

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7**OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS**

In section 7021 of the bill, insert after paragraph (2) the following (and redesignate subsequent provisions accordingly):

1 (3) in subsection (d), add at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(3) OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT.—

4 “(A) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—All funding
5 opportunities under this section shall be pub-
6 lically announced and shall be posted on the
7 Department of Transportation’s website and on
8 Grants.gov. Any announcement shall, at a min-
9 imum, include a detailed description of how ap-
10 plications will be evaluated and a list of any
11 specific research areas, educational objectives,
12 or technology transfer objectives expected to be
13 addressed by an application.

14 “(B) INPUT.—In developing an oppor-
15 tunity announcement under this paragraph, the
16 Secretary shall solicit the input of transpor-
17 tation stakeholders, including academic re-
18 searchers, State highway and transportation de-

1 partments, local and regional governments, pri-
2 vate industry, the Administrator of the Re-
3 search and Innovative Technology Administra-
4 tion, and Administrators of other relevant De-
5 partment of Transportation agencies.

6 “(4) PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
8 make award decisions under subsection (c)(1)
9 through a peer-reviewed, merit-based process.
10 The Secretary may make grants to, and enter
11 into cooperative agreements with, the National
12 Academy of Sciences to carry out such activities
13 under this paragraph as the Secretary deter-
14 mines are appropriate.

15 “(B) PEER-REVIEW.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary,
17 acting through the National Research
18 Council of the National Academy of
19 Sciences, shall establish a peer-review proc-
20 ess in which all proposals shall be reviewed
21 by an external committee of experts.

22 “(ii) SELECTION.—The external com-
23 mittee of experts shall be selected and con-
24 vened by the Transportation Research

1 Board (TRB) of the National Research
2 Council based on—

3 “(I) their specific knowledge of
4 transportation research fields or their
5 broad knowledge of transportation re-
6 search fields;

7 “(II) their knowledge of associ-
8 ated educational activities;

9 “(III) their broad knowledge of
10 the community of transportation prac-
11 titioners; and

12 “(IV) to the extent possible, di-
13 verse representation within the review
14 group.

15 “(iii) DUTIES.—The external com-
16 mittee of experts shall evaluate proposals
17 based on the degree to which they advance
18 the objectives in subsection (b), the selec-
19 tion criteria in paragraph 2 of this sub-
20 section, and any additional review criteria
21 set forth in the opportunity announce-
22 ments described in paragraph 3 of this
23 subsection.

24 “(iv) REPORT.—The external com-
25 mittee of experts shall issue a report, pub-

1 lished and made available to the public by
2 the TRB, summarizing the evaluation
3 process and explaining its findings.

4 “(v) COST.—The Secretary shall pay
5 for any necessary expenses associated with
6 peer-review with a portion of the funds as-
7 signed to the Research and Innovative
8 Technology Administration for administra-
9 tion of this section.

10 “(C) SECRETARIAL REVIEW.—The Sec-
11 retary, in consultation with the Administrator
12 of the Research and Innovative Technology Ad-
13 ministration and Administrators of any other
14 relevant Department of Transportation agen-
15 cies, shall make final award decisions. The Sec-
16 retary’s decision shall consider—

17 “(i) the findings of the committee
18 under subparagraph (B);

19 “(ii) the portfolio of other programs
20 funded in this section;

21 “(iii) the objectives set forth in sub-
22 section (b);

23 “(iv) the criteria set forth in para-
24 graph (2);

1 “(v) the details included in the oppor-
2 tunity announcement required under para-
3 graph (3); and

4 “(vi) other current proposals and pre-
5 viously funded proposals.

6 “(D) TRANSPARENCY.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
8 shall provide to each applicant of a pro-
9 posal copies of reviews by the committee
10 under subparagraph (B) and any other
11 materials used in the evaluation process
12 (with any reviewer identifying information
13 redacted) of the applicant’s proposal.

14 “(ii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The
15 Secretary shall make results of the review
16 process available to all applicants and to
17 the public on the Department’s website.

18 “(iii) REPORT.—The Secretary shall
19 issue a public report that includes, at a
20 minimum—

21 “(I) the results of the peer-review
22 process, including the findings of the
23 committee under subparagraph (B);
24 and

1 “(II) the reasons for the Sec-
2 retary’s final decision, including a de-
3 scription of—

4 “(aa) the context in which
5 the proposal was reviewed; and

6 “(bb) how the findings of
7 the committee under subpara-
8 graph (B) were used in reaching
9 the final decision.”.

In section 7021(3)(C) of the bill, after the matter to be inserted as section 5506(e)(6) of title 49, United States Code, insert the following:

10 “(7) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Secretary
11 shall make award decisions through a competitive
12 process that follows the requirements described in
13 subsection (d)(3) and (d)(4) and which incorporates
14 the additional selection criteria set forth in para-
15 graph (2) of this subsection.”.

In section 7021(6)(B) of the bill, strike “and” after the semicolon.

In section 7021(7)(B) of the bill, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

At the end of section 7021 of the bill, insert the following:

1 (8) by adding at the end the following:
2 “(m) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit
3 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and
4 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
5 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
6 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and
7 make available to the public on the Department’s Web
8 site, an annual report on the university transportation
9 center program under this section detailing the activities
10 of the regional and standard centers during the previous
11 year and how such activities reflect the priorities of the
12 strategic plan required under section 508(a) of title 23.”.

