

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6111

To require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Secretary of Transportation to take certain actions to develop physical alternatives to better protect pedestrians and vulnerable road users against traffic incidents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, 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 require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Secretary of Transportation to take certain actions to develop physical alternatives to better protect pedestrians and vulnerable road users against traffic incidents, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Pedestrian Hazard,
3 Awareness, and Safety Expansion Act of 2023” or the
4 “PHASE Act of 2023”.

5 **SEC. 2. NIST INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE**
6 **AND ENHANCE TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.**

7 The Director of the National Institute of Standards
8 and Technology shall transmit to the Secretary of Trans-
9 portation potential solutions using innovative technologies
10 to improve and enhance traffic control devices to better
11 equip vehicle operators, including bicycles and protect pe-
12 destrians and vulnerable road users. The Director shall
13 provide supporting evidence to ensure such potential solu-
14 tions do not overwhelm, overstimulate, or otherwise dis-
15 tract vehicle operators, including bicyclists or pedestrians.
16 Such potential solutions shall comply with all applicable
17 Federal regulations.

18 **SEC. 3. PHYSICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PROTECT PEDES-**
19 **TRIANS AND VULNERABLE ROAD USERS.**

20 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall
21 carry out a study on developing physical alternatives to
22 better protect pedestrians and vulnerable road users from
23 traffic incidents that—

24 (1) analyzes urban areas, as determined by the
25 Bureau of the Census, in which pedestrian fatalities
26 have increased in the data available as of the date

1 of enactment of this Act to study where crashes in-
2 volving pedestrians occur most frequently;

3 (2) examine physical alternatives to reduce vehi-
4 cle crashes with vulnerable road users and fatalities,
5 including pedestrians; and

6 (3) studies intelligent speed assistance and
7 blind spot detection safety systems' impact on the
8 safety of vulnerable road users including the ability
9 of blind spot detection to detect all road users in a
10 timely manner.

11 (b) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
13 brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
14 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
15 Representative on the results of the study.

16 (c) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish
17 a grant program to provide grants to cities, Indian Tribes,
18 and municipalities to implement infrastructure that com-
19 plies with all applicable Federal regulations and the Amer-
20 icans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et
21 seq.) and improves pedestrian safety, including—

22 (1) innovative technology for crosswalks;

23 (2) additional pedestrian facilities both on and
24 off the road;

25 (3) expanded buffer zones;

- 1 (4) pedestrian crossings;
- 2 (5) increased pedestrian accommodation on
- 3 bridges;
- 4 (6) upgraded highway traffic signals;
- 5 (7) accessible pedestrian signals;
- 6 (8) accessible sidewalks;
- 7 (9) increased signage;
- 8 (10) increased lighting at crossings;
- 9 (11) adaptive or intelligent roadway and pedes-
- 10 trian lighting;
- 11 (12) accessible curb ramps; and
- 12 (13) marked crosswalks and grade-separated
- 13 crossings.

14 (d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
15 under subsection (c), an applicant shall submit to the Sec-
16 retary an application at such time, in such manner, and
17 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each fiscal
20 year to carry out the grant program described under sub-
21 section (c).

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