

The Sustainable Highways Innovation Act

U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff

The *Sustainable Highways Innovation Act* will permit clean energy generation, high-speed internet transmission, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure on the empty spaces in America's under-utilized highway rights-of-way.

These highway rights-of-way (ROW) include the mostly-empty land alongside highways and median zones.

Sen. Ossoff's bill helps connect America by unlocking these millions of acres of unused public space for infrastructure, **supporting the mass adoption of electric vehicles, a swift transition to clean energy, an upgraded and more secure grid, and universal high-speed internet.**

This bill allows State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) to use interstate highway rights-of-way for:

- broadband projects;
- renewable energy generation projects, like solar arrays;
- electrical transmission and distribution projects; and
- electric vehicle or other clean alternative fueling stations.

Such uses will always prioritize the safety and utility of the road as the primary use of the corridor.

The bill also encourages states to manage highway rights-of-way with environmentally sound vegetative practices, like growing native grasses or pollinator meadows instead of turf grass.

State DOTs would continue to own the rights-of-way, but could generate revenues via public-private partnerships for purposes specified by the bill, allowing state DOTs to:

- generate revenue;
- more efficiently utilize and maintain rights of way;
- upgrade and secure the electricity transmission and storage grid;
- produce renewable energy;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution;

- accelerate attainment of universal broadband access; and
- create new markets for new products made by American companies and workers.