

# ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR *for* CALIFORNIA

## *Emergency Vehicle and Community (EVAC) Planning Act*

Sens. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Bill Cassidy (R-La.)

### **Background:**

- In the event of a natural disaster, people need to efficiently access evacuation routes that have been strategically designed to save lives and move people out of the area quickly.
- Unfortunately, many cities, counties, and Tribal governments —especially those that are rural or low-income — are often the most vulnerable to disaster and yet are also the least likely to have the resources and in-house expertise necessary to develop comprehensive and efficient emergency evacuation routes.
- While federal agencies have previously published guidance on route planning and route selection, few resources exist for local officials to utilize during the infrastructure transportation planning process to ensure they adequately consider the impact on future emergency route capacity and plans.

### **What the bill would do:**

- Direct the Department of Transportation (DOT), in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to develop and publicly disseminate guidance and best practices for States, territories, Indian Tribes, and local governments to utilize when conducting transportation infrastructure planning to ensure necessary considerations for local evacuation route planning.