

(2) to improve the safety, security, efficiency, and resiliency of multimodal freight transportation;

(3) to achieve and maintain a state of good repair on the National Multimodal Freight Network;

(4) to use innovation and advanced technology to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the National Multimodal Freight Network;

(5) to improve the economic efficiency and productivity of the National Multimodal Freight Network;

(6) to improve the reliability of freight transportation;

(7) to improve the short- and long-distance movement of goods that—

(A) travel across rural areas between population centers;

(B) travel between rural areas and population centers; and

(C) travel from the Nation's ports, airports, and gateways to the National Multimodal Freight Network;

(8) to improve the flexibility of States to support multi-State corridor planning and the creation of multi-State organizations to increase the ability of States to address multimodal freight connectivity;

(9) to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of freight movement on the National Multimodal Freight Network; and

(10) to pursue the goals described in this subsection in a manner that is not burdensome to State and local governments.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, who shall be responsible for the oversight and implementation of the national multimodal freight policy, shall—

(1) carry out sections 70102 and 70103;

(2) assist with the coordination of modal freight planning; and

(3) identify interagency data sharing opportunities to promote freight planning and coordination.

(Added Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title VIII, §8001(a), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1605.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 70101 was transferred and renumbered as section 50901 of Title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs.

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.

§ 70102. National freight strategic plan

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy shall—

(1) develop a national freight strategic plan in accordance with this section; and

(2) publish the plan on the public Internet Web site of the Department of Transportation.

(b) CONTENTS.—The national freight strategic plan shall include—

(1) an assessment of the condition and performance of the National Multimodal Freight Network established under section 70103;

(2) forecasts of freight volumes for the succeeding 5-, 10-, and 20-year periods;

(3) an identification of major trade gateways and national freight corridors that connect major population centers, trade gateways, and other major freight generators;

(4) an identification of bottlenecks on the National Multimodal Freight Network that create significant freight congestion, based on a quantitative methodology developed by the Under Secretary, which shall include, at a minimum—

(A) information from the Freight Analysis Framework of the Federal Highway Administration; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, an estimate of the cost of addressing each bottleneck and any operational improvements that could be implemented;

(5) an assessment of statutory, regulatory, technological, institutional, financial, and other barriers to improved freight transportation performance, and a description of opportunities for overcoming the barriers;

(6) a process for addressing multistate projects and encouraging jurisdictions to collaborate;

(7) strategies to improve freight intermodal connectivity;

(8) an identification of corridors providing access to energy exploration, development, installation, or production areas;

(9) an identification of corridors providing access to major areas for manufacturing, agriculture, or natural resources;

(10) an identification of best practices for improving the performance of the National Multimodal Freight Network, including critical commerce corridors and rural and urban access to critical freight corridors; and

(11) an identification of best practices to mitigate the impacts of freight movement on communities.

(c) UPDATES.—Not later than 5 years after the date of completion of the national freight strategic plan under subsection (a), and every 5 years thereafter, the Under Secretary shall update the plan and publish the updated plan on the public Internet Web site of the Department of Transportation.

(d) CONSULTATION.—The Under Secretary shall develop and update the national freight strategic plan—

(1) after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment; and

(2) in consultation with State departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and other appropriate public and private transportation stakeholders.

(Added Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title VIII, §8001(a), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1606.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

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

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 70102 was transferred and renumbered as section 50902 of Title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs.

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.

§ 70103. National Multimodal Freight Network

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy shall establish a National Multimodal Freight Network in accordance with this section—

(1) to assist States in strategically directing resources toward improved system performance for the efficient movement of freight on the Network;

(2) to inform freight transportation planning;

(3) to assist in the prioritization of Federal investment; and

(4) to assess and support Federal investments to achieve the national multimodal freight policy goals described in section 70101(b) of this title and the national highway freight program goals described in section 167 of title 23.

(b) **INTERIM NETWORK.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Under Secretary shall establish an interim National Multimodal Freight Network in accordance with this subsection.

(2) **NETWORK COMPONENTS.**—The interim National Multimodal Freight Network shall include—

(A) the National Highway Freight Network, as established under section 167 of title 23;

(B) the freight rail systems of Class I railroads, as designated by the Surface Transportation Board;

(C) the public ports of the United States that have total annual foreign and domestic trade of at least 2,000,000 short tons, as identified by the Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center of the Army Corps of Engineers, using the data from the latest year for which such data is available;

(D) the inland and intracoastal waterways of the United States, as described in section 206 of the Inland Waterways Revenue Act of 1978 (33 U.S.C. 1804);

(E) the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Seaway, and coastal and ocean routes along which domestic freight is transported;

(F) the 50 airports located in the United States with the highest annual landed weight, as identified by the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(G) other strategic freight assets, including strategic intermodal facilities and freight rail lines of Class II and Class III railroads, designated by the Under Secretary as critical to interstate commerce.

(c) **FINAL NETWORK.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Under Secretary, after soliciting input from stakeholders, including multimodal freight system users, transportation providers, metropolitan planning organizations, local govern-

ments, ports, airports, railroads, and States, through a public process to identify critical freight facilities and corridors, including critical commerce corridors, that are vital to achieve the national multimodal freight policy goals described in section 70101(b) of this title and the national highway freight program goals described in section 167 of title 23, and after providing notice and an opportunity for comment on a draft system, shall designate a National Multimodal Freight Network with the goal of—

(A) improving network and intermodal connectivity; and

(B) using measurable data as part of the assessment of the significance of freight movement, including the consideration of points of origin, destinations, and linking components of domestic and international supply chains.

(2) **FACTORS.**—In designating or redesignating the National Multimodal Freight Network, the Under Secretary shall consider—

(A) origins and destinations of freight movement within, to, and from the United States;

(B) volume, value, tonnage, and the strategic importance of freight;

(C) access to border crossings, airports, seaports, and pipelines;

(D) economic factors, including balance of trade;

(E) access to major areas for manufacturing, agriculture, or natural resources;

(F) access to energy exploration, development, installation, and production areas;

(G) intermodal links and intersections that promote connectivity;

(H) freight choke points and other impediments contributing to significant measurable congestion, delay in freight movement, or inefficient modal connections;

(I) impacts on all freight transportation modes and modes that share significant freight infrastructure;

(J) facilities and transportation corridors identified by a multi-State coalition, a State, a State freight advisory committee, or a metropolitan planning organization, using national or local data, as having critical freight importance to the region;

(K) major distribution centers, inland intermodal facilities, and first- and last-mile facilities; and

(L) the significance of goods movement, including consideration of global and domestic supply chains.

(3) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In designating or redesignating the National Multimodal Freight Network, the Under Secretary shall—

(A) use, to the extent practicable, measurable data to assess the significance of goods movement, including the consideration of points of origin, destinations, and linking components of the United States global and domestic supply chains;

(B) consider—

(i) the factors described in paragraph (2); and

(ii) any changes in the economy that affect freight transportation network demand; and