

1 plans under paragraph (2) related to AAM infra-
2 structure.

3 (2) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
5 after receiving a grant under this subsection, an
6 eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary a
7 comprehensive plan in a format that may be
8 published on the website of the Department of
9 Transportation.

10 (B) PLAN CONTENTS.—The Secretary
11 shall establish content requirements for com-
12 prehensive plans submitted under this sub-
13 section, which may include the following:

14 (i) The identification of planned or
15 potential public-use or private-use vertiport
16 locations.

17 (ii) A description of infrastructure
18 necessary to support AAM operations.

19 (iii) A description of types of planned
20 or potential AAM operations.

21 (iv) The identification of physical and
22 digital infrastructure required to meet the
23 standards for vertiport design and per-
24 formance characteristics established by the
25 Federal Aviation Administration (as in ef-

1 fect on the date on which the Secretary
2 issues a grant to an eligible entity), includ-
3 ing modifications to existing infrastructure
4 and ground sensors, electric charging and
5 other fueling requirements, electric utility
6 requirements, wireless and cybersecurity
7 requirements, and other necessary hard-
8 ware or software.

9 (v) A description of potential environ-
10 mental effects of planned construction or
11 siting of public-use vertiports, including ef-
12 forts to reduce the adverse effects of po-
13 tential aviation noise.

14 (vi) A description of how planned pub-
15 lic-use or private-use vertiport locations,
16 including new or repurposed infrastruc-
17 ture, fit into existing State and local trans-
18 portation systems and networks, includ-
19 ing—

20 (I) connectivity to existing public
21 transportation hubs and intermodal
22 and multimodal facilities;

23 (II) opportunities to create new
24 service to areas underserved by air
25 transportation, without compromising

1 safety and efficiency of other facilities
2 and airspace users; and

3 (III) any potential conflicts to ex-
4 isting aviation infrastructure that may
5 arise from the proposed location of
6 the vertiport.

7 (vii) A description of how public-use
8 vertiport planning will be incorporated in
9 State or metropolitan planning documents.

10 (viii) The identification of the process
11 an eligible entity will undertake to ensure
12 an adequate level of community engage-
13 ment for planned public-use vertiport loca-
14 tions and planned or anticipated AAM op-
15 erations, including engagement with under-
16 served communities, individuals with dis-
17 abilities, and racial and ethnic minorities,
18 to address equity of access and other prior-
19 ities.

20 (ix) The identification of the actions
21 necessary for an eligible entity to under-
22 take the construction of public-use
23 vertiports, such as planning studies to as-
24 sess existing infrastructure, environmental
25 studies, studies of projected economic ben-

1 efit to the community, lease or acquisition
2 of an easement or land for new infrastruc-
3 ture, and activities related to other capital
4 costs.

5 (x) The identification of State, local,
6 or private sources of funding an eligible
7 entity may use to assist with the construc-
8 tion or operation of a public-use vertiport.

9 (3) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant under
10 this subsection, an eligible entity shall provide to the
11 Secretary an application in such form, at such time,
12 and containing such information as the Secretary
13 may require.

14 (4) SELECTION.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants
16 under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-
17 sider the following:

18 (i) Geographic diversity.

19 (ii) The need for comprehensive plans
20 that—

21 (I) ensure the safe integration of
22 AAM operations into the National
23 Airspace System;

24 (II) improve transportation safe-
25 ty, connectivity, access, and equity in

1 both rural and urban regions in the
2 United States;

3 (III) leverage existing public
4 transportation systems and intermodal
5 and multimodal facilities;

6 (IV) reduce surface congestion
7 and the environmental impacts of
8 transportation;

9 (V) grow the economy and create
10 jobs in the United States; and

11 (VI) encourage community en-
12 gagement when planning for AAM re-
13 lated infrastructure.

14 (B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall
15 prioritize awarding grants under this subsection
16 to eligible entities that partner with commercial
17 AAM entities, institutions of higher education,
18 research institutions, or other relevant stake-
19 holders to develop and prepare a comprehensive
20 plan.

21 (5) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant made under
22 this subsection shall be made in an amount that is
23 not more than \$1,000,000.

24 (6) BRIEFING.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
2 days after the first comprehensive plan is sub-
3 mitted under paragraph (2), and every 180
4 days thereafter, the Secretary shall provide a
5 briefing to the appropriate committees of Con-
6 gress on the comprehensive plans submitted to
7 the Secretary under such paragraph.

8 (B) CONTENTS.—The briefing required
9 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

10 (i) an evaluation of all planned or pro-
11 posed public-use vertiport locations in-
12 cluded in the comprehensive plans sub-
13 mitted under paragraph (2) and how such
14 planned or proposed public-use vertiport
15 locations may fit into the overall United
16 States transportation system and network;
17 and

18 (ii) a description of lessons or best
19 practices learned through the review of
20 comprehensive plans and how the Sec-
21 retary will incorporate any such lessons or
22 best practices into Federal standards or
23 guidance for the design and operation of
24 AAM infrastructure and facilities.

