

(2) WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Transportation for Tomorrow Act of 2015, the Director shall commission a working group composed of—

- (A) operating administrations of the Department;
- (B) the Coast Guard;
- (C) the Federal Maritime Commission;
- (D) U.S. Customs and Border Protection;
- (E) the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council;
- (F) the Army Corps of Engineers;
- (G) the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation;
- (H) the Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- (I) the Maritime Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health;
- (J) the Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness;
- (K) 1 representative from the rail industry;
- (L) 1 representative from the trucking industry;
- (M) 1 representative from the maritime shipping industry;
- (N) 1 representative from a labor organization for each industry described in subparagraphs (K) through (M);
- (O) 1 representative from the International Longshoremen's Association;
- (P) 1 representative from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union;
- (Q) 1 representative from a port authority;
- (R) 1 representative from a terminal operator;
- (S) representatives of the National Freight Advisory Committee of the Department; and
- (T) representatives of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Transportation for Tomorrow Act of 2015, the working group commissioned under paragraph (2) shall submit its recommendations to the Director.

(d) ACCESS TO DATA.—The Director shall ensure that—

- (1) the statistics compiled under this section—
 - (A) are readily accessible to the public; and
 - (B) are consistent with applicable security constraints and confidentiality interests; and
- (2) the data acquired, regardless of source, shall be protected in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 107-347).

(Added Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title VI, §6018(a), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1576; amended Pub. L. 115-435, title III, §302(c)(3)(B), Jan. 14, 2019, 132 Stat. 5553.)

AMENDMENT OF SUBSECTION (d)(2)

Pub. L. 115-435, title III, §302(c)(3)(B), title IV, §403, Jan. 14, 2019, 132 Stat. 5553, 5557, provided that, effective 180 days after Jan. 14, 2019,

subsection (d)(2) of this section is amended by striking “the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 107-347).” and inserting “section 3572 of title 44.” See 2019 Amendment note below.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of the Transportation for Tomorrow Act of 2015, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), (3), is the date of enactment of title VI of div. A of Pub. L. 114-94, which was approved Dec. 4, 2015.

The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002, referred to in subsec. (d)(2), is title V of Pub. L. 107-347, Dec. 17, 2002, 116 Stat. 2962, which enacted section 402 of Title 13, Census, amended section 176a of Title 15, Commerce and Trade, and enacted provisions set out as a note under section 3501 of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents.

AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 115-435 substituted “section 3572 of title 44.” for “the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 107-347).”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2019 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-435 effective 180 days after Jan. 14, 2019, see section 403 of Pub. L. 115-435, set out as a note under section 306 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

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.

TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS

For transitional and savings provisions related to the amendment of this section and other provisions of law by title III of Pub. L. 115-435, see section 302(d) of Pub. L. 115-435, set out as a note under section 3561 of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents.

CHAPTER 65—RESEARCH PLANNING

Sec. 6501.	Annual modal research plans.
6502.	Consolidated research database.
6503.	Transportation research and development 5-year strategic plan.

§ 6501. Annual modal research plans

(a) MODAL PLANS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than May 1 of each year, the head of each modal administration and joint program office of the Department of Transportation shall submit to the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology of the Department of Transportation (referred to in this chapter as the “Assistant Secretary”) a comprehensive annual modal research plan for the upcoming fiscal year and a detailed outlook for the following fiscal year.

(2) RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—Each plan submitted under paragraph (1), after the plan required in 2016, shall be consistent with the strategic plan developed under section 6503.

(b) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1 of each year, the Assistant Secretary, for each plan and outlook submitted pursuant to subsection (a), shall—

- (A) review the scope of the research; and
- (B)(i) approve the plan and outlook; or
- (ii) request that the plan and outlook be revised and resubmitted for approval.

(2) PUBLICATIONS.—Not later than January 30 of each year, the Secretary shall publish on a 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;