a metropolitan planning organization
that serves an area under the jurisdiction of the
eligible entity.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A complete streets policy
of an eligible entity shall—

(A) include a description of—

(i) how the eligible entity intends to
develop complete streets infrastructure;

(ii) how, after the development of
complete streets infrastructure, the trans-
portation system will serve users of all
ages and abilities, including pedestrians,
bicyclists, and public transit passengers, as
well as trucks, buses, and automobiles;

(iii) how the complete streets policy
will apply to all projects and phases of
projects that affect the streets under the
complete streets policy, including recon-
struction, new construction, planning, de-
sign, maintenance, and operations, for the
entire street;

(iv) any exceptions to the complete
streets policy, including a clear procedure
for the approval of those exceptions, as de-
scribed in paragraph (3);
(v) the jurisdiction in which the complete streets policy applies; and

(vi) the steps necessary for implementation of the complete streets policy;

(B) encourage a comprehensive, integrated, and connected network for all modes of transportation;

(C) benefit users of all abilities;

(D) emphasize the need to coordinate with other jurisdictions with respect to the streets under the jurisdiction of the complete streets policy;

(E) require the use of the latest and best design criteria and guidelines, particularly standards relating to providing access to individuals with disabilities, in projects under the complete streets policy;

(F) recognize the need for flexibility in balancing user needs;

(G) be context sensitive and complement the community, including consideration of the urban, suburban, or rural location in which a project is located;

(H) establish performance standards with measurable outcomes to ensure that the com-
complete streets infrastructure complies with complete streets principles;

(I) meet the minimum standards established by the Secretary under subsection (e)(2)(A); and

(J) except as provided in paragraph (3), require the complete streets policy to apply to new road construction and road modification projects, including design, planning, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, maintenance, and operations, for the entire right-of-way under the jurisdiction of the complete streets policy.

(3) Exemption Requirements and Procedures.—A complete streets policy shall allow for a project-specific exemption from the complete streets policy if—

(A) the roadway affected by the project may not, under applicable law, be used by certain types of users, in which case the eligible entity shall make a greater effort to accommodate the types of users elsewhere, including on roadways that cross or otherwise intersect with the affected roadway;
(B) the cost of the project to comply with
the complete streets policy would be excessively
disproportionate (as defined in the document of
the Department of Transportation entitled “De-
sign Guidance Accommodating Bicycle and Pe-
destrian Travel: A Recommended Approach”
and required under section 1202(b) of the
Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
(23 U.S.C. 217 note; Public Law 105–178))
compared to the need or particular use of the
affected roadway; or

(C) the existing and expected population,
employment density, traffic volume, or level of
transit service on and around the affected road-
way is so low that the expected users of the af-
ected roadway will not include pedestrians,
public transportation, freight vehicles, or
bicyclists.

(4) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall establish
guidance for a State or metropolitan planning orga-
nization to evaluate and approve a complete streets
policy of an eligible entity.

(5) REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State department
of transportation shall submit to the Secretary
a report describing the implementation by the
State of measures to achieve complete streets
principles within complete streets policies of eli-
gible entities within the State at such time, in
such manner, and containing such information
as the Secretary may require.

(B) Determination by Secretary.—On
receipt of a report under subparagraph (A), the
Secretary shall determine whether the complete
streets program of the State has incorporated
complete streets principles into all aspects of
the transportation project development, pro-
gramming, and delivery process, including
project planning, project identification, project
scoping procedures, design approval, design
manuals, and performance measures.

(e) Certification.—

(1) Certification of State Programs.—Not
later than October 1 of the first fiscal year that be-
gins not less than 3 years after the date of enact-
ment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a
method of evaluating and certifying compliance by
States with the requirements of this Act, including
a requirement that each State department of trans-
portation submit a report to the Secretary that describes—

(A) the complete streets program of the State;

(B) the plan to carry out the complete streets program of the State; and

(C) the degree of involvement of eligible entities within the State in developing and carrying out the complete streets program of the State.

(2) Minimum standards for complete streets policies.—Not later than October 1 of the first fiscal year that begins not less than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish minimum requirements for the certification of an eligible entity by a State or metropolitan planning organization that describes—

(A) the minimum standards for a complete streets policy that allows an eligible entity to receive a grant under subsection (g)(1); and

(B) a method for metropolitan planning organizations to certify that the complete streets policy of an eligible entity meets the minimum requirements required by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).
(3) REPORT.—Not later than October 1 of the first fiscal year that begins not less than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(A) the evaluation and certification method established under paragraph (1);

(B) the status of activities for adopting and carrying out complete streets programs by States;

(C) the tools and resources provided by the Secretary to States to assist with adopting and carrying out complete streets programs by States; and

(D) other measures carried out by the Secretary to encourage the adoption of complete streets policies by eligible entities described in subsection (d)(1).

(f) COMPLETE STREETS PRIORITIZATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under subsection (g)(1), an eligible entity shall develop, and the State of the eligible entity shall approve of, a complete streets prioritization plan.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing a complete streets prioritization plan, an eligible entity shall
prioritize projects based on the extent to which projects intended to be included in the complete streets prioritization plan improve—

(A) safety;

(B) pedestrian mobility;

(C) bicycle mobility;

(D) public transit operations and access;

(E) vehicular operations;

(F) freight operations;

(G) air quality; and

(H) any other factor the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(3) APPROVAL.—A State shall approve of a complete streets prioritization plan if the State determines that the complete streets prioritization plan—

(A) meets the requirements of this section;

and

(B) meets the goals described in subsection (b)(3).

(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING.—A State may provide not more than $50,000 in each fiscal year to an eligible entity with a complete streets policy approved by the applicable State or metropolitan planning organization to conduct stud-
ies or analyses to support the completion of a complete streets prioritization plan.

(g) **GRANTS FOR COMPLETE STREETS INFRASTRUCTURE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State may provide a grant for the design and construction of 1 or more projects included in the complete streets prioritization plan of an eligible entity.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—A grant provided to an eligible entity under paragraph (1) may be in an amount that is not more than $500,000 for each fiscal year.

(h) **ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS.**—

(1) **FINAL STANDARDS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board established under section 502(a)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792(a)(1)) shall promulgate final standards for accessibility of new construction and alteration of pedestrian facilities for public rights-of-way.

(2) **TEMPORARY STANDARDS.**—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board promulgates final standards under paragraph (1), a
State or metropolitan planning organization shall apply to public rights-of-way—

(A) the standards for accessible transportation facilities in section 37.9 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act); or

(B) if the standards referred to in subparagraph (A) do not address, or are inapplicable to, an affected public right-of-way, the guidelines described in the notice of availability of draft guidelines of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board entitled “Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines; Public Rights-of-Way” (70 Fed. Reg. 70734 (November 23, 2005)).

(i) FUNDING.—A State shall obligate 5 percent of the funds apportioned to the State under section 104(b) of title 23, United States Code, to carry out the complete streets program of the State.

SEC. 3. SAFETY FOR USERS.

Section 1442 of the FAST Act (23 U.S.C. 109 note; Public Law 114–94) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:
“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require each State and metropolitan planning organization to adopt and implement standards for the design of Federal surface transportation projects that provide for the safe and adequate accommodation of all users of the surface transportation network, including motorized and nonmotorized users, in all phases of project planning, development, and operation.”.