

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 768

To amend section 5303 of title 49, United States Code, to consider housing in metropolitan transportation planning, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 16, 2021

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To amend section 5303 of title 49, United States Code, to consider housing in metropolitan transportation planning, 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 “Better Planning and
5 Land-Use for Accessible Neighborhoods Act” or the “Bet-
6 ter PLAN Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.**

8 Section 5303 of title 49, United States Code, is
9 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “and bet-
 2 ter connect housing and employment” after “urban-
 3 ized areas”;

4 (2) in subsection (g)(3)(A), by inserting “hous-
 5 ing,” after “economic development,”;

6 (3) in subsection (h)(1)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “,
 8 housing,” after “growth”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (H), by striking
 10 “and” at the end;

11 (C) in subparagraph (I), by striking the
 12 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (D) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(J) enhance the integration and
 15 connectivity of the transportation system by
 16 better connecting housing to employment.”;

17 (4) in subsection (i)—

18 (A) in paragraph (4)(B)—

19 (i) by redesignating clauses (iii)
 20 through (vi) as clauses (iv) through (vii),
 21 respectively; and

22 (ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
 23 following:

24 “(iii) assumed distribution of popu-
 25 lation and housing.”;

1 (B) in paragraph (5)(A), by inserting
 2 “housing,” after “conservation,”; and

3 (C) in paragraph (6)(A), by inserting “af-
 4 fordable housing organizations,” after “dis-
 5 abled,”; and

6 (5) in subsection (k)—

7 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and
 8 (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

9 (B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
 10 following:

11 “(4) HOUSING COORDINATION PROCESS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Within a metropolitan
 13 planning area serving a transportation manage-
 14 ment area, the transportation planning process
 15 under this section shall address the integration
 16 of housing, transportation, and economic devel-
 17 opment strategies through a process that pro-
 18 vides for effective integration, based on a coop-
 19 eratively developed and implemented strategy,
 20 of new and existing transportation facilities eli-
 21 gible for funding under this chapter and title
 22 23.

23 “(B) COORDINATION IN INTEGRATED
 24 PLANNING PROCESS.—In carrying out the proc-

1 ess described in subparagraph (A), a metropoli-
2 tan planning organization shall—

3 “(i) consult with—

4 “(I) State and local entities re-
5 sponsible for land use, economic devel-
6 opment, housing, management of road
7 networks, or public transportation;
8 and

9 “(II) other appropriate public or
10 private entities; and

11 “(ii) coordinate, to the extent prac-
12 ticable, with applicable State and local en-
13 tities to align the goals of the process with
14 the goals of any comprehensive housing af-
15 fordability strategies established within the
16 metropolitan planning area pursuant to
17 section 105 of the Cranston-Gonzalez Na-
18 tional Affordable Housing Act (12 U.S.C.
19 12705) and plans developed under section
20 5A of the United States Housing Act of
21 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437c-1).

22 “(C) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary shall es-
23 tablish an appropriate phase-in schedule for
24 compliance with the requirements of this para-
25 graph, but no sooner than—

1 “(i) 1 year after the identification of
2 a transportation management area; or

3 “(ii) with respect to a transportation
4 management area in existence on the day
5 before the date of enactment of this para-
6 graph, 1 year after the date of enactment
7 of this paragraph.

8 “(D) HOUSING COORDINATION PLAN.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A metropolitan
10 planning organization serving a transpor-
11 tation management area may develop a
12 housing coordination plan that includes
13 projects and strategies that will be consid-
14 ered in the metropolitan transportation
15 plan of the metropolitan planning organi-
16 zation.

17 “(ii) CONTENTS.—A plan described in
18 clause (i) may—

19 “(I) develop regional goals for
20 the integration of housing, transpor-
21 tation, and economic development
22 strategies to—

23 “(aa) better connect housing
24 and employment while mitigating
25 commuting times;

1 “(bb) align transportation
2 improvements with housing
3 needs, such as housing supply
4 shortages, and proposed housing
5 development;

6 “(cc) align planning for
7 housing and transportation to ad-
8 dress needs in relationship to
9 household incomes within the
10 metropolitan planning area;

11 “(dd) expand housing and
12 economic development within the
13 catchment areas of existing
14 transportation facilities and pub-
15 lic transportation services when
16 appropriate, including higher-
17 density development, as locally
18 determined;

19 “(ee) manage effects of
20 growth of vehicle miles traveled
21 experienced in the metropolitan
22 planning area related to housing
23 development and economic devel-
24 opment;

1 “(ff) increase share of
2 households with sufficient and af-
3 fordable access to the transpor-
4 tation networks of the metropoli-
5 tan planning area;

6 “(II) identify the location of ex-
7 isting and planned housing and em-
8 ployment, and transportation options
9 that connect housing and employment;
10 and

11 “(III) include a comparison of
12 transportation plans to land use man-
13 agement plans, including zoning
14 plans, that may affect road use, public
15 transportation ridership and housing
16 development.”.

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