

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE
PRINT 117-8
OFFERED BY MR. GOMEZ OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle E of title II of division B, insert the following:

1 SEC. 2506. TRANSIT TO TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM.

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term “com-
4 munity of color” means a geographically distinct
5 area in which the population of any of the following
6 categories of individuals is higher than the average
7 populations of that category for the State in which
8 the community is located:

9 (A) Black.

10 (B) African American.

11 (C) Asian.

12 (D) Pacific Islander.

13 (E) Other non-white race.

14 (F) Hispanic.

15 (G) Latino.

16 (2) CRITICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—

17 The term “critically underserved community”
18 means—

1 (A) a community that can demonstrate to
2 the Secretary that the community has inad-
3 equate, insufficient, or no park space or recre-
4 ation facilities, including by demonstrating—

5 (i) quality concerns relating to the
6 available park space or recreation facilities;

7 (ii) the presence of recreational facili-
8 ties that do not serve the needs of the com-
9 munity; or

10 (iii) the inequitable distribution of
11 park space for high-need populations,
12 based on income, age, or other measures of
13 vulnerability and need;

14 (B) a community in which at least 50 per-
15 cent of the population is not located within $\frac{1}{2}$
16 mile of park space; or

17 (C) any other community that the Sec-
18 retary determines to be appropriate.

19 (3) DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA.—The term
20 “designated service area” means a geographical area
21 recommended by a designated official planning agen-
22 cy, that defines the community where coordinated
23 transportation services are be provided to the trans-
24 portation disadvantaged.

1 (4) DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN OF ADVERSE
2 HUMAN HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.—
3 The term “disproportionate burden of adverse
4 human health or environmental effects” means a sit-
5 uation where there exists higher or more adverse
6 human health or environmental effects on commu-
7 nities of color, low income communities, and Tribal
8 and indigenous communities.

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

11 (A) a State or local government entity;

12 (B) a political subdivision of a State (in-
13 cluding a city or a county);

14 (C) a special purpose district (including a
15 park district);

16 (D) an Indian tribe (as defined in section
17 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
18 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); or

19 (E) a metropolitan planning organization
20 (as defined in section 134(b) of title 23, United
21 States Code).

22 (6) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—
23 The term “environmental justice community” means
24 a community with significant representation of com-
25 munities of color, low income communities, or Tribal

1 and indigenous communities, that experience, or is
2 at risk of experiencing higher or more adverse
3 human health or environmental effects.

4 (7) LOW INCOME COMMUNITY.—the term “low
5 income community” means any census block group
6 in which 30 percent or more of the population are
7 individuals with an annual household income equal
8 to, or less than, the greater of—

9 (A) an amount equal to 80 percent of the
10 median income of the area in which the house-
11 hold is located, as reported by the Department
12 of Housing and Urban Development; and

13 (B) 200 percent of the Federal poverty
14 line.

15 (8) MICROTRANSIT.—The term “microtransit”
16 means low-capacity transportation service carrying
17 small numbers of people at a time.

18 (9) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
19 the Transit to Trails Grant Program established
20 under subsection (b)(1).

21 (10) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area”
22 means a community that is not an urbanized area.

23 (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
24 means the Secretary of Transportation.

1 (12) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
2 the several States, the District of Columbia, and
3 each territory or possession of the United States.

4 (13) TRANSPORTATION CONNECTOR.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “transportation
6 connector” means a system that—

7 (i) connects 2 zip codes or commu-
8 nities within a 175-mile radius of a des-
9 ignated service area; and

10 (ii) provides public transportation.

11 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “transportation
12 connector” includes microtransits, bus
13 lines, light rail, rapid transits, or personal rapid
14 transits.

15 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

16 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
17 tablish a grant program, to be known as the “Tran-
18 sit to Trails Grant Program”, under which the Sec-
19 retary shall award grants to eligible entities for—

20 (A) projects that develop transportation
21 connectors or routes in or serving, and related
22 culturally and linguistically appropriate edu-
23 cation materials for, critically underserved com-
24 munities to increase access and mobility to Fed-

1 eral or non-Federal public land, inland and
2 coastal waters, parkland, or monuments; or

3 (B) projects that facilitate transportation
4 improvements to enhance access to Federal or
5 non-Federal public land and recreational oppor-
6 tunities in critically underserved communities.

7 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ad-
9 minister the program to assist eligible entities
10 in the development of public transportation
11 routes in or serving, and related culturally and
12 linguistically appropriate education materials
13 for, critically underserved communities to in-
14 crease access and mobility to Federal or non-
15 Federal public land, inland and coastal waters,
16 parkland, or monuments.

17 (B) JOINT PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary
18 shall encourage joint partnership projects under
19 the program, if available, among multiple agen-
20 cies, including school districts, nonprofit organi-
21 zations, metropolitan planning organizations,
22 regional transportation authorities, transit
23 agencies, and State and local governmental
24 agencies (including park and recreation agen-

1 cies and authorities) to enhance investment of
2 public sources.

3 (C) ANNUAL GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL
4 SOLICITATION, REVIEW, AND APPROVAL.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
6 shall—

7 (I) annually solicit the submis-
8 sion of project proposals for grants
9 from eligible entities under the pro-
10 gram; and

11 (II) review each project proposal
12 submitted under subclause (I) on a
13 timeline established by the Secretary.

