

(2) to develop more accurate models for evaluating the impact of rail passenger and freight service, including the effects on highway and airport and airway congestion, environmental quality, and energy consumption;

(3) to develop a better understanding of modal choice as it affects rail passenger and freight transportation, including development of better models to predict utilization;

(4) to recommend priorities for technology demonstration and development;

(5) to meet additional priorities as determined by the advisory board established under subsection (c), including any recommendations made by the National Research Council;

(6) to explore improvements in management, financing, and institutional structures;

(7) to address rail capacity constraints that affect passenger and freight rail service through a wide variety of options, ranging from operating improvements to dedicated new infrastructure, taking into account the impact of such options on operations;

(8) to improve maintenance, operations, customer service, or other aspects of intercity rail passenger and freight service;

(9) to recommend objective methodologies for determining intercity passenger rail routes and services, including the establishment of new routes, the elimination of existing routes, and the contraction or expansion of services or frequencies over such routes;

(10) to review the impact of equipment and operational safety standards on the further development of high-speed passenger rail operations connected to or integrated with non-high-speed freight or passenger rail operations;

(11) to recommend any legislative or regulatory changes necessary to foster further development and implementation of high-speed passenger rail operations while ensuring the safety of such operations that are connected to or integrated with non-high-speed freight or passenger rail operations;

(12) to review rail crossing safety improvements, including improvements using new safety technology; and

(13) to review and develop technology designed to reduce train horn noise and its effect on communities, including broadband horn technology.

(c) **ADVISORY BOARD.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—In consultation with the heads of appropriate Federal departments and agencies, the Secretary shall establish an advisory board to recommend research, technology, and technology transfer activities related to rail passenger and freight transportation.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The advisory board shall include—

(A) representatives of State transportation agencies;

(B) transportation and environmental economists, scientists, and engineers; and

(C) representatives of Amtrak, the Alaska Railroad, freight railroads, transit operating agencies, intercity rail passenger agencies, railway labor organizations, and environmental organizations.

(d) **NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.**—The Secretary may make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, the National Academy of Sciences to carry out such activities relating to the research, technology, and technology transfer activities described in subsection (b) as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2013 for carrying out this section.

(Added Pub. L. 110-432, div. B, title III, §306(a), Oct. 16, 2008, 122 Stat. 4952.)

**PART D—HIGH-SPEED RAIL**

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior part D, consisting of chapter 261, was redesignated part E of this subtitle by Pub. L. 103-440, title I, §103(a)(1), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4616.

**CHAPTER 261—HIGH-SPEED RAIL ASSISTANCE**

Sec.	
26101.	High-speed rail corridor planning.
26102.	High-speed rail technology improvements.
26103.	Safety regulations.
26104.	Authorization of appropriations.
26105.	Definitions.
26106.	High-speed rail corridor development.

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior chapter 261, consisting of sections 26101 and 26102, was renumbered chapter 281 of this title by Pub. L. 103-440, title I, §103(a)(1), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4616.

**AMENDMENTS**

2008—Pub. L. 110-432, div. B, title V, §501(c), (e), Oct. 16, 2008, 122 Stat. 4960, 4963, substituted “High-speed rail corridor planning” for “Corridor development” in item 26101 and added item 26106.

2005—Pub. L. 109-59, title IX, §9001(a)(2), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1919, substituted “development” for “planning” in item 26101.

**§ 26101. High-speed rail corridor planning**

(a) **CORRIDOR PLANNING ASSISTANCE.**—(1) The Secretary may provide under this section financial assistance to a public agency or group of public agencies for corridor planning for up to 50 percent of the publicly financed costs associated with eligible activities.

(2) No less than 20 percent of the publicly financed costs associated with eligible activities shall come from State and local sources, which State and local sources may not include funds from any Federal program.

(b) **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—(1) A corridor planning activity is eligible for financial assistance under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that it is necessary to establish appropriate engineering, operational, financial, environmental, or socioeconomic projections for the establishment of high-speed rail service in the corridor and that it leads toward development of a prudent financial and institutional plan for implementation of specific high-speed rail improvements, or if it is an activity described in subparagraph (M). Eligible corridor planning activities include—

(A) environmental assessments;