

§ 412. Agency accountability

(a) TRIENNIAL STATE MANAGEMENT REVIEWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall conduct a review of each State highway safety program at least once every 3 years.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may conduct reviews of the highway safety programs of the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as often as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(3) COMPONENTS.—Reviews under this subsection shall include—

(A) a management evaluation of all grant programs funded under this chapter;

(B) an assessment of State data collection and evaluation relating to performance measures established by the Secretary;

(C) a comparison of State efforts under subparagraphs (A) and (B) to best practices and programs that have been evaluated for effectiveness; and

(D) the development of recommendations on how each State could—

(i) improve the management and oversight of its grant activities; and

(ii) provide a management and oversight plan for such grant programs.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE SUBMISSION.—In order to provide guidance to State highway safety agencies on matters that should be addressed in the goals and initiatives of the State highway safety program before the program is submitted for review, the Secretary shall provide data-based recommendations to each State at least 90 days before the date on which the program is to be submitted for approval.

(c) STATE PROGRAM REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

(1) conduct a program improvement review of a highway safety program under this chapter of a State that does not make substantial progress over a 3-year period in meeting its priority program goals; and

(2) provide technical assistance and safety program requirements to be incorporated in the State highway safety program for any goal not achieved.

(d) REGIONAL HARMONIZATION.—The Secretary and the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall undertake an administrative review of the practices and procedures of the management reviews and program reviews of State highway safety programs under this chapter conducted by the regional offices of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and prepare a written report of best practices and procedures for use by the regional offices in conducting such reviews. The report shall be completed within 180 days after the date of enactment of this section.

(e) BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES.—

(1) UNIFORM GUIDELINES.—The Secretary shall issue uniform management review guidelines and program review guidelines based on the report under subsection (d). Each regional office shall use the guidelines in executing its State administrative review duties under this section.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make publicly available on the Web site (or successor electronic facility) of the Administration the following documents upon their completion:

(A) The Secretary's management review guidelines and program review guidelines.

(B) All State highway safety programs submitted under this chapter.

(C) State annual accomplishment reports.

(D) The Administration's Summary Report of findings from Management Reviews and Improvement Plans.

(3) REPORTS TO STATE HIGHWAY SAFETY AGENCIES.—The Secretary may not make publicly available a program, report, or review under paragraph (2) that is directed to a State highway safety agency until after the date on which the program, report, or review is submitted to that agency under this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 109–59, title II, §2008(a), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1533; amended Pub. L. 112–141, div. C, title I, §31107, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 755.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (d), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 109–59, which was approved Aug. 10, 2005.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112–141, §31107(1), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “At least once every 3 years the Secretary shall conduct a review of each State highway safety program. The review shall include a management evaluation of all grant programs funded under this chapter. The Secretary shall provide review-based recommendations on how each State could improve the management and oversight of its grant activities and may provide a management and oversight plan for such grant programs.”

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 112–141, §31107(2), struck out subsec. (f) which related to GAO review.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112–141 effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112–141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of this title.

CHAPTER 5—RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION

Sec.	
501.	Definitions.
502.	Surface transportation research, development, and technology.
503.	Research and technology development and deployment.
504.	Training and education.
505.	State planning and research.
[506, 507. Repealed.]	
508.	Transportation research and development strategic planning.
[509. Repealed.]	
510.	Future strategic highway research program.
511.	Multistate corridor operations and management.
512.	National ITS Program Plan. ¹
513.	Use of funds for ITS activities.
514.	Goals and purposes.
515.	General authorities and requirements.
516.	Research and development.

¹ So in original. Does not conform to section catchline.

Sec. 517.	National architecture and standards.
518.	Vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications systems deployment.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior chapter 5, added Pub. L. 90-495, §30, Aug. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 830, consisting of sections 501 to 512, related to highway relocation assistance, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 91-646, title II, §220(a)(10), Jan. 2, 1971, 84 Stat. 1903. See section 4601 et seq. of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For Effective Date of Repeal and Savings Provisions, see sections 221 and 220(b) of Pub. L. 91-646, set out as notes under sections 4601 and 4621, respectively, of Title 42.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Pub. L. 112-141, div. E, title II, §§52002(b), 52003(b), 52006(b), 52007(b), 52008(b), title III, §§53002(b), 53003(b), 53004(b), 53005(b), 53006(b), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 872, 880, 882, 899, 901-903, 905, substituted “Surface transportation research, development, and technology” for “Surface transportation research” in item 502 and “Research and technology development and deployment” for “Technology deployment program” in item 503, struck out items 506 “International highway transportation outreach program”, 507 “Surface transportation environment and planning cooperative research program”, and 509 “National cooperative freight transportation research program”, and added items 514 to 518.

