

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 8653

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for demonstration projects that make critical transportation infrastructure resilient to natural hazards, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for demonstration projects that make critical transportation infrastructure resilient to natural hazards, 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 “Accelerating Dem-  
5 onstration Approaches for Protecting Transportation As-  
6 sets Act” or the “ADAPT Assets Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCELERATING DEMONSTRATION APPROACHES**  
2 **FOR PROTECTING TRANSPORTATION ASSETS**  
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Transportation  
5 shall establish and carry out a competitive grant program,  
6 to be known as the “Accelerating Demonstration Ap-  
7 proaches for Protecting Transportation Assets Program”  
8 (in this section referred to as the “Program”), to provide  
9 up to 10 grants to eligible applicants for demonstration  
10 projects that make critical transportation infrastructure  
11 resilient to natural hazards.

12 (b) **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**—An eligible applicant  
13 under the Program is—

14 (1) a metropolitan planning organization (as  
15 defined in section 134 of title 23, United States  
16 Code);

17 (2) a State;

18 (3) a unit of local government;

19 (4) a public transportation agency or authority;

20 (5) a port or public toll authority that owns or  
21 operates eligible transportation assets;

22 (6) a Tribal government; or

23 (7) a consortium of 2 or more entities described  
24 in paragraphs (1) through (5), including a consor-  
25 tium led by a metropolitan planning organization, so  
26 long as the applicants demonstrate a regional part-

1        nership and governance structure for project deliv-  
2        ery.

3        (c) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for  
4 a grant under the Program, an eligible applicant shall sub-  
5 mit to the Secretary an application at such time and con-  
6 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

7        (d) PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting  
8 projects under the Program, the Secretary shall consider,  
9 at a minimum, the extent to which the project—

10            (1) addresses existing or predicted recurring  
11 damage or asset failure of a high-risk transportation  
12 asset or corridor based on documented exposure to  
13 hazard risk;

14            (2) provides transportation system benefits, in-  
15 cluding preserving or enhancing regional or state-  
16 wide mobility, economy, goods movement, safety,  
17 and emergency response access;

18            (3) provides additional benefits, including en-  
19 hancing resilience of adjacent communities, the envi-  
20 ronment, and other critical infrastructure;

21            (4) is consistent with a resilience improvement  
22 plan authorized under this Act;

23            (5) demonstrates readiness to proceed, includ-  
24 ing through—

1 (A) demonstrating that it is supported by  
2 a regional partnership and governance plan that  
3 identifies roles, responsibilities, and decision-  
4 making processes across affected facility own-  
5 ers, land owners, funders, jurisdictions; and  
6 modes; and

7 (B) completion of planning activities car-  
8 ried out in a manner consistent with section  
9 168 of title 23, United States Code, or other  
10 key predevelopment milestones, or a credible  
11 schedule to complete such milestones; and

12 (6) advances innovation and replicability, in-  
13 cluding approaches that can be scaled by other re-  
14 gions.

15 (e) ELIGIBLE USES.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants under the Program  
17 may be used for a project or suite of projects within  
18 a region that, taken together, constitute a large-  
19 scale resilience investment to protect, elevate, adapt,  
20 relocate, or otherwise improve the resilience of trans-  
21 portation assets eligible for assistance under title 23,  
22 United States Code.

23 (2) ELIGIBLE USES.—Funds provided by a  
24 grant under the Program may be used for—

1 (A) predevelopment activities, including  
2 data collection, engineering and design, environ-  
3 mental review, permitting, right-of-way activi-  
4 ties, and procurement planning; and

5 (B) capital construction and implementa-  
6 tion activities to harden or adapt transportation  
7 assets, including—

8 (i) protective features described in  
9 section 119(k) of title 23, United States  
10 Code;

11 (ii) system resilience improvements  
12 described in section 176(c)(3)(C) of title  
13 23, United States Code;

14 (iii) levees, including engineered levees  
15 and levees utilizing natural infrastructure;  
16 and

17 (iv) other resilience improvements  
18 that are functionally connected to making  
19 an eligible transportation asset more resil-  
20 ient to extreme weather, natural hazards,  
21 and disaster risks.

22 (f) MULTIYEAR PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—

23 (1) MULTIYEAR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
24 may enter into multiyear grant agreements to fund  
25 an eligible project under the Program across mul-

1        tiple fiscal years, including agreements that provide  
2        predictable funding for programmatic delivery of re-  
3        lated resilience improvements.

4            (2) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for funding  
5        under a multiyear grant agreement described in  
6        paragraph (1), the project or suite of projects  
7        shall—

8            (A) have an estimated total cost of not less  
9        than \$500,000,000, except that the Secretary  
10       may reduce such threshold for Tribal appli-  
11       cants, rural regions, or insular areas; and

12           (B) involve delivery challenges or institu-  
13       tional, regulatory, or funding barriers that are  
14       not routinely addressed through existing surface  
15       transportation programs and, if successfully re-  
16       solved through the demonstration, would pro-  
17       vide a replicable model for other projects.

18           (3) ELIGIBLE BARRIERS.—To be considered eli-  
19       gible under paragraph (2)(B), the barriers described  
20       in such paragraph shall include 1 or more of the fol-  
21       lowing:

22           (A) Multiowner or multioperator govern-  
23       ance and delivery structures.

24           (B) Integration of natural or nature-based  
25       infrastructure into transportation projects sub-

1           ject to Federal environmental review or permit-  
2           ting.

