

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: May 10, 2013

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 13-0002-S70
Assignment No. 13-050377

SUBJECT: **Resolution (LaBonge-Buscaino) to SUPPORT HR 1419 (Hahn), the “Bridge to Jobs Act,”** which would provide grant funds to eligible states for the repair or replacement of structurally deficient highway bridges as well as help put Americans back to work and boost the ailing economy

CLA RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT Resolution (LaBonge-Buscaino), which proposes, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that the City of Los Angeles include in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 1419 (Hahn), the “Bridge to Jobs Act,” which would provide federal grants to states for the repair or replacement of structurally deficient highway bridges, create needed jobs, and boost the ailing economy.

SUMMARY:

Resolution (LaBonge-Buscaino), introduced on April 30, 2013, proposes that the City include in its current Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 1419 (Hahn), the “Bridge to Jobs Act,” which would provide federal grant funds to states for the repair or replacement of structurally deficient highway bridges, as determined by the Federal Highway Administration, as well as help to put Americans back to work and boost the ailing economy.

The Resolution argues that the long-standing transportation infrastructure crisis that exists throughout the nation must be addressed as soon as possible to reduce serious threats to public safety as well as to support our struggling economy. According to the Resolution, studies have shown that our nation’s crumbling transportation infrastructure imposes great costs on American businesses and families to the tune of about \$130 billion per year and will continue to grow, in terms of higher transportation costs, falling household incomes, reduced U.S. exports and continuing unemployment. If we don’t act now, the nation will continue to lose its competitive edge in the global marketplace.

The Resolution advises that H.R. 1419 (Hahn) would help states to repair or replace deteriorating highway bridges while also creating construction-related jobs for thousands of Americans who want and need to go back to work. The Resolution therefore proposes that the City, with the Mayor’s concurrence, include in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 1419 (Hahn), the “Bridge to Jobs Act.”

BACKGROUND:

H.R. 1419 (Hahn) would authorize to be appropriated for FY 2014 \$500,000,000 to the Federal Highway Administration for the purpose of making grants to qualifying states, not to exceed \$10,000,000 per state, for the repair or replacement of a structurally deficient highway bridge, as determined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

States would need to:

- Apply for the grant within the next two years;
- Certify that the grant funds would be used only to pay for costs to repair or replace the bridge selected by the State;
- Include projected costs and a proposal for the repair or replacement of the bridge.


If a State is successful in receiving a grant, it would be required to submit reports to the Secretary of Transportation detailing the progress of the project and accounting for all project-related expenses.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED: Engineering, Harbor

BILL STATUS:

Introduced April 9, 2013.

Referred to House Committee on Transportation, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing not yet set.



Christine Yee Hollis
Analyst

Attachments: Resolution (LaBonge-Buscaino), introduced April 30, 2013
H.R. 1419 (Hahn), introduced April 9, 2013

13-0002-570

RESOLUTION

APR 30 2013

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELAT

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, while unemployment has improved within the past year, it is still strangling our economy; approximately 40 percent of jobless Americans--who lost their jobs through no fault of their own--have been out of work for six months or longer, and the longer they wait, the harder it is for them to find jobs; and

WHEREAS, we also have an infrastructure crisis; there are 69,223 bridges that have been classified as structurally deficient by the Federal Highway Administration; leaving these bridges in their current state of disrepair poses a grave threat not only to our safety, but also to our economy; and

WHEREAS, our aging transportation infrastructure costs American businesses and families about \$130 billion a year and if we don't act now, it could cost America hundreds of billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs by the end of the decade; and


WHEREAS, studies have shown that our crumbling infrastructure threatens our competitive edge in the world economy; if nothing is done to improve our infrastructure, U.S. businesses would pay an added \$430 billion in transportation costs, household incomes would fall by more than \$7,000, and U.S. exports will fall by \$28 billion; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in Congress is a bill, HR 1419 (Hahn) the Bridge to Jobs Act, which would provide states with grants to put Americans back to work by repairing crumbling bridges; and

WHEREAS, not only will this legislation put Americans back to work and bolster our ailing economy, it will also ensure the safety of the millions who use these bridges each and every day;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013 and 2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 1419 (Hahn), the Bridge to Jobs Act, which would provide states with grants to put Americans back to work by repairing crumbling bridges.

PRESENTED BY: 
TOM LABONGE
Councilman, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 



April 30, 2013

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OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1419

To provide funds to each State to cover all the costs to repair or reconstruct a bridge determined by the Federal Highway Administration to be structurally deficient.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2013

Ms. HAIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide funds to each State to cover all the costs to repair or reconstruct a bridge determined by the Federal Highway Administration to be structurally deficient.

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 “Bridge to Jobs Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. BRIDGE PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation
7 may provide a grant to each State that meets the require-
8 ments of subsection (b) to repair or replace a structurally

1 deficient bridge as determined by the Federal Highway
2 Administration.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
4 under this Act, a State shall—

5 (1) apply to the Secretary at such time and in
6 such manner as the Secretary may reasonably re-
7 quire, but not later than 2 years after the Secretary
8 begins accepting applications;

9 (2) certify that any funds received under this
10 Act shall be used only to pay for the costs directly
11 or indirectly related to the repair or replacement of
12 the bridge selected by such State; and

13 (3) include in its application, projected costs of
14 such project, and its proposal regarding whether to
15 repair or replace such bridge.

16 (c) APPLICATION ACCEPTABILITY.—If the Secretary
17 determines that an application is incomplete or unaccept-
18 able, the Secretary shall advise the State of the reasons
19 for rejection. The State may address the inadequacies in
20 the application and reapply during the 2-year period re-
21 ferred to in subsection (b)(1).

22 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives funds
23 under this Act may use such funds for any costs directly
24 or indirectly related to the repair or replacement of the
25 selected bridge, including administrative expenses and any

1 job training program established for the bridge repair or
2 replacement project.

3 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1
4 year after a State receives grant funds under this Act and
5 each year thereafter until the bridge repair or replacement
6 project is completed, such State shall submit a report to
7 the Secretary detailing the progress of the project and ac-
8 count for all expenses related to the project.

9 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 (1) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be ap-
11 propriated \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 to
12 carry out this Act and such funds shall remain avail-
13 able until the end of the 2-year period referred to in
14 subsection (b)(1).

15 (2) GRANT AWARDS.—The Secretary may
16 award each State that is eligible for a grant under
17 this Act not more than \$10,000,000.

18 (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
19 may award grants under this Act for the 2-year pe-
20 riod referred to in subsection (b)(1).

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