14 (ii) REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR
15 PROJECT PROPOSAL.—A project proposal
16 submitted under clause (i)(I) shall in-
17 clude—

18 (I) a statement of the purposes
19 of the project;

20 (II) the name of the entity or in-
21 dividual with overall responsibility for
22 the project;

23 (III) a description of the quali-
24 fications of the entity or individuals
25 identified under subclause (II);

- 1 (IV) a description of—
- 2 (aa) staffing and stake-
- 3 holder engagement for the
- 4 project;
- 5 (bb) the logistics of the
- 6 project; and
- 7 (cc) anticipated outcomes of
- 8 the project;
- 9 (V) a proposed budget for the
- 10 funds and time required to complete
- 11 the project;
- 12 (VI) information regarding the
- 13 source and amount of matching fund-
- 14 ing available for the project;
- 15 (VII) information that dem-
- 16 onstrates the clear potential of the
- 17 project to contribute to increased ac-
- 18 cess to parkland for critically under-
- 19 served communities; and
- 20 (VIII) any other information that
- 21 the Secretary considers to be nec-
- 22 essary for evaluating the eligibility of
- 23 the project for funding under the pro-
- 24 gram.

1 (D) PRIORITY.—To the extent practicable,
2 in determining whether to approve project pro-
3 posals under the program, the Secretary shall
4 prioritize projects that—

5 (i) are designed to increase access and
6 mobility to local or neighborhood Federal
7 or non-Federal public land, inland and
8 costal waters, parkland, monuments, or
9 recreational opportunities;

10 (ii) utilize low- or no-emission vehi-
11 cles;

12 (iii) provide free or discounted rates
13 for low income riders;

14 (iv) provide opportunities for youth
15 engagement;

16 (v) projects established in commu-
17 nities of color, low-income communities,
18 Tribal or indigenous communities, or rural
19 communities; and

20 (vi) comply with relevant regulations
21 in the Americans with Disabilities Act of
22 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

23 (3) TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCE-
24 DURES.—

1 (A) PROCEDURES.— In consultation with
2 the head of each appropriate Federal land man-
3 agement agency, the Secretary shall ensure that
4 projects conducted under the program that are
5 consistent with metropolitan and statewide
6 planning processes.

7 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the
8 program, the Secretary shall ensure the fol-
9 lowing:

10 (i) All projects carried out under the
11 program will comply with sections 5303
12 and 5304 of title 49, United States Code.

13 (ii) All new transportation connectors
14 and routes established under a project
15 shall be accessible in accordance with the
16 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
17 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) accessibility
18 specifications for transportation vehicles.

19 (iii) State department of transpor-
20 tation agencies shall engage with relevant
21 stakeholders consistent with sections
22 5304(f)(3) and 5404(g)(3) of title 49,
23 United States Code, and metropolitan
24 planning organizations shall engage with
25 relevant stakeholders consistent with sec-

1 tions 5303(g)(3)(B), 5303(i)(5), and
2 5303(i)(6) of title 49, United States Code,
3 in addition to faith-based and community-
4 based organizations.

5 (iv) Except as otherwise provided
6 under this section, a grant provided under
7 this section shall be subject to the require-
8 ments of section 5307 of title 49, United
9 States Code.

10 (4) FEDERAL SHARE.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of
12 the cost of an eligible project carried out under
13 this subsection shall not exceed 80 percent.

14 (B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Fed-
15 eral share of the cost of an eligible project car-
16 ried out under this subsection may be derived
17 from in-kind contributions.

18 (5) ELIGIBLE USES.—Grant funds provided
19 under the program may be used—

20 (A) to develop transportation connectors or
21 routes in or serving, and related culturally and
22 linguistically appropriate education materials
23 for, critically underserved communities to in-
24 crease access and mobility to Federal and non-

1 Federal public land, inland and costal waters,
2 parkland, and monuments; and

3 (B) to create or significantly enhance ac-
4 cess to Federal or non-Federal public land and
5 recreational opportunities in an urban area or
6 a rural area.

7 (6) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant provided under
8 the program shall be—

9 (A) not less than \$25,000; and

10 (B) not more than \$500,000.

11 (7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—It is the intent
12 of Congress that grants provided under the program
13 deliver project funds to areas of greatest need while
14 offering technical assistance to all applicants and po-
15 tential applicants for grant preparation to encourage
16 full participation in the program.

17 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

18 (1) REPORTS BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The
19 Secretary shall require a recipient of a grant under
20 the program to submit to the Secretary at least 1
21 performance and financial report that—

22 (A) includes—

23 (i) demographic data on communities
24 served by the project; and

1 (ii) a summary of project activities
2 conducted after receiving the grant; and

3 (B) describes the status of each project
4 funded by the grant as of the date of the re-
5 port.

6 (2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—In addition to the
7 report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary
8 may require additional reports from a recipient, as
9 the Secretary determines to be appropriate, includ-
10 ing a final report.

11 (3) DEADLINES.—The Secretary shall establish
12 deadlines for the submission of each report required
13 under paragraph (1) or (2).

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$10,000,000 for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 and
17 \$20,000,000 for fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

