

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To increase the Federal operating share for rural transit, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. BALDWIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To increase the Federal operating share for rural transit, 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 “Investments in Rural
5 Transit Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
9 tion” means the Federal Transit Administration.

1 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the Administra-
3 tion.

4 (3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has
5 the meaning given the term in section 5302 of title
6 49, United States Code.

7 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of Transportation.

9 **SEC. 3. PROCUREMENT STREAMLINING.**

10 (a) EXPANSION.—Section 3019(b) of the FAST Act
11 (49 U.S.C. 5325 note) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

13 (A) in clause (i)(I), by inserting “or local”
14 after “State”;

15 (B) in clause (ii), by striking subclauses
16 (I) and (II) and inserting the following:

17 “(I) a nonprofit cooperative pur-
18 chasing organization that is not a
19 grantee;

20 “(II) a consortium of grantees;

21 or

22 “(III) a consortium of entities
23 described in subclause (I);”;

24 (C) in clause (iii), by inserting “or local”
25 after “State”; and

1 (D) by amending clause (v) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(v) the term ‘participate’ means to
4 purchase or procure under a cooperative
5 procurement contract, using assistance
6 provided under chapter 53 of title 49,
7 United States Code—

8 “(I) rolling stock and related
9 equipment;

10 “(II) farebox equipment, software
11 or technology; or

12 “(III) other equipment or tech-
13 nology eligible for assistance under
14 that chapter.”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting
17 “GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR ELI-
18 GIBLE NONPROFIT ENTITY” after “STATE”;

19 (B) by inserting “, local government, or el-
20 igible nonprofit entity” after “State govern-
21 ment” each place that term appears; and

22 (C) by inserting “or other equipment or
23 technology eligible under chapter 53 of title 49,
24 United States Code,” after “related equipment”
25 each place that term appears.

1 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary, acting
2 through the Administrator, shall—

3 (1) establish a process to solicit feedback from
4 grantees, State departments of transportation, and
5 other relevant parties for improving and stream-
6 lining joint procurement and cooperative procure-
7 ment and other strategies for improving rolling stock
8 procurement and other procurements;

9 (2) assess the feedback solicited under para-
10 graph (1) and make advisory recommendations to
11 improve and streamline—

12 (A) joint procurement;

13 (B) cooperative procurement; or

14 (C) other procurement strategies for roll-
15 ing stock;

16 (3) submit to Congress and make publicly avail-
17 able on the website of the Administration annual re-
18 ports on advisory recommendations concerning pro-
19 curement, including recommended statutory, regu-
20 latory, and or guidance changes and potential cost
21 savings.

22 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO MASS TRANSIT.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 53 of title 49, United
24 States Code, is amended—

25 (1) in section 5311—

1 (A) in subsection (g)(2)—

2 (i) by striking “ASSISTANCE” and all
3 that follows through “subparagraph (B),
4 a” and inserting “ASSISTANCE.—A”;

5 (ii) by striking “50” and inserting
6 “80”; and

7 (iii) by striking subparagraph (B);
8 and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(k) REGULATORY RELIEF.—The Secretary, acting
11 through the Administrator of the Federal Transit Admin-
12 istration, shall establish a process to make recommenda-
13 tions to the Administrator regarding regulatory relief for
14 recipients of assistance under this section, which shall in-
15 clude input from rural transit agencies, Tribal transit
16 agencies, State departments of transportation, and other
17 relevant parties.”; and

18 (2) in section 5339(b), by adding at the end the
19 following:

20 “(12) TRIBAL PROJECTS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
22 graph (B), not less than 5 percent of the
23 amounts made available under this subsection
24 in a fiscal year shall be distributed to Tribal
25 transit agencies.

1 “(B) UNUTILIZED AMOUNTS.—The Sec-
2 retary may use less than 5 percent of the
3 amounts made available under this subsection
4 in a fiscal year for the projects described in
5 subparagraph (A) if the Secretary cannot meet
6 the requirements of that subparagraph due to
7 insufficient eligible applications.

8 “(C) GOVERNMENT SHARE OF COSTS.—
9 The Federal share of the cost of an eligible
10 project carried out under this subsection shall
11 be up to 100 percent.”.

12 **SEC. 5. ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR PROGRAM MAN-**
13 **AGEMENT AND TRIBAL TRANSIT.**

14 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of
15 this Act, the Secretary shall designate an Associate Ad-
16 ministrator for Program Management and Tribal Transit
17 within the Administration, who shall, in addition to any
18 responsibilities assigned by the Secretary or the Adminis-
19 trator, focus on capacity-building, coordination, and tech-
20 nical assistance for Tribal transit.

21 **SEC. 6. JOINT REVIEW ON LOW- TO NO-EMISSION PRO-**
22 **CUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL**
23 **AREAS.**

24 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
25 of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary of Energy

1 shall consult with rural transit agencies, Tribal transit
2 agencies, and other relevant parties and issue a publicly
3 available joint report on opportunities to make the pro-
4 curement of low- and no-emission infrastructure by rural
5 transit agencies more efficient, in particular opportunities
6 to collaborate with other public entities in the community,
7 including school districts and municipalities.