

public website each plan and outlook that has been approved under paragraph (1)(B)(i).

(3) REJECTION OF DUPLICATIVE RESEARCH EFFORTS.—The Assistant Secretary may not approve any plan submitted by the head of a modal administration or joint program office pursuant to subsection (a) if any of the projects described in the plan duplicate significant aspects of research efforts of any other modal administration.

(c) FUNDING LIMITATIONS.—No funds may be expended by the Department of Transportation on research that has been determined by the Assistant Secretary under subsection (b)(3) to be duplicative unless—

(1) the research is required by an Act of Congress;

(2) the research was part of a contract that was funded before the date of enactment of this chapter;

(3) the research updates previously commissioned research; or

(4) the Assistant Secretary certifies to Congress that such research is necessary, and provides justification for such certification.

(d) CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall annually certify to Congress that—

(A) each modal research plan has been reviewed; and

(B) there is no duplication of study for research directed, commissioned, or conducted by the Department of Transportation.

(2) CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN.—If the Secretary, after submitting a certification under paragraph (1), identifies duplication of research within the Department of Transportation, the Secretary shall—

(A) notify Congress of the duplicative research; and

(B) submit to Congress a corrective action plan to eliminate the duplicative research.

(Added Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title VI, § 6019(b)(1), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1578.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this chapter, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 114-94, which was approved Dec. 4, 2015.

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.

FINDINGS

Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title VI, § 6019(a), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1577, provided that: “Congress finds that—

“(1) Federal transportation research planning—

“(A) should be coordinated by the Office of the Secretary [of Transportation]; and

“(B) should be, to the extent practicable, multimodal and not occur solely within the sub-agencies of the Department [of Transportation];

“(2) managing a multimodal research portfolio within the Office of the Secretary will—

“(A) help identify opportunities in which research could be applied across modes; and

“(B) prevent duplication of efforts and waste of limited Federal resources;

“(3) the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology at the Department of Transportation will—

“(A) give stakeholders a formal opportunity to address concerns;

“(B) ensure unbiased research; and

“(C) improve the overall research products of the Department; and

“(4) increasing transparency of transportation research and development efforts will—

“(A) build stakeholder confidence in the final product; and

“(B) lead to the improved implementation of research findings.”

§ 6502. Consolidated research database

(a) RESEARCH ABSTRACT DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall annually publish on a public website a comprehensive database of all research projects conducted by the Department of Transportation, including, to the extent practicable, research funded through University Transportation Centers.

(2) CONTENTS.—The database published under paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

(A) include the consolidated modal research plans approved under section 6501(b)(1)(B)(i);

(B) describe the research objectives, progress, findings, and allocated funds for each research project;

(C) identify research projects with multimodal applications;

(D) specify how relevant modal administrations have assisted, will contribute to, or plan to use the findings from the research projects identified under paragraph (1);

(E) identify areas in which more than 1 modal administration is conducting research on a similar subject or a subject that has a bearing on more than 1 mode;

(F) indicate how the findings of research are being disseminated to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of transportation systems; and

(G) describe the public and stakeholder input to the research plans submitted under section 6501(a)(1).

(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.)

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.—The Secretary shall develop a 5-year transportation research and development strategic plan to guide future Federal transportation research and development activities.

(b) CONSISTENCY.—The 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.—The 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; and
(F) preserving the existing transportation system;

(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 the 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, 2016, 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.

(e) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 2 1/2 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).

(Added Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title VI, § 6019(b)(1), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1580.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this chapter, referred to in subsec. (e), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 114-94, which was approved Dec. 4, 2015.

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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.

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