H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a national bridge replacement and improvement program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. EMMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ________________

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a national bridge replacement and improvement program, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. NATIONAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

3 (a) Establishment.—Not later than 180 days after

4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-

5 portation shall establish a national bridge replacement and

6 improvement program (in this section referred to as the
“Program”) to assist safety improvements for high-risk
intersections and interchanges.

(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the Pro-
gram, the Secretary may make grants on a competitive
basis to covered entities.

c) PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may
only make a grant under the Program to assist a project
that—

(1) is a bridge on a Federal-aid highway that
is eligible for funding under title 23, United States
Code; and

(2) will—

(A) restore or increase the structural ca-
pacity of the bridge;

(B) correct a major safety defect of the
bridge; or

(C) replace an existing bridge with a new
bridge that—

(i) is in the same general traffic cor-
rider as the bridge being replaced, as de-
termined by the Secretary; and

(ii) meets the requirements of sub-
paragraph (A) or (B).

d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under
the Program, a covered entity shall submit to the Sec-
retary an application in such form, at such time, and con-
taining such information as the Secretary determines is
appropriate.

(e) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount provided to
a covered entity in a fiscal year through grants under the
Program may not exceed 5 percent of the amount made
available for all grants under the Program in that fiscal
year.

(f) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—At least 90 days be-
fore establishing the Program under subsection (a), the
Secretary shall submit to Congress a report detailing the
selection process the Secretary shall use in making grants
under the Program.

(g) COVERED ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the
term “covered entity” means any of the following:

(1) A State government entity.

(2) A local government entity.

(3) A territory of the United States.

(4) A Tribal government.

(5) A metropolitan planning organization.

(6) Any entity composed of 2 or more entities
described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other
than the Mass Transit Account) to carry out the Program $1,250,000,000 for each fiscal year.

(2) Applicability of Title 23, United States Code.—Funds authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be available for obligation in the same manner as if those funds were apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, except that the Federal share of the cost of a project or activity carried out using such funds shall be 80 percent; and

(B) remain available until expended and not be transferable.