3           (C) Resilience investments located outside  
4           the transportation right-of-way that reduce risk  
5           to an eligible transportation asset.

6           (D) Projects that protect or enhance trans-  
7           portation assets while also benefitting commu-  
8           nities and other critical infrastructure systems.

9           (E) Projects requiring coordinated funding  
10          across two or more Federal departments.

11       (g) FEDERAL SHARE.—

12           (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
13           the cost of a project carried out with a grant under  
14           this section may not exceed 80 percent.

15           (2) OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—Other Federal  
16           funds may be used to satisfy the non-Federal share  
17           only to the extent specifically provided for under the  
18           law authorizing the use of such Federal funds.

19       (h) ADMINISTRATION.—

20           (1) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Not  
21           later than 180 days after the date of enactment of  
22           this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall  
23           publish a notice of funding opportunity for grants  
24           under the Program.

1           (2) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying  
2           out the Program, the Secretary shall coordinate with  
3           other Federal departments and agencies, including  
4           the Environmental Protection Agency, Federal  
5           Emergency Management Agency, Department of In-  
6           terior, Department of Commerce, and U.S. Army  
7           Corps of Engineers, to ensure Federal activities re-  
8           lated to resiliency and Federal funding are stream-  
9           lined and coordinated to allow for comprehensive so-  
10          lutions across Federal agencies to mitigate impacts  
11          from natural hazards on infrastructure, the econ-  
12          omy, and the United States population.

13          (3) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL PRO-  
14          GRAMS.—A grant under this section may be used in  
15          combination with funds made available under other  
16          provisions of law administered by the Department of  
17          Transportation, including funds for formula, discre-  
18          tionary, and emergency relief programs.

19          (4) DASHBOARD.—

20                 (A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this  
21                 section, the Secretary shall make publicly avail-  
22                 able in an easily identifiable location on the  
23                 website of the Department of Transportation a  
24                 dashboard containing the following information

1 for each project in a grant agreement under  
2 this section:

3 (i) Project name.

4 (ii) Project sponsor.

5 (iii) City or urbanized area and State  
6 in which the project will be located.

7 (iv) Project type.

8 (v) Anticipated total project cost.

9 (vi) Anticipated share of project costs  
10 to be sought under this section.

11 (vii) Date of compliance with the Na-  
12 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969  
13 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

14 (viii) Date on which the project en-  
15 tered the project development phase.

16 (ix) Date on which the project entered  
17 the engineering phase, if applicable.

18 (x) Status of each permit necessary  
19 for the project to proceed, the Federal  
20 agency with principal responsibility for re-  
21 view of each necessary permit, and any  
22 participating agencies involved in the re-  
23 view of each necessary permit.

24 (xi) Status of the project sponsor in  
25 securing non-federal matching funds.

1 (xii) Date on which a project grant  
2 agreement is anticipated to be executed.

3 (xiii) Federal grant programs for  
4 which the project would also be eligible, if  
5 applicable.

6 (B) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall up-  
7 date the information provided under subpara-  
8 graph (A) not less frequently than monthly.

9 (C) PROJECT PROFILES.—The Secretary  
10 shall continue to make profiles for projects that  
11 are receiving assistance under this section pub-  
12 licly available in an easily identifiable location  
13 on the website of the Department of Transpor-  
14 tation.

15 (i) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
16 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish an  
17 interagency working group to develop and submit to the  
18 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the  
19 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-  
20 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report  
21 not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this  
22 Act, and every 2 years thereafter that—

23 (1) describes projects selected and funded under  
24 the Program;

1           (2) evaluates the benefits of the projects' inte-  
2           gration of natural and nature-based features in im-  
3           proving infrastructure resiliency;

4           (3) evaluates program outcomes and best prac-  
5           tices;

6           (4) provides recommendations regarding wheth-  
7           er and how to scale the Program; and

8           (5) provides a benefit-cost analysis of each  
9           project selected and funded under the Program that  
10          uses the best available data, including—

11           (A) annual maintenance costs necessary  
12          for the upkeep of the project's components;

13           (B) risk to structures and infrastructure  
14          mitigated by the project;

15           (C) level of protection provided by the  
16          project;

17           (D) historical damage at the project loca-  
18          tion;

19           (E) information on the benefitting area of  
20          the project; and

21           (F) additional data, as applicable.

22          (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
23          are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
24          \$2,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through  
25          2031, to remain available until expended, of which not

1 more than 2 percent may be used for administrative ex-  
2 penses and technical assistance.

3 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ELIGIBLE TRANSPORTATION ASSET.—The  
5 term “eligible transportation asset” means—

6 (A) a highway project eligible for assist-  
7 ance under title 23, United States Code;

8 (B) a public transportation facility or serv-  
9 ice eligible for assistance under chapter 53 of  
10 title 49, United States Code; or

11 (C) a port facility, including a facility  
12 that—

13 (i) connects a port to other modes of  
14 transportation;

15 (ii) improves the efficiency of evacu-  
16 ations and disaster relief; or

17 (iii) aids transportation.

18 (2) REGION.—The term “region” means—

19 (A) the geographic area served by a metro-  
20 politan planning organization;

21 (B) a multijurisdictional area defined by a  
22 consortium of eligible applicants; or

1                   (C) such other area as the Secretary deter-  
2                   mines appropriate to address transportation  
3                   system risk at a corridor or system scale.

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