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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program relating to the digitization of county roads and creation of publicly accessible road datasets, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MOORE of Utah introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program relating to the digitization of county roads and creation of publicly accessible road datasets, 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 “Modernizing Access
5 to Public Roads Act” or “MAP Roads Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY ROAD ACCESS AND**
2 **MAPPING PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
5 portation shall establish a pilot grant program to provide
6 grants to States to support rural commerce, increase pub-
7 lic safety, and improve public access and navigation by
8 funding the digitization of county roads and the creation
9 of centralized, publicly accessible road datasets.

10 (b) APPLICATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
12 grant under this Act, a State shall submit to the
13 Secretary an application at such time, in such form,
14 and containing such information as the Secretary
15 may require.

16 (2) PRIORITY.—In selecting an application for
17 a grant under this Act, the Secretary shall give pri-
18 ority to an application in which the applicant
19 State—

20 (A) identifies a significant deficiency in
21 digitized county roads within the State;

22 (B) demonstrates the capacity to admin-
23 ister—

24 (i) a subgrant program to distribute
25 funds to counties; and

1 (ii) a statewide repository for county
2 road data; and

3 (C) expresses a commitment to coordi-
4 nating with counties to create shared geospatial
5 data standards.

6 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

7 (1) COUNTY ACTIVITIES.—Funds distributed to
8 counties under this Act may be used to—

9 (A) digitize official county road records;

10 (B) convert paper maps or outdated for-
11 mats to standardized geospatial datasets; and

12 (C) train personnel or hire contractors to
13 assist in data creation and conversion.

14 (2) STATE REPOSITORY.—Each participating
15 State department of transportation shall—

16 (A) serve as the centralized data repository
17 for all road data produced by counties under
18 this program;

19 (B) ensure that such data—

20 (i) is published on a publicly acces-
21 sible website;

22 (ii) is organized in a manner that dis-
23 tinguishes between public and private
24 roads;

1 (iii) is compatible with third-party
2 mapping platforms; and

3 (iv) is updated at least annually; and

4 (C) to the maximum extent practicable, co-
5 ordinate with Federal agencies and mapping
6 authorities to align data formats and metadata.

7 (d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 6
8 months after the establishment of the program under sub-
9 section (a), and annually thereafter for 3 years, each State
10 awarded a grant under this section shall submit to the
11 Secretary a report, which shall include, with respect to the
12 period of time since the previous report—

13 (1) a list of counties that received a subgrant;

14 (2) the amount of funding distributed to each
15 county;

16 (3) the number of miles of county roads
17 digitized under the program;

18 (4) the status of State repository development
19 and data integration efforts; and

20 (5) any recommendations for improvement or
21 expansion of the program.

22 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

23 (1) COUNTY.—The term “county” has meaning
24 given the term in section 101 of title 23, United
25 States Code.

1 (2) COUNTY ROAD.—The term “county road”
2 means a public road that is recognized and main-
3 tained by a county government.

4 (3) DIGITIZATION.—The term “digitization”
5 means the process of converting physical or analog
6 map-based information into standardized electronic
7 formats to produce geospatial data.

8 (4) GEOSPATIAL DATA.—The term “geospatial
9 data” has the meaning given such term in section
10 752 of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C.
11 2801).

12 (f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act shall be
13 construed to—

14 (1) confer any new authority upon a county or
15 State to declare, designate, or assert jurisdiction
16 over a road as a county road where such designation
17 or jurisdiction does not otherwise exist under appli-
18 cable State or local law;

19 (2) alter, affect, or determine the legal status of
20 any road for purposes of ownership, jurisdiction, or
21 public access; or

22 (3) limit or expand any existing rights, claims,
23 or defenses related to road ownership, rights-of-way,
24 or public access under Federal, State, or local law.

1 (g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
2 may be construed to permit the public disclosure of geo-
3 graphic information system data regarding the nature, lo-
4 cation, character, or ownership of historic, paleontological,
5 or archaeological resources, that is protected under any
6 other provision of law.

7 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
9 appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000
10 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031, to re-
11 main available until expended.

12 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the funds
13 authorized to be appropriated under paragraph (1),
14 the Secretary may use not more than 2 percent of
15 such funds to administer the program established
16 under subsection (a).

17 (i) SUNSET.—The authority to make grants under
18 this Act shall terminate on September 30, 2031, unless
19 reauthorized by Congress.