

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

At the end of subtitle E of title V of division B of the bill, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . TRANSPORTATION RESILIENCE AND ADAPTA-**
2 **TION CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 23, United
4 States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 **“§ 52__ . Transportation resilience and adaptation**
7 **centers of excellence**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—The term
10 ‘center of excellence’ means a Center of Excellence
11 for Resilience and Adaptation designated under sub-
12 section (b).

13 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
14 tity’ means—

15 “(A) an institution of higher education (as
16 defined in section 102 of the Higher Education
17 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)); or

18 “(B) a consortium of nonprofit organiza-
19 tions led by an institution of higher education.

1 “(b) DESIGNATION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transpor-
3 tation shall select 11 eligible entities to be des-
4 igned as centers of excellence and to receive grants
5 to advance research and development that improves
6 the resilience of surface transportation infrastruc-
7 ture and infrastructure dependent on surface trans-
8 portation to natural disasters and extreme weather.

9 “(2) SELECTION.—

10 “(A) REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCEL-
11 LENCE.—The Secretary shall designate 1 re-
12 gional center of excellence in each of the 10
13 Federal regions described in the document ti-
14 tled ‘Standard Federal Regions’ published by
15 the Office of Management and Budget and
16 dated April 1974 (circular A-105).

17 “(B) NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCEL-
18 LENCE.—The Secretary shall designate 1 na-
19 tional center of excellence to coordinate the ac-
20 tivities of the 10 regional centers of excellence
21 described in subparagraph (A), minimize dupli-
22 cation of activities, and promote coordination
23 and dissemination of research among such re-
24 gional centers of excellence.

1 “(3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to be des-
2 ignated as a center of excellence under paragraph
3 (1), an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
4 an application at such time, in such manner, and
5 containing such information as the Secretary may
6 require, including a proposal that includes a descrip-
7 tion of the activities to be carried out with a grant
8 under this section.

9 “(4) CRITERIA.—In selecting eligible entities to
10 designate as a center of excellence, the Secretary
11 shall consider—

12 “(A) the past experience and performance
13 of the eligible entity in carrying out activities
14 described in subsection (d);

15 “(B) the merits of the proposal of an eligi-
16 ble entity submitted under paragraph (3) and
17 the extent to which the proposal would—

18 “(i) advance the state of practice in
19 resilience planning and identify innovative
20 resilience solutions for transportation as-
21 sets and systems;

22 “(ii) support and build on activities
23 carried out by another Federal agency re-
24 lating to resilience;

1 “(iii) inform transportation decision-
2 making at all levels of government;

3 “(iv) engage local, regional, Tribal,
4 State, and national stakeholders, including,
5 if applicable, stakeholders representing
6 transportation, transit, urban and land use
7 planning, natural resources, environmental
8 protection, hazard mitigation, and emer-
9 gency management; and

10 “(v) engage community groups and
11 other stakeholders that will be affected by
12 transportation decisions, including under-
13 served, economically disadvantaged, rural,
14 and predominantly minority communities;
15 and

16 “(C) the local, regional, Tribal, State, and
17 national impacts of the proposal of an eligible
18 entity submitted under paragraph (3).

19 “(c) GRANTS.—Subject to the availability of appro-
20 priations, the Secretary shall provide to each center of ex-
21 cellence designated under subsection (b) a grant of not
22 less than \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through
23 2031 to carry out the activities described in subsection
24 (d).

1 “(d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Funds made available
2 under this section may be used by an eligible entity des-
3 ignated as a center of excellence under subsection (b) to
4 establish and operate a center of excellence and for activi-
5 ties that promote resilient transportation infrastructure,
6 including through—

7 “(1) supporting climate vulnerability assess-
8 ments informed by climate change science, including
9 national climate assessments produced by the United
10 States Global Change Research Program under sec-
11 tion 106 of the Global Change Research Act of 1990
12 (15 U.S.C. 2936), relevant feasibility analyses of re-
13 siliant transportation improvements, and transpor-
14 tation resilience planning;

15 “(2) development of new design, operations,
16 and maintenance standards for transportation infra-
17 structure that can inform Federal and State decision
18 making;

19 “(3) research and development of new materials
20 and technologies that could be integrated into exist-
21 ing and new transportation infrastructure;

22 “(4) development, refinement, and piloting of
23 new and emerging resilience improvements and
24 strategies, including natural infrastructure ap-
25 proaches and relocation;

1 “(5) development of and investment in new ap-
2 proaches for facilitating meaningful engagement in
3 transportation decision making by local, Tribal, re-
4 gional, or national stakeholders and communities;

5 “(6) technical capacity building to facilitate the
6 ability of local, regional, Tribal, State, and national
7 stakeholders to—

8 “(A) assess the vulnerability of transpor-
9 tation infrastructure assets and systems;

10 “(B) develop community response strate-
11 gies;

12 “(C) meaningfully engage with community
13 stakeholders; and

14 “(D) develop strategies and improvements
15 for enhancing transportation infrastructure re-
16 silience under current conditions and a range of
17 potential future conditions;

18 “(7) workforce development and training;

19 “(8) development and dissemination of data,
20 tools, techniques, assessments, and information that
21 informs Federal, State, Tribal, and local government
22 decision making, policies, planning, and investments;

23 “(9) education and outreach regarding trans-
24 portation infrastructure resilience; and

1 “(10) technology transfer and commercializa-
2 tion.

3 “(e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the
4 cost of an activity carried out using a grant under this
5 section shall be 50 percent.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
7 ter 5 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by add-
8 ing at the end the following new item:

“52__. Transportation resilience and adaptation centers of excellence.”.

