

(b) **FUNDING REPORT.**—In conjunction with each of the annual budget requests submitted by the President under section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall annually publish on a public website and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes—

- (1) the amount spent in the last full fiscal year on transportation research and development with specific descriptions of projects funded at \$5,000,000 or more; and
- (2) the amount proposed in the current budget for transportation research and development with specific descriptions of projects funded at \$5,000,000 or more.

(c) **PERFORMANCE PLANS AND REPORTS.**—In the plans and reports submitted under sections 1115 and 1116 of title 31, the Secretary shall include—

- (1) a summary of the Federal transportation research and development activities for the previous fiscal year in each topic area;
- (2) the amount spent in each topic area;
- (3) a description of the extent to which the research and development is meeting the expectations described in section 6503(c)(1); and
- (4) any amendments to the strategic plan developed under section 6503.

(Added Pub. L. 114–94, div. A, title VI, §6019(b)(1), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1579; amended Pub. L. 117–58, div. B, title V, §25015(b), Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 871.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 117–58 inserted subsec. (a) heading and added pars. (1) and (2) and heading, introductory provisions, and subpars. (A) and (B) of par. (3), and struck out former subsec. (a) heading, former par. (1), which related to publication of research abstract database in general, and former par. (2) heading and subpars. (A) and (B), which related to contents of database. Subpars. (C) to (G) of former par. (2) effectively redesignated subpars. (C) to (G) of par. (3).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 2015, see section 1003 of Pub. L. 114–94, set out as an Effective Date of 2015 Amendment note under section 5313 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 6503. Transportation research and development 5-year strategic plan

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of publication of the Department of Transportation Strategic Plan and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall develop a 5-year transportation research and development strategic plan to guide future Federal transportation research and development activities.

(b) **CONSISTENCY.**—Each strategic plan developed under subsection (a) shall be consistent with—

- (1) section 306 of title 5;
- (2) sections 1115 and 1116 of title 31; and
- (3) any other research and development plan within the Department of Transportation.

(c) **CONTENTS.**—Each strategic plan developed under subsection (a) shall—

(1) describe how the plan furthers the primary purposes of the transportation research and development program, which shall include—

- (A) improving mobility of people and goods;
- (B) reducing congestion;
- (C) promoting safety;
- (D) improving the durability and extending the life of transportation infrastructure;
- (E) preserving the environment;
- (F) preserving the existing transportation system; and
- (G) reducing transportation cybersecurity risks;

(2) for each of the purposes referred to in paragraph (1), list the primary proposed research and development activities that the Department of Transportation intends to pursue to accomplish that purpose, which may include—

- (A) fundamental research pertaining to the applied physical and natural sciences;
- (B) applied science and research;
- (C) technology development research; and
- (D) social science research; and

(3) for each research and development activity—

- (A) identify the anticipated annual funding levels for the period covered by the strategic plan; and
- (B) describe the research findings the Department expects to discover at the end of the period covered by the strategic plan.

(d) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each strategic plan developed under this section—

- (1) reflects input from a wide range of external stakeholders;
- (2) includes and integrates the research and development programs of all of the modal administrations of the Department of Transportation, including aviation, transit, rail, and maritime and joint programs;
- (3) takes into account research and development by other Federal, State, local, private sector, and nonprofit institutions;
- (4) not later than December 31, 2021, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, is published on a public website; and
- (5) takes into account how research and development by other Federal, State, private sector, and nonprofit institutions—

- (A) contributes to the achievement of the purposes identified under subsection (c)(1); and
- (B) avoids unnecessary duplication of those efforts.

(Added Pub. L. 114–94, div. A, title VI, §6019(b)(1), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1580; amended Pub. L. 117–58, div. B, title V, §25014, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 869.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 117–58, §25014(1), substituted “Not later than 180 days after the date of publication of the Department of Transportation Strategic Plan and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary” for “The Secretary”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 117–58, §25014(2), substituted “Each strategic” for “The strategic” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 117–58, §25014(3)(A), substituted “Each strategic” for “The strategic” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c)(1)(G). Pub. L. 117–58, §25014(3)(B), added subpar. (G).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 117–58, §25014(4)(A), substituted “each strategic” for “the strategic” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (d)(4). Pub. L. 117–58, §25014(4)(B), substituted “2021, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter” for “2016”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 117–58, §25014(5), struck out subsec. (e). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “Not later than 2 ½ years after the date of enactment of this chapter, the Secretary may publish on a public website an interim report that—

“(1) provides an assessment of the 5-year research and development strategic plan of the Department of Transportation described in this section; and

“(2) includes a description of the extent to which the research and development is or is not successfully meeting the purposes described under subsection (c)(1).”

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 2015, see section 1003 of Pub. L. 114–94, set out as an Effective Date of 2015 Amendment note under section 5313 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 6504. Incorporation of Department of Transportation research

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31, 2021, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, in concurrence with the applicable strategic plan under section 6503, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) conduct a review of research conducted by the Department of Transportation; and

(2) to the maximum extent practicable and appropriate, identify modifications to laws, regulations, guidance, and other policy documents to incorporate any innovations resulting from the research described in paragraph (1) that have the potential to improve the safety or efficiency of the United States transportation system.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting a review under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) identify any innovative practices, materials, or technologies that have demonstrable benefits to the transportation system;

(2) determine whether the practices, materials, or technologies described in paragraph (1) require any statutory or regulatory modifications for adoption; and

(3)(A) if modifications are determined to be required under paragraph (2), develop—

(i) a proposal for those modifications; and

(ii) a description of the manner in which any such regulatory modifications would be—

(I) incorporated into the Unified Regulatory Agenda; or

(II) adopted into existing regulations as soon as practicable; or

(B) if modifications are determined not to be required under paragraph (2), develop a de-

scription of the means by which the practices, materials, or technologies described in paragraph (1) will otherwise be incorporated into Department of Transportation or modal administration policy or guidance, including as part of the Technology Transfer Program of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology.

(c) REPORT.—On completion of each review under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing, with respect to the period covered by the report—

(1) each new practice, material, or technology identified under subsection (b)(1); and

(2) any statutory or regulatory modification for the adoption of such a practice, material, or technology that—

(A) is determined to be required under subsection (b)(2); or

(B) was otherwise made during that period.

(Added Pub. L. 117–58, div. B, title V, §25016(a), Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 872.)

CHAPTER 67—MULTIMODAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Sec.

6701.

National infrastructure project assistance.

6702.

Local and regional project assistance.

6703.

National culvert removal, replacement, and restoration grant program.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 117–58, div. B, title I, §21203(b), Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 677, added item 6703.

§ 6701. National infrastructure project assistance

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Transportation.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a State or a group of States;

(B) a metropolitan planning organization;

(C) a unit of local government;

(D) a political subdivision of a State;

(E) a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority;

(F) a Tribal government or a consortium of Tribal governments;

(G) a partnership between Amtrak and 1 or more entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (F); and

(H) a group of entities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G).

(3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means the program established by subsection (b).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” means—

(A) any of the several States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(E) the United States Virgin Islands;

(F) Guam;