

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5161

To provide for the establishment of Green Transportation Infrastructure
Research and Technology Transfer Centers, and for other purpose.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 2008

Mr. WU introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of Green Transportation
Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Cen-
ters, and for other purpose.

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 “Green Transportation
5 Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Transportation infrastructure contributes to
2 the pollution of surface and ground water because it
3 is comprised of impervious surfaces that concentrate
4 contaminants which are introduced into the water
5 supply during storms.

6 (2) Scientists and engineers have developed nu-
7 merous technologies that can be incorporated into
8 transportation infrastructure which control
9 stormwater and mitigate nonpoint source water pol-
10 lution.

11 (3) There has not been widespread implementa-
12 tion of green transportation infrastructure by gov-
13 ernments or private industry because of technical,
14 regulatory, and social barriers, such as lack of train-
15 ing and awareness for builders.

16 (4) The Federal Highway Administration, in
17 partnership with the Environmental Protection
18 Agency, has the technical expertise and capacity to
19 promote the use of green transportation infrastruc-
20 ture technologies by State and local governments
21 and private industry through education and outreach
22 and technical assistance programs.

1 **SEC. 3. REGIONAL GREEN TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH**
2 **CENTERS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter I of chapter 55 of
4 title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after
5 section 5505 following new section:

6 **“SEC. 5505A. REGIONAL GREEN TRANSPORTATION RE-**
7 **SEARCH CENTERS.**

8 “(a) GREEN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
9 RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.—The Sec-
10 retary of Transportation shall make grants to nonprofit
11 institutions of higher learning or consortia thereof to es-
12 tablish and operate university transportation centers to
13 carry out research and development and technology trans-
14 fer activities in the field of green transportation infra-
15 structure.

16 “(b) OBJECTIVES.—The purpose of Centers estab-
17 lished pursuant to this section shall be to—

18 “(1) generate innovative and cost-effective ap-
19 proaches to mitigating environmental impacts
20 throughout the lifecycle of transportation infrastruc-
21 ture;

22 “(2) develop holistic approaches to integrating
23 green infrastructure into existing wastewater man-
24 agement systems;

1 “(3) promote adoption of innovative green
2 transportation infrastructure systems by State and
3 local governments and the private sector; and

4 “(4) manage technology transfer programs to
5 disseminate information on best management prac-
6 tices in the area of green transportation infrastruc-
7 ture to State and local governments and the private
8 sector.

9 “(c) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

10 “(1) APPLICATIONS.—In order to be eligible to
11 receive a grant under this section, a nonprofit insti-
12 tution of higher learning or consortia thereof shall
13 submit to the Secretary an application that is in
14 such form and contains such information as the Sec-
15 retary may require.

16 “(2) MERIT REVIEW; PRIORITY.—Grants shall
17 be awarded under this section on a merit-reviewed
18 competitive basis.

19 “(3) REGIONAL CENTERS.—To the greatest ex-
20 tent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that
21 there is at least one grant recipient from each of the
22 10 United States Government regions that comprise
23 the Standard Federal Regional Boundary System.

24 “(4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Except as other-
25 wise provided by this section, the Secretary shall se-

1 lect each recipient of a grant under this section
2 through a merit-reviewed competitive process on the
3 basis of the following:

4 “(A) Demonstrated expertise in transpor-
5 tation research and environmental impacts of
6 transportation infrastructure.

7 “(B) Demonstrated research capacity and
8 technology transfer resources.

9 “(C) Existing or proposed partnerships
10 with State and local governments and private
11 industry involved in transportation-related con-
12 struction, environmental impact mitigation, or
13 other areas related to green transportation in-
14 frastructure research.

15 “(D) Capability to provide leadership in
16 developing national best management practices,
17 regional best management practices, or both in
18 the field of green transportation infrastructure.

19 “(E) Expertise in specific regional climate
20 characteristics which impact the effectiveness of
21 green transportation infrastructure technologies
22 and practices.

23 “(F) Demonstrated ability to disseminate
24 results of research and education programs

1 through a statewide or regionwide continuing
2 education program.

3 “(G) The strategic plan the recipient pro-
4 poses to carry out under the grant.

5 “(d) ACTIVITIES.—The types of activities the Sec-
6 retary may support under this section include the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(1) Research and development of innovative
9 technologies, construction techniques, or best man-
10 agement processes that mitigate the environmental
11 impact of transportation infrastructure, including—

12 “(A) assessments of the lifecycle environ-
13 mental impact of local existing or planned
14 transportation infrastructure;

15 “(B) integration of green transportation
16 infrastructure elements into existing transpor-
17 tation or waste management systems; and

18 “(C) research, development, testing, and
19 evaluation of new technologies or best manage-
20 ment practices.

21 “(2) Establishment and operation of a regional
22 technology transfer program to disseminate informa-
23 tion on new technologies and best management prac-
24 tices to State and local governments, institutions of
25 higher learning, and private industry in the region.

1 “(3) Study of the impact of State, local, and
2 Federal regulations on the implementation of green
3 transportation infrastructure technologies and prac-
4 tices. These studies shall include collaboration with
5 appropriate Federal agencies to evaluate the effect
6 of and possible changes to Federal and State regula-
7 tions that impede implementation of green transpor-
8 tation infrastructure.

9 “(4) Public education campaigns to raise
10 awareness of the benefits of green transportation in-
11 frastructure technologies, including activities to raise
12 awareness and foster collaboration among regional
13 governments, private industry, and other public and
14 private stakeholders.

15 “(e) ANNUAL MEETING.—The Secretary shall con-
16 vene an annual meeting of the Centers established pursu-
17 ant to this section in order to foster collaboration and
18 communication among Center participants and dissemi-
19 nate best management practices.

20 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
22 sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

23 “(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘green
24 transportation infrastructure’ includes infrastructure
25 that—

1 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
2 subclause (V);

3 (ii) by striking the period at the end
4 of subclause (VI); and

5 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new subclause:

7 “(VII) the use of green transpor-
8 tation infrastructure (as defined in
9 section 5505A(g) of title 49) for envi-
10 ronmental protection and mitigating
11 environmental impacts of transpor-
12 tation construction.”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following new
14 subparagraph:

15 “(D) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The
16 Institute shall coordinate the development of
17 curriculum and courses with other Federal
18 agencies with expertise in the course subject
19 areas.”; and

20 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) by striking “and
21 traffic safety countermeasures” and inserting “traf-
22 fic safety countermeasures, and options with respect
23 to green transportation infrastructure (as defined in
24 section 5505A(g) of title 49)”.

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