

S 1202

Reconnecting Communities Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Apr 19, 2021

Current Status: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported favorably.

Latest Action: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported favorably. (Dec 15, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1202>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]

Party: Democratic • **State:** DE • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 19, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Apr 19, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 19, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 19, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 19, 2021
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 19, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 19, 2021
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Apr 19, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 19, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2833	Identical bill	Apr 27, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
117 HR 2859	Related bill	Apr 27, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

Reconnecting Communities Act

This bill establishes a grant program to remove, retrofit, or otherwise address infrastructural barriers (e.g., highways, railways, or viaducts) that impede mobility and connectivity, with a particular focus on communities of color and low-income communities.

Under this program, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must award three types of grants:

- community engagement, education, and capacity-building grants to educate and involve community members in transportation and economic development planning;
- planning and feasibility study grants to develop designs, conduct environmental reviews, and carry out other preliminary activities required to remove, retrofit, or mitigate an infrastructural barrier; and
- capital construction grants to remove, retrofit, or mitigate an infrastructure barrier.

DOT must award the community engagement, education, and capacity-building grants and the planning and feasibility study grants to state, tribal, and local governments; metropolitan planning organizations; and nonprofits. An eligible entity may apply for and receive funding from more than one type of grant.

DOT must award the capital construction grants to the owner of an infrastructure barrier. The owner may, if applicable, partner with other eligible entities.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 15, 2021:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported favorably.
- **Apr 19, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 19, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2036)