To amend title 23, United States Code, to incorporate regional transportation planning organizations into statewide transportation planning, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 134(b) of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively; and
(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘regional transportation planning organization’ means a policy board of an organization created as the result of the designation process in section 135(k).”.

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 135(e) of such title is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “consider”;

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) with respect to nonmetropolitan areas, cooperate with affected nonmetropolitan local officials with responsibility for transportation through regional transportation planning organizations described in subsection (k);”;

(3) in paragraph (2) by striking “the concerns” and inserting “consider the concerns”; and

(4) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “coordination of” and inserting “coordinate”; and
(B) by striking “the transportation improvement program” and inserting “transportation improvement programs”.

(c) LONG-RANGE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.—Section 135(f)(2) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS.—With respect to nonmetropolitan areas, the statewide transportation plan shall be developed in cooperation with affected nonmetropolitan local officials with responsibility for transportation through regional transportation planning organizations described in subsection (k).”; and

(2) in subparagraph (D)(i) by striking “and local agencies responsible for” and inserting “regional, and local agencies responsible for economic development, emergency management, transportation planning.”.

(d) STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—Section 135(g) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS.—With respect to each nonmetropolitan area in the
State, the program shall be developed in co-
operation with affected nonmetropolitan local
officials with responsibility for transportation
through regional transportation planning orga-
nizations described in subsection (k).”; and
(2) in the first sentence of paragraph (5) by
striking “for transportation.” and inserting “for
transportation through regional transportation plan-
ning organizations described in subsection (k).”.
(e) FUNDING.—Section 135(h) of such title is amend-
ed by striking “104(f) of” and inserting “104(f) and sec-
tion 505 of”.
(f) DESIGNATION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 135 of such title is
amended by adding at the end the following:
“(k) DESIGNATION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the transpor-
tation planning process required by this section,
States shall establish, designate, and use amounts
made available to the State to carry out this section
to fund regional transportation planning organiza-
tions to enhance the planning, coordination, and im-
plementation of statewide transportation plans and
programs, with an emphasis on addressing the needs of nonmetropolitan areas of the State.

“(2) STRUCTURE.—A regional transportation planning organization shall be established as a multi-jurisdictional organization of nonmetropolitan local officials or their designees who volunteer for such organization and representatives of local transportation systems who volunteer for such organization.

“(3) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—A regional transportation planning organization shall be formed by a memorandum of understanding between the State and nonmetropolitan local officials or as otherwise provided under State law.

“(4) FUNCTION.—A regional transportation planning organization shall work cooperatively to plan, coordinate, and implement transportation systems in nonmetropolitan areas.

“(5) REQUIREMENTS.—Each regional transportation planning organization shall, at a minimum, establish—

“(A) a policy committee, the majority of which shall consist of nonmetropolitan local officials, or their designees, and which shall also include, as appropriate, additional representa-
tives from the State, private business, transportation service providers, economic development practitioners, and the public in the region; and

“(B) a fiscal and administrative agent, such as an existing regional planning and development organization, to provide professional planning, management, and administrative support.

“(6) DUTIES.—The duties of a regional transportation planning organization shall include—

“(A) ensuring nonmetropolitan local officials are meaningfully involved in the statewide transportation planning process;

“(B) developing and maintaining, in cooperation with the State, regional long-range multimodal transportation plans;

“(C) developing a regional transportation improvement program for consideration by the State;

“(D) fostering the coordination of local planning, land use, and economic development plans with State, regional, and local transportation plans and programs;

“(E) providing technical assistance to local officials;
“(F) participating in national, multistate, and State policy and planning development processes to ensure the regional and local input of nonmetropolitan areas;

“(G) providing a forum for public participation in the statewide and regional transportation planning processes;

“(H) considering and sharing plans and programs with neighboring regional transportation planning organizations, metropolitan planning organizations, and, where appropriate, tribal organizations; and

“(I) conducting other duties, as necessary, to support and enhance the statewide planning process under subsection (d).”.