

of 1958, as amended [49 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.]; the national transportation policy of the Interstate Commerce Act, as amended; title 23, relating to Federal-aid highways; and title 14, titles 52 and 53 of the Revised Statutes, the Act of April 25, 1940, as amended, and the Act of September 2, 1958, as amended, relating to the United States Coast Guard” because each of the omitted laws is now applicable to the Secretary of Transportation and the Department of Transportation as the result of the restatement of those laws, and the Secretary is therefore bound to follow those laws by their own terms.

In subsection (c), the words “In exercising the functions, powers, and duties conferred on and transferred to the Secretary by this chapter” before “Secretary” are omitted as surplus. The word “consider” is substituted for “give full consideration to” to eliminate surplus words. The words “for operational continuity of the functions transferred” after “the needs” are omitted as executed.

AMENDMENTS

1995—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-88 substituted “13101” for “10101a”.

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-272 substituted “This subtitle and chapters 221 and 315 of this title” for “Subtitle I and chapter 31 of subtitle II of this title and the Department of Transportation Act (49 App. U.S.C. 1651 et seq.)”.

1991—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102-240, §1036(a), added subsec. (d).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 102-240, §5001, added subsec. (e).

1984—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-216 substituted “49 App. U.S.C.” for “49 U.S.C.”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 1036(a) of Pub. L. 102-240 effective Dec. 18, 1991, and applicable to funds authorized to be appropriated or made available after Sept. 30, 1991, and, with certain exceptions, not applicable to funds appropriated or made available on or before Sept. 30, 1991, see section 1100 of Pub. L. 102-240, set out as a note under section 104 of Title 23, Highways.

§ 303. Policy on lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites

(a) It is the policy of the United States Government that special effort should be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites.

(b) The Secretary of Transportation shall cooperate and consult with the Secretaries of the Interior, Housing and Urban Development, and Agriculture, and with the States, in developing transportation plans and programs that include measures to maintain or enhance the natural beauty of lands crossed by transportation activities or facilities.

(c) APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.—Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary may approve a transportation program or project (other than any project for a park road or parkway under section 204¹ of title 23) requiring the use of publicly owned land of a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of national, State, or local significance, or land of an historic site of national, State, or local

significance (as determined by the Federal, State, or local officials having jurisdiction over the park, area, refuge, or site) only if—

(1) there is no prudent and feasible alternative to using that land; and

(2) the program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the park, recreation area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site resulting from the use.

(d) DE MINIMIS IMPACTS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORIC SITES.—The requirements of this section shall be considered to be satisfied with respect to an area described in paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines, in accordance with this subsection, that a transportation program or project will have a de minimis impact on the area.

(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR PARKS, RECREATION AREAS, AND WILDLIFE OR WATERFOWL REFUGES.—The requirements of subsection (c)(1) shall be considered to be satisfied with respect to an area described in paragraph (3) if the Secretary determines, in accordance with this subsection, that a transportation program or project will have a de minimis impact on the area. The requirements of subsection (c)(2) with respect to an area described in paragraph (3) shall not include an alternatives analysis.

(C) CRITERIA.—In making any determination under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider to be part of a transportation program or project any avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or enhancement measures that are required to be implemented as a condition of approval of the transportation program or project.

(2) HISTORIC SITES.—With respect to historic sites, the Secretary may make a finding of de minimis impact only if—

(A) the Secretary has determined, in accordance with the consultation process required under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), that—

(i) the transportation program or project will have no adverse effect on the historic site; or

(ii) there will be no historic properties affected by the transportation program or project;

(B) the finding of the Secretary has received written concurrence from the applicable State historic preservation officer or tribal historic preservation officer (and from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation if the Council is participating in the consultation process); and

(C) the finding of the Secretary has been developed in consultation with parties consulting as part of the process referred to in subparagraph (A).

(3) PARKS, RECREATION AREAS, AND WILDLIFE OR WATERFOWL REFUGES.—With respect to parks, recreation areas, or wildlife or waterfowl refuges, the Secretary may make a finding of de minimis impact only if—

(A) the Secretary has determined, after public notice and opportunity for public re-

¹ See References in Text note below.

view and comment, that the transportation program or project will not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes of the park, recreation area, or wildlife or waterfowl refuge eligible for protection under this section; and

(B) the finding of the Secretary has received concurrence from the officials with jurisdiction over the park, recreation area, or wildlife or waterfowl refuge.

