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:

SEC. 2506. TRANSIT TO TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(A) Black.

(B) African American.

(C) Asian.

(D) Pacific Islander.

(E) Other non-white race.

(F) Hispanic.

(G) Latino.

(2) CRITICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—The term “critically underserved community” means—
(A) a community that can demonstrate to
the Secretary that the community has inade-
quate, insufficient, or no park space or recre-
ation facilities, including by demonstrating—

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

(ii) the presence of recreational facili-
ties that do not serve the needs of the com-

(iii) the inequitable distribution of
park space for high-need populations,

(B) a community in which at least 50 per-
cent of the population is not located within ½
mile of park space; or

(C) any other community that the Sec-

(3) DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA.—The term
“designated service area” means a geographical area
recommended by a designated official planning agen-
cy, that defines the community where coordinated
transportation services are be provided to the trans-
portation disadvantaged.
(4) DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN OF ADVERSE HUMAN HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.— The term “disproportionate burden of adverse human health or environmental effects” means a situation where there exists higher or more adverse human health or environmental effects on communities of color, low income communities, and Tribal and indigenous communities.

(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a State or local government entity;

(B) a political subdivision of a State (including a city or a county);

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

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

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

(6) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.— The term “environmental justice community” means a community with significant representation of communities of color, low income communities, or Tribal
and indigenous communities, that experience, or is at risk of experiencing higher or more adverse human health or environmental effects.

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

(A) an amount equal to 80 percent of the median income of the area in which the household is located, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(B) 200 percent of the Federal poverty line.

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

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

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

(11) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.
(12) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory or possession of the United States.

(13) **TRANSPORTATION CONNECTOR.**—

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

(i) connects 2 zip codes or communities within a 175-mile radius of a designated service area; and

(ii) provides public transportation.

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

(b) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a grant program, to be known as the “Transit to Trails Grant Program”, under which the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities for—

(A) projects that develop transportation connectors or routes in or serving, and related culturally and linguistically appropriate education materials for, critically underserved communities to increase access and mobility to Fed-
eral or non-Federal public land, inland and
costal waters, parkland, or monuments; or

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

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—

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

(B) JOINT PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary
shall encourage joint partnership projects under
the program, if available, among multiple agen-
cies, including school districts, nonprofit organi-
zations, metropolitan planning organizations,
regional transportation authorities, transit
agencies, and State and local governmental
agencies (including park and recreation agen-
cies and authorities) to enhance investment of public sources.

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

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(I) annually solicit the submission of project proposals for grants from eligible entities under the program; and

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

(ii) REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL.—A project proposal submitted under clause (i)(I) shall include—

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

(II) the name of the entity or individual with overall responsibility for the project;

(III) a description of the qualifications of the entity or individuals identified under subclause (II);
(IV) a description of—

(aa) staffing and stake-
holder engagement for the
project;

(bb) the logistics of the
project; and

(ec) anticipated outcomes of
the project;

(V) a proposed budget for the
funds and time required to complete
the project;

(VI) information regarding the
source and amount of matching fund-
ing available for the project;

(VII) information that dem-
onstrates the clear potential of the
project to contribute to increased ac-
cess to parkland for critically under-
served communities; and

(VIII) any other information that
the Secretary considers to be nec-
necessary for evaluating the eligibility of
the project for funding under the pro-
gram.
(D) PRIORITY.—To the extent practicable, in determining whether to approve project proposals under the program, the Secretary shall prioritize projects that—

(i) are designed to increase access and mobility to local or neighborhood Federal or non-Federal public land, inland and coastal waters, parkland, monuments, or recreational opportunities;

(ii) utilize low- or no-emission vehicles;

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

(iv) provide opportunities for youth engagement;

(v) projects established in communities of color, low-income communities, Tribal or indigenous communities, or rural communities; and

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

(3) TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCEDURES.—
10

(A) PROCEDURES.— In consultation with the head of each appropriate Federal land management agency, the Secretary shall ensure that projects conducted under the program that are consistent with metropolitan and statewide planning processes.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

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

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

(iii) State department of transportation agencies shall engage with relevant stakeholders consistent with sections 5304(f)(3) and 5404(g)(3) of title 49, United States Code, and metropolitan planning organizations shall engage with relevant stakeholders consistent with sec-
tions 5303(g)(3)(B), 5303(i)(5), and 5303(i)(6) of title 49, United States Code, in addition to faith-based and community-based organizations.

(iv) Except as otherwise provided under this section, a grant provided under this section shall be subject to the requirements of section 5307 of title 49, United States Code.

(4) FEDERAL SHARE.—

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

(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of an eligible project carried out under this subsection may be derived from in-kind contributions.

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

(A) to develop transportation connectors or routes in or serving, and related culturally and linguistically appropriate education materials for, critically underserved communities to increase access and mobility to Federal and non-
Federal public land, inland and costal waters, parkland, and monuments; and

(B) to create or significantly enhance access to Federal or non-Federal public land and recreational opportunities in an urban area or a rural area.

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

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

(B) not more than $500,000.

(7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—It is the intent of Congress that grants provided under the program deliver project funds to areas of greatest need while offering technical assistance to all applicants and potential applicants for grant preparation to encourage full participation in the program.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

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

(A) includes—

(i) demographic data on communities served by the project; and
(ii) a summary of project activities conducted after receiving the grant; and

(B) describes the status of each project funded by the grant as of the date of the report.

(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—In addition to the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary may require additional reports from a recipient, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, including a final report.

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

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