

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3

To improve the environmental review process for Federal-aid highway projects through the use of interactive, digital, cloud-based platforms, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. OSSOFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To improve the environmental review process for Federal-aid highway projects through the use of interactive, digital, cloud-based platforms, 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 “Interactive Federal Re-
5 view Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DIGITAL PLATFORMS FOR NEPA REVIEWS FOR**
7 **HIGHWAY PROJECTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to expedite the environ-
9 mental review process at Federal agencies and for the gen-

1 eral public, and to facilitate interactive public stakeholder
2 engagement and understanding of environmental impacts
3 of projects under the Federal-aid highway system, the Sec-
4 retary of Transportation (referred to in this section as the
5 “Secretary”) shall—

6 (1) encourage recipients of Federal highway
7 funding to utilize interactive, digital, cloud-based
8 platforms when carrying out environmental reviews
9 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
10 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by publishing the
11 guidance described in subsection (b)(1); and

12 (2) select not less than 10 Federal-aid highway
13 projects to demonstrate the use of interactive, dig-
14 ital, cloud-based platforms in carrying out the envi-
15 ronmental impact analysis and community engage-
16 ment processes required under that Act, which may
17 include projects in States participating in the sur-
18 face transportation project delivery program under
19 section 327 of title 23, United States Code.

20 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—

21 (1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
23 shall publish technology-neutral best practice guid-
24 ance to encourage sponsors of projects that receive
25 Federal funds from the Secretary to use an inter-

1 active, digital, cloud-based platform in carrying out
2 the environmental impact analysis and community
3 engagement processes required under the National
4 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321
5 et seq.).

6 (2) REPORTS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
8 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
9 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
10 Environment and Public Works of the Senate
11 and the Committee on Transportation and In-
12 frastructure of the House of Representatives a
13 report on the efficacy of using interactive,
14 cloud-based platforms in carrying out environ-
15 mental impact analysis and community engage-
16 ment requirements under the National Environ-
17 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
18 seq.), including—

19 (i) metrics that describe estimates of
20 achieved efficiencies, community engage-
21 ment measures, and efficiencies enjoyed
22 across Federal agencies; and

23 (ii) examples of digital workflows en-
24 abled.

1 (B) PUBLICATION OF EXAMPLES.—Not
2 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of
3 this Act, the Secretary shall publish on the
4 website of the Department of Transportation,
5 and submit to the Committee on Environment
6 and Public Works of the Senate and the Com-
7 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
8 the House of Representatives, not less than 5
9 examples of an environmental impact state-
10 ment, environmental assessment, or categorical
11 exclusion document developed using an inter-
12 active, digital, cloud-based platform.

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