

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1984

To require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to improve the functioning of traffic signals through the implementation of innovative technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 9, 2021

Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to improve the functioning of traffic signals through the implementation of innovative technology, 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 “Smart Intersections
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. SMART TECHNOLOGY TRAFFIC SIGNALS GRANT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
5 tablish a grant program, to be known as the “Smart Tech-
6 nology Traffic Signals Grant Program”, under which the
7 Secretary shall make grants to eligible entities to improve
8 the functioning of traffic signals in a manner that—

9 (1) reduces traffic congestion;

10 (2) improves the safety and effectiveness of
11 roadways;

12 (3) reduces fuel costs for drivers;

13 (4) reduces air pollution; and

14 (5) improves emergency response.

15 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
16 under the program, an eligible entity shall submit to the
17 Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and
18 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

19 (c) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—An eligible entity that
20 receives a grant under the program shall use the grant—

21 (1) to improve active management of traffic sig-
22 nals, including through the use of automated traffic
23 signal performance measures;

24 (2) to implement strategies, activities, and
25 projects that support active management of traffic
26 signal operations, including through—

1 (A) optimization of corridor timing;

2 (B) improved vehicle, pedestrian, and bicy-
3 cle detection at traffic signals; and

4 (C) the use of connected vehicle tech-
5 nologies;

6 (3) to replace outdated traffic signals, as need-
7 ed; and

8 (4) in the case of an eligible entity that is a
9 local government entity serving a population of less
10 than 500,000, to pay the costs of temporary staffing
11 hours dedicated to updating traffic signal tech-
12 nology.

13 (d) TIMING OF EXPENDITURES.—An eligible entity
14 that receives a grant under the program shall fully expend
15 the grant funds by the date that is 3 years after the date
16 on which grant funds are first made available to the eligi-
17 ble entity.

18 (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the
20 costs of a project assisted with a grant under the
21 program may not exceed 80 percent.

22 (2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-
23 eral share of the costs of a project assisted with a
24 grant under the program may be derived in whole or
25 in part from in-kind contributions.

1 (f) PROHIBITION.—A grant awarded under the pro-
2 gram may not be used to purchase, operate, or maintain
3 an automated traffic enforcement system.

4 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
6 sums as are necessary to carry out the program.

7 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SYS-
9 TEM.—The term “automated traffic enforcement
10 system” means any device that captures an image
11 of, or information from, a vehicle for the purposes
12 of traffic law enforcement.

13 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
14 ty” means a State, local, or Tribal government enti-
15 ty.

16 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
17 the Smart Technology Traffic Signals Grant Pro-
18 gram established under subsection (a).

19 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Transportation.

21 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.**

22 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
23 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
24 shall carry out, and submit to Congress a report describ-
25 ing the results of, a study on the potential for reducing

- 1 greenhouse gas emissions by improving the efficiency of
- 2 traffic systems.

