

ed to highway relocation assistance, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 91-646, title II, § 220(a)(10), Jan. 2, 1971, 84 Stat. 1903. See section 4601 et seq. of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For Effective Date of Repeal and Savings Provisions, see sections 221 and 220(b) of Pub. L. 91-646, set out as notes under sections 4601 and 4621, respectively, of Title 42.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-244, title I, § 111(b)(2)(B), June 6, 2008, 122 Stat. 1605, amended Pub. L. 109-59, § 5210. See 2005 Amendment note below.

2005—Pub. L. 109-59, title V, § 5210(c), formerly § 5210(d), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1804, as renumbered by Pub. L. 110-244, title I, § 111(b)(2)(B), June 6, 2008, 122 Stat. 1605, added item 510.

Pub. L. 109-59, title V, §§ 5201(a)(2), 5207(c), 5208(b), 5209(c), 5211(c), 5301(b), 5302(b), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1781, 1798, 1799, 1801, 1804, 1805, substituted “RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION” for “RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY” in chapter heading, “Surface transportation environment and planning cooperative research program” for “Surface transportation-environment cooperative research program” in item 507, “Transportation research and development strategic planning” for “Surface transportation research strategic planning” in item 508, and added items 509 and 511 to 513.

§ 501. Definitions

In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) **FEDERAL LABORATORY.**—The term “Federal laboratory” includes a Government-owned, Government-operated laboratory and a Government-owned, contractor-operated laboratory.

(2) **SAFETY.**—The term “safety” includes highway and traffic safety systems, research, and development relating to vehicle, highway, driver, passenger, bicyclist, and pedestrian characteristics, accident investigations, communications, emergency medical care, and transportation of the injured.

(Added Pub. L. 105-178, title V, § 5101(2), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 422.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 501, added Pub. L. 90-495, § 30, Aug. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 830, related to declaration of policy as to highway relocation assistance, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 91-646, title II, § 220(a)(10), Jan. 2, 1971, 84 Stat. 1903.

§ 502. Surface transportation research

(a) **BASIC PRINCIPLES GOVERNING RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS.**—

(1) **COVERAGE.**—Surface transportation research and technology development shall include all activities leading to technology development and transfer, as well as the introduction of new and innovative ideas, practices, and approaches, through such mechanisms as field applications, education and training, and technical support.

(2) **FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY.**—Funding and conducting surface transportation research and technology transfer activities shall be considered a basic responsibility of the Federal Government when the work—

(A) is of national significance;

(B) supports research in which there is a clear public benefit and private sector investment is less than optimal;

(C) supports a Federal stewardship role in assuring that State and local governments use national resources efficiently; or

(D) presents the best means to support Federal policy goals compared to other policy alternatives.

(3) **ROLE.**—Consistent with these Federal responsibilities, the Secretary shall—

(A) conduct research;

(B) support and facilitate research and technology transfer activities by State highway agencies;

(C) share results of completed research; and

(D) support and facilitate technology and innovation deployment.

(4) **PROGRAM CONTENT.**—A surface transportation research program shall include—

(A) fundamental, long-term highway research;

(B) research aimed at significant highway research gaps and emerging issues with national implications; and

(C) research related to policy and planning.

(5) **STAKEHOLDER INPUT.**—Federal surface transportation research and development activities shall address the needs of stakeholders. Stakeholders include States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, the private sector, researchers, research sponsors, and other affected parties, including public interest groups.

(6) **COMPETITION AND PEER REVIEW.**—Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the Secretary shall award, to the maximum extent practicable, all grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements for research and development under this chapter based on open competition and peer review of proposals.

(7) **PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND EVALUATION.**—To the maximum extent practicable, all surface transportation research and development projects shall include a component of performance measurement and evaluation. Performance measures shall be established during the proposal stage of a research and development project and shall, to the maximum extent possible, be outcome-based. All evaluations shall be made readily available to the public.

(8) **TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION.**—The programs and activities carried out under this section shall be consistent with the surface transportation research and technology development strategic plan developed under section 508.

(b) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary may carry out research, development, and technology transfer activities with respect to—

(A) motor carrier transportation;

(B) all phases of transportation planning and development (including construction, operation, transportation system management and operations, modernization, development, design, maintenance, safety, financing, and traffic conditions); and