

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 302

To enhance tribal road safety, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To enhance tribal road safety, 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 “John P. Smith Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**

6 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
7 retary of the Interior.

8 **SEC. 3. APPLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS TO**
9 **CERTAIN TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILI-**
10 **TIES.**

11 (a) DEFINITION OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION SAFE-
12 TY PROJECT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
2 “tribal transportation safety project” means a
3 project described in paragraph (2) that is eligible for
4 funding under section 202 of title 23, United States
5 Code, and that—

6 (A) corrects or improves a hazardous road
7 location or feature; or

8 (B) addresses a highway safety problem.

9 (2) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—A project de-
10 scribed in this paragraph is a project for one or
11 more of the following:

12 (A) An intersection safety improvement.

13 (B) Pavement and shoulder widening (in-
14 cluding the addition of a passing lane to remedy
15 an unsafe condition).

16 (C) Installation of rumble strips or another
17 warning device, if the rumble strips or other
18 warning devices do not adversely affect the
19 safety or mobility of bicyclists and pedestrians,
20 including persons with disabilities.

21 (D) Installation of a skid-resistant surface
22 at an intersection or other location with a high
23 frequency of crashes.

1 (E) An improvement for pedestrian or bi-
2 cyclist safety or the safety of persons with dis-
3 abilities.

4 (F) Construction and improvement of a
5 railway-highway grade crossing safety feature,
6 including the installation of protective devices.

7 (G) The conduct of a model traffic enforce-
8 ment activity at a railway-highway crossing.

9 (H) Construction of a traffic calming fea-
10 ture.

11 (I) Elimination of a roadside hazard.

12 (J) Installation, replacement, and other
13 improvements of highway signage and pavement
14 markings or a project to maintain minimum
15 levels of retroreflectivity that addresses a high-
16 way safety problem consistent with a State
17 strategic highway safety plan.

18 (K) Installation of a priority control sys-
19 tem for emergency vehicles at signalized inter-
20 sections.

21 (L) Installation of a traffic control or other
22 warning device at a location with high crash po-
23 tential.

24 (M) Transportation safety planning.

1 (N) Collection, analysis, and improvement
2 of safety data.

3 (O) Planning integrated interoperable
4 emergency communications equipment, oper-
5 ational activities, or traffic enforcement activi-
6 ties (including police assistance) relating to
7 work zone safety.

8 (P) Installation of guardrails, barriers (in-
9 cluding barriers between construction work
10 zones and traffic lanes for the safety of road
11 users and workers), and crash attenuators.

12 (Q) The addition or retrofitting of struc-
13 tures or other measures to eliminate or reduce
14 crashes involving vehicles and wildlife.

15 (R) Installation of yellow-green signs and
16 signals at pedestrian and bicycle crossings and
17 in school zones.

18 (S) Construction and operational improve-
19 ments on a high risk rural road (as defined in
20 section 148(a) of title 23, United States Code).

21 (T) Geometric improvements to a road for
22 the purposes of safety improvement.

23 (U) A road safety audit.

24 (V) Roadway safety infrastructure im-
25 provements consistent with the recommenda-

tions included in the publication of the Federal Highway Administration entitled “Handbook for Designing Roadways for the Aging Population” (FHWA–SA–14–015), dated June 2014 (or a revised or updated publication).

(W) Truck parking facilities eligible for funding under section 1401 of MAP–21 (23 U.S.C. 137 note; Public Law 112–141).

(X) Systemic safety improvements.

(Y) Installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communication equipment.

(Z) Pedestrian hybrid beacons.

(AA) Roadway improvements that provide separation between pedestrians and motor vehicles, including medians and pedestrian crossing islands.

(BB) A physical infrastructure safety project not described in subparagraphs (A) through (AA).

(b) NEW CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—

(1) REVIEW OF EXISTING CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—The Secretary shall review the categorical exclusions under section 771.117 of title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), to determine which, if any, are applicable for use by

1 the Secretary in review of projects eligible for assist-
2 ance under section 202 of title 23, United States
3 Code.