(Pub. L. 97-449, §1(b), Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2419; Pub. L. 100-17, title I, §133(d), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 173; Pub. L. 109-59, title VI, §6009(a)(2), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1875.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
303(a)	49:1651(b)(2). 49:1653(f) (1st sentence).	Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89-670, §2(b)(2), 80 Stat. 931. Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89-670, §4(f), 80 Stat. 934; restated Aug. 23, 1968, Pub. L. 90-495, §18(b), 82 Stat. 824.
303(b)	49:1653(f) (2d sentence).	
303(c)	49:1653(f) (less 1st, 2d sentences).	

In subsection (a), the words “hereby declared to be” before “the policy” are omitted as surplus. The words “of the United States Government” are substituted for “national” for clarity and consistency.

In subsection (b), the words “crossed by transportation activities or facilities” are substituted for “traversed” for clarity.

In subsection (c), before clause (1), the words “After August 23, 1968” after “Secretary” are omitted as executed. The word “transportation” is inserted before “program” for clarity. In clause (2), the words “or project” are added for consistency.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 204 of title 23, referred to in subsec. (c), was repealed and a new section 204 enacted by Pub. L. 112-141, div. A, title I, §1119(a), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 473, 489.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-59, §6009(a)(2)(A), inserted heading and substituted “Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary” for “The Secretary” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-59, §6009(a)(2)(B), added subsec. (d).

1987—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 100-17 inserted “(other than any project for a park road or parkway under section 204 of title 23)” after “program or project”.

TREATMENT OF MILITARY FLIGHT OPERATIONS

Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title X, §1079, Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1916, provided that: “No military flight operation (including a military training flight), or designation of airspace for such an operation, may be treated as a transportation program or project for purposes of section 303(c) of title 49, United States Code.”

§ 303a. Development of water transportation

(a) POLICY.—It is the policy of Congress—

(1) to promote, encourage, and develop water transportation, service, and facilities for the commerce of the United States; and

(2) to foster and preserve rail and water transportation.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, “inland waterway” includes the Great Lakes.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) investigate the types of vessels suitable for different classes of inland waterways to promote, encourage, and develop inland waterway transportation facilities for the commerce of the United States;

(2) investigate water terminals, both for inland waterway traffic and for through traffic by water and rail, including the necessary docks, warehouses, and equipment, and investigate railroad spurs and switches connecting with those water terminals, to develop the types most appropriate for different locations and for transferring passengers or property between water carriers and rail carriers more expeditiously and economically;

(3) consult with communities, cities, and towns about the location of water terminals, and cooperate with them in preparing plans for terminal facilities;

(4) investigate the existing status of water transportation on the different inland waterways of the United States to learn the extent to which—

(A) the waterways are being used to their capacity and are meeting the demands of traffic; and

(B) water carriers using those waterways are interchanging traffic with rail carriers;

(5) investigate other matters that may promote and encourage inland water transportation; and

(6) compile, publish, and distribute information about transportation on inland waterways that the Secretary considers useful to the commercial interests of the United States.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §4(j)(6)(A), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1366.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
303a	49 App.:142.	Feb. 28, 1920, ch. 91, §500, 41 Stat. 499; Aug. 6, 1981, Pub. L. 97-31, §12(9), 95 Stat. 154.

Section 4(j)(6)(A) amends 49:ch. 3 by restating 49 App.:142 as section 303a because the provision more appropriately belongs in chapter 3.

In subsection (a)(2), the words “in full vigor both” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the words “be construed to” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(1), the word “appropriate” is omitted as surplus. The word “vessels” is substituted for “boats” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

In subsection (c)(2), the words “the subject of”, “apparatus”, “appliances in connection therewith”, and “or interchange” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(3), the words “appropriate” and “suitable” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(6), the words “province and”, “from time to time”, and “useful statistics, data, and” are omitted as surplus.

§ 304. Application of categorical exclusions for multimodal projects

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) COOPERATING AUTHORITY.—The term “cooperating authority” means a Department of