2008—Pub. L. 110-244, title I, §111(b)(2)(B), June 6, 2008, 122 Stat. 1605, amended Pub. L. 109-59, §5210. See 2005 Amendment note below.

2005—Pub. L. 109-59, title V, §5210(c), formerly §5210(d), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1804, as renumbered by Pub. L. 110-244, title I, §111(b)(2)(B), June 6, 2008, 122 Stat. 1605, added item 510.

Pub. L. 109-59, title V, §§5201(a)(2), 5207(c), 5208(b), 5209(c), 5211(c), 5301(b), 5302(b), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1781, 1798, 1799, 1801, 1804, 1805, substituted “RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION” for “RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY” in chapter heading, “Surface transportation environment and planning cooperative research program” for “Surface transportation-environment cooperative research program” in item 507, “Transportation research and development strategic planning” for “Surface transportation research strategic planning” in item 508, and added items 509 and 511 to 513.

§ 501. Definitions

In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) **FEDERAL LABORATORY.**—The term “Federal laboratory” includes a Government-owned, Government-operated laboratory and a Government-owned, contractor-operated laboratory.

(2) **INCIDENT.**—The term “incident” means a crash, natural disaster, workzone activity, special event, or other emergency road user occurrence that adversely affects or impedes the normal flow of traffic.

(3) **INNOVATION LIFECYCLE.**—The term “innovation lifecycle” means the process of innovating through—

- (A) the identification of a need;
- (B) the establishment of the scope of research to address that need;
- (C) setting an agenda;
- (D) carrying out research, development, deployment, and testing of the resulting technology or innovation; and
- (E) carrying out an evaluation of the costs and benefits of the resulting technology or innovation.

(4) **INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.**—The term “intelligent transportation infrastructure” means fully integrated public sector intelligent transportation system components, as defined by the Secretary.

(5) **INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.**—The terms “intelligent transportation system” and “ITS” mean electronics, photonics, communications, or information processing used singly or in combination to improve the efficiency or safety of a surface transportation system.

(6) **NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE.**—For purposes of this chapter, the term “national architecture” means the common framework for interoperability that defines—

- (A) the functions associated with intelligent transportation system user services;
- (B) the physical entities or subsystems within which the functions reside;
- (C) the data interfaces and information flows between physical subsystems; and
- (D) the communications requirements associated with the information flows.

(7) **PROJECT.**—The term “project” means an undertaking to research, develop, or operationally test intelligent transportation systems or any other undertaking eligible for assistance under this chapter.

(8) **SAFETY.**—The term “safety” includes highway and traffic safety systems, research, and development relating to vehicle, highway, driver, passenger, bicyclist, and pedestrian characteristics, accident investigations, communications, emergency medical care, and transportation of the injured.

(9) **STANDARD.**—The term “standard” means a document that—

- (A) contains technical specifications or other precise criteria for intelligent transportation systems that are to be used consistently as rules, guidelines, or definitions of characteristics so as to ensure that materials, products, processes, and services are fit for the intended purposes of the materials, products, processes, and services; and
- (B) may support the national architecture and promote—

(i) the widespread use and adoption of intelligent transportation system technology as a component of the surface transportation systems of the United States; and

(ii) interoperability among intelligent transportation system technologies implemented throughout the States.

(Added Pub. L. 105-178, title V, §5101(2), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 422; amended Pub. L. 112-141, div. E, title II, §52001, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 865.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 501, added Pub. L. 90-495, §30, Aug. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 830, related to declaration of policy as to highway relocation assistance, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 91-646, title II, §220(a)(10), Jan. 2, 1971, 84 Stat. 1903.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Pars. (2) to (9). Pub. L. 112-141 added pars. (2) to (7), redesignated former par. (2) as (8), and added par. (9).