4 (2) REVIEW OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION
5 SAFETY PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall identify
6 tribal transportation safety projects that meet the
7 requirements for categorical exclusions under sec-
8 tions 1507.3 and 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal
9 Regulations.

10 (3) PROPOSAL.—The Secretary shall issue a
11 proposed rule, in accordance with sections 1507.3
12 and 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations,
13 to propose any categorical exclusions identified
14 under paragraphs (1) and (2).

15 (4) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, and after consid-
17 ering any comments on the proposed rule issued
18 under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall promulgate
19 a final rule for the categorical exclusions, in accord-
20 ance with sections 1507.3 and 1508.4 of title 40,
21 Code of Federal Regulations.

22 (5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of
23 Transportation shall provide technical assistance to
24 the Secretary in carrying out this subsection.

1 (c) REVIEWS OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY
2 PROJECTS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the head of
4 another Federal agency responsible for a decision re-
5 lated to a tribal transportation safety project shall
6 complete any approval or decision for the review of
7 the tribal transportation safety project required
8 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
9 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other applica-
10 ble Federal law on an expeditious basis using the
11 shortest existing applicable process.

12 (2) REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—Not later than
13 45 days after the date of receipt of a complete appli-
14 cation by an Indian tribe for approval of a tribal
15 transportation safety project, the Secretary shall—

16 (A) take final action on the application; or

17 (B) provide the Indian tribe a schedule for
18 completion of the review described in paragraph
19 (1), including the identification of any other
20 Federal agency that has jurisdiction with re-
21 spect to the project.

22 (3) DECISIONS UNDER OTHER FEDERAL
23 LAWS.—In any case in which a decision under any
24 other Federal law relating to a tribal transportation
25 safety project (including the issuance or denial of a

1 permit or license) is required, not later than 45 days
2 after the Secretary has made all decisions of the
3 lead agency under the National Environmental Pol-
4 icy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with re-
5 spect to the project, the head of the Federal agency
6 responsible for the decision shall—

7 (A) make the applicable decision; or

8 (B) provide the Indian tribe a schedule for
9 making the decision.

10 (4) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary or the head
11 of an applicable Federal agency may extend the pe-
12 riod under paragraph (2) or (3), as applicable, by an
13 additional 30 days by providing the Indian tribe no-
14 tice of the extension, including a statement of the
15 need for the extension.

16 (5) NOTIFICATION AND EXPLANATION.—In any
17 case in which a required action is not completed by
18 the deadline under paragraph (2), (3), or (4), as ap-
19 plicable, the Secretary or the head of a Federal
20 agency, as applicable, shall—

21 (A) notify the Committee on Indian Affairs
22 of the Senate and the Committee on Natural
23 Resources of the House of Representatives of
24 the failure to comply with the deadline; and

(B) provide to the Committees described in subparagraph (A) a detailed explanation of the reasons for the failure to comply with the deadline.

SEC. 4. PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENTS FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into programmatic agreements with Indian tribes that establish efficient administrative procedures for carrying out environmental reviews for projects eligible for assistance under section 202 of title 23, United States Code.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—A programmatic agreement under subsection (a)—

(1) may include an agreement that allows an Indian tribe to determine, on behalf of the Secretary, whether a project is categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) shall—

(A) require that the Indian tribe maintain adequate capacity in terms of personnel and other resources to carry out applicable agency responsibilities pursuant to section 1507.2 of

1 title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or suc-
2 cessor regulations);

3 (B) set forth the responsibilities of the In-
4 dian tribe for making categorical exclusion de-
5 terminations, documenting the determinations,
6 and achieving acceptable quality control and
7 quality assurance;

8 (C) allow—

9 (i) the Secretary to monitor compli-
10 ance of the Indian tribe with the terms of
11 the agreement; and

12 (ii) the Indian tribe to execute any
13 needed corrective action;

14 (D) contain stipulations for amendments,
15 termination, and public availability of the agree-
16 ment once the agreement has been executed;
17 and

18 (E) have a term of not more than 5 years,
19 with an option for renewal based on a review by
20 the Secretary of the performance of the Indian
21 tribe.

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