

lessons learned from the pilot program, any recommendations based on feedback from maritime stakeholders, States, Indian Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders, and recommendations for establishing future marine highways in the United States.”

**DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF MAP**

Pub. L. 117-263, div. C, title XXXV, § 3521(f), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3080, provided that: “Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 23, 2022], the Maritime Administration shall make publicly available the map of marine highway program routes required to be made publicly available under subsection (c) of section 55601 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this section.”

**§ 55602. Cargo and shippers**

(a) **MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENT.**—The Secretary of Transportation shall enter into memorandums of understanding with the heads of other Federal entities to transport federally owned or generated cargo using a marine highway transportation project designated under section 55601 when practical or available.

(b) **SHORT-TERM INCENTIVES.**—The Secretary shall consult shippers and other participants in transportation logistics and develop proposals for short-term incentives to encourage the use of marine highway transportation.

(Added Pub. L. 110-140, title XI, § 1121(a), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1761; amended Pub. L. 116-283, div. G, title LVXXXIII [LXXXIII], § 8332(d)(4), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4705.)

**Editorial Notes**

**AMENDMENTS**

2021—Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “marine highway” for “short sea” in subsecs. (a) and (b).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective 1 day after Dec. 19, 2007, see section 1601 of Pub. L. 110-140, set out as a note under section 1824 of Title 2, The Congress.

**§ 55603. Multistate, State, Tribal, and regional transportation planning**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with Federal entities, State and local governments, Tribal governments, and appropriate private sector entities, may develop strategies to encourage the use of marine highway transportation for transportation of passengers and cargo.

(b) **STRATEGIES.**—If the Secretary develops strategies under subsection (a), the Secretary may—

(1) assess the extent to which States, local governments, and Tribal governments include marine highway transportation and other marine transportation solutions in transportation planning;

(2) encourage State and Tribal departments of transportation to develop strategies, where appropriate, to incorporate marine highway transportation, ferries, and other marine transportation solutions for regional and interstate transport of freight and passengers in transportation planning; and

(3) encourage groups of States, Tribal governments, and multistate transportation entities to determine how marine highways can address congestion, bottlenecks, and other interstate transportation challenges.

(Added Pub. L. 117-263, div. C, title XXXV, § 3521(b)(1), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3078.)

**Editorial Notes**

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 55603, added Pub. L. 110-140, title XI, § 1121(a), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1761, which related to an interagency board to identify and seek solutions to impediments hindering effective use of short sea transportation, was repealed by Pub. L. 116-283, div. G, title LVXXXIII [LXXXIII], § 8332(d)(1), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4704.

**§ 55604. Research on marine highway transportation**

The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, may conduct research on marine highway transportation, regarding—

(1) the economic effects of marine highway transportation on the United States economy;

(2) the effects of marine highway transportation, including with respect to the provision of additional transportation options, on rural areas;

(3) the environmental and transportation benefits to be derived from marine highway transportation alternatives for other forms of transportation;

(4) technology, vessel design, and other improvements that would reduce emissions, increase fuel economy, and lower costs of marine highway transportation and increase the efficiency of intermodal transfers; and

(5) solutions to impediments to marine highway transportation projects designated under section 55601.

(Added Pub. L. 110-140, title XI, § 1121(a), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1761; amended Pub. L. 116-283, div. G, title LVXXXIII [LXXXIII], § 8332(d)(4), (5), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4705; Pub. L. 117-263, div. C, title XXXV, § 3521(c), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3078.)

**Editorial Notes**

**AMENDMENTS**

2022—Pars. (1) to (5). Pub. L. 117-263 added pars. (1) and (2) and redesignated former pars. (1) to (3) as (3) to (5), respectively.

2021—Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “marine highway” for “short sea” in section catchline and wherever appearing in text.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective 1 day after Dec. 19, 2007, see section 1601 of Pub. L. 110-140, set out as a note under section 1824 of Title 2, The Congress.

**§ 55605. Definitions**

In this chapter:

(1) The term “marine highway transportation” means the carriage by a documented