25 (c) CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award
2 grants to covered recipients to carry out construc-
3 tion activities described under paragraph (2).

4 (2) ELIGIBLE USES.—A covered recipient may
5 use grant funds awarded under this subsection for
6 design, bidding, and environmental study activities,
7 and other capital costs, as the Secretary determines
8 appropriate, directly related to the construction of a
9 public-use vertiport or associated infrastructure pur-
10 suant to the comprehensive plan submitted by such
11 covered recipient.

12 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of sub-
13 sections (b) and (c) of section 47112 of title 49,
14 United States Code, and section 50101 of such title,
15 shall apply to a grant awarded under this sub-
16 section.

17 (4) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not
18 award a grant under this subsection—

19 (A) for the acquisition, conversion, or ret-
20 rofitting of AAM aircraft; or

21 (B) for the construction of private-use
22 vertiports or associated infrastructure.

23 (5) GRANT TIMING.—The Secretary may not
24 issue a grant under this subsection until—

1 (A) the Administrator of the Federal Avia-
2 tion Administration has—

3 (i) certified 2 or more models of air-
4 craft designed to provide AAM transpor-
5 tation under part 23, 25, 27, or 29 of title
6 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

7 (ii) published an advisory circular con-
8 taining appropriate standards for vertiport
9 design and performance characteristics and
10 vertiport siting.

11 (B) the Secretary has—

12 (i) determined that 2 or more AAM
13 operators hold certificates under part 119
14 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations,
15 for such operators to perform air carrier
16 operations covered under part 135 of such
17 title; and

18 (ii) issued, to 2 or more air carriers
19 formed to provide AAM transportation,
20 certificates under chapter 411 of title 49,
21 United States Code.

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

23 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
24 be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this

1 section \$12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
2 and 2023, to remain available until expended.

3 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the
4 amounts made available under paragraph (1), the
5 Secretary may retain up to 1 percent for personnel,
6 contracting, and other costs to establish and admin-
7 ister the pilot program under this section.

8 (e) TERMINATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—No grant may be awarded
10 under this section after September 30, 2023.

11 (2) CONTINUED FUNDING.—Funds authorized
12 to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (d) may
13 be expended after September 30, 2023—

14 (A) for grants awarded prior to September
15 30, 2023; and

16 (B) for administrative expenses.

17 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

18 (1) ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY; AAM.—The terms
19 “advanced air mobility” and “AAM” mean an air
20 transportation system that transports individuals
21 and property between points in the United States
22 using aircraft, such as remotely piloted, autonomous,
23 or vertical take-off and landing aircraft, including
24 those powered by electric or hybrid driven propul-
25 sion, in both controlled and uncontrolled airspace.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means the Committee on Transportation and
4 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
5 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
6 portation of the Senate.

7 (3) COMMERCIAL AAM ENTITIES.—The term
8 “commercial AAM entities” means—

9 (A) manufacturers of aircraft, avionics,
10 propulsion systems, and air traffic management
11 systems related to AAM; and

12 (B) intended commercial operators of AAM
13 aircraft and systems.

14 (4) COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term “covered
15 recipient” means the recipient of a grant under sub-
16 section (b) who has submitted a comprehensive
17 plan—

18 (A) that has been reviewed by the Sec-
19 retary pursuant to subsection (b); and

20 (B) that the Secretary has determined con-
21 tains proposed projects that comply with the
22 standards for vertiport design, performance,
23 and siting characteristics described in a pub-
24 lished advisory circular.

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

3 (A) a State, local, or Tribal government,
4 including a political subdivision thereof;

5 (B) an airport sponsor;

6 (C) a transit agency;

7 (D) a port authority;

8 (E) a metropolitan planning organization;

9 or

10 (F) any combination or consortium of the
11 entities described in subparagraphs (A) through
12 (E).

13 (6) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZA-
14 TION.—The term “metropolitan planning organiza-
15 tion” has the meaning given such term in section
16 5303(b) of title 49, United States Code.

17 (7) PUBLIC-USE VERTIPORT.—The term “pub-
18 lic-use vertiport” means a designated location used
19 or intended to be used for public purposes and to
20 support AAM operations, including the landing,
21 takeoff, loading, taxiing, parking, and storage of
22 vertical take-off and landing aircraft.

23 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means a State
24 of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puer-

1 to Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the
2 Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

3 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Transportation.

5 (10) VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING AIR-
6 CRAFT.—The term “vertical take-off and landing
7 aircraft” means an aircraft with lift/thrust units
8 used to generate powered lift and control and with
9 2 or more lift/thrust units used to provide lift during
10 vertical take-off or landing.

11 **SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

12 Nothing in this Act may be construed as conferring
13 upon any person, State, local, or Tribal government the
14 authority to determine the safety of any AAM operation
15 or the feasibility of simultaneous operations by AAM and
16 conventional aircraft within any given area of the National
17 Airspace System.

