

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1565

To amend title 23, United States Code, to incorporate regional transportation planning organizations into statewide transportation planning, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2011

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota (for himself and Mr. HANNA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to incorporate regional transportation planning organizations into statewide transportation planning, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING OR-**
4 **GANIZATIONS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 134(b) of title 23, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as
8 paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively; and

1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(5) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
4 ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘regional transportation
5 planning organization’ means a policy board of an
6 organization created as the result of the designation
7 process in section 135(k).”.

8 (b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 135(e) of
9 such title is amended—

10 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by
11 striking “consider”;

12 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
13 following:

14 “(1) with respect to nonmetropolitan areas, co-
15 operate with affected nonmetropolitan local officials
16 with responsibility for transportation through re-
17 gional transportation planning organizations de-
18 scribed in subsection (k);”;

19 (3) in paragraph (2) by striking “the concerns”
20 and inserting “consider the concerns”; and

21 (4) in paragraph (3)—

22 (A) by striking “coordination of” and in-
23 serting “coordinate”; and

1 (B) by striking “the transportation im-
2 provement program” and inserting “transpor-
3 tation improvement programs”.

4 (c) LONG-RANGE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION
5 PLAN.—Section 135(f)(2) of such title is amended—

6 (1) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting
7 the following:

8 “(B) NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS.—With
9 respect to nonmetropolitan areas, the statewide
10 transportation plan shall be developed in co-
11 operation with affected nonmetropolitan local
12 officials with responsibility for transportation
13 through regional transportation planning orga-
14 nizations described in subsection (k).”; and

15 (2) in subparagraph (D)(i) by striking “and
16 local agencies responsible for” and inserting “re-
17 gional, and local agencies responsible for economic
18 development, emergency management, transportation
19 planning,”.

20 (d) STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT
21 PROGRAM.—Section 135(g) of such title is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking subparagraph
23 (B) and inserting the following:

24 “(B) NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS.—With
25 respect to each nonmetropolitan area in the

1 State, the program shall be developed in co-
2 operation with affected nonmetropolitan local
3 officials with responsibility for transportation
4 through regional transportation planning orga-
5 nizations described in subsection (k).”; and

6 (2) in the first sentence of paragraph (5) by
7 striking “for transportation.” and inserting “for
8 transportation through regional transportation plan-
9 ning organizations described in subsection (k).”.

10 (e) FUNDING.—Section 135(h) of such title is amend-
11 ed by striking “104(f) of” and inserting “104(f) and sec-
12 tion 505 of”.

13 (f) DESIGNATION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
14 PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 135 of such title is
15 amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(k) DESIGNATION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
17 PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the transpor-
19 tation planning process required by this section,
20 States shall establish, designate, and use amounts
21 made available to the State to carry out this section
22 to fund regional transportation planning organiza-
23 tions to enhance the planning, coordination, and im-
24 plementation of statewide transportation plans and

1 programs, with an emphasis on addressing the needs
2 of nonmetropolitan areas of the State.

3 “(2) STRUCTURE.—A regional transportation
4 planning organization shall be established as a
5 multi-jurisdictional organization of nonmetropolitan
6 local officials or their designees who volunteer for
7 such organization and representatives of local trans-
8 portation systems who volunteer for such organiza-
9 tion.

10 “(3) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—A
11 regional transportation planning organization shall
12 be formed by a memorandum of understanding be-
13 tween the State and nonmetropolitan local officials
14 or as otherwise provided under State law.

15 “(4) FUNCTION.—A regional transportation
16 planning organization shall work cooperatively to
17 plan, coordinate, and implement transportation sys-
18 tems in nonmetropolitan areas.

19 “(5) REQUIREMENTS.—Each regional transpor-
20 tation planning organization shall, at a minimum,
21 establish—

22 “(A) a policy committee, the majority of
23 which shall consist of nonmetropolitan local of-
24 ficials, or their designees, and which shall also
25 include, as appropriate, additional representa-

1 tives from the State, private business, transpor-
2 tation service providers, economic development
3 practitioners, and the public in the region; and

4 “(B) a fiscal and administrative agent,
5 such as an existing regional planning and devel-
6 opment organization, to provide professional
7 planning, management, and administrative sup-
8 port.

9 “(6) DUTIES.—The duties of a regional trans-
10 portation planning organization shall include—

11 “(A) ensuring nonmetropolitan local offi-
12 cials are meaningfully involved in the statewide
13 transportation planning process;

14 “(B) developing and maintaining, in co-
15 operation with the State, regional long-range
16 multimodal transportation plans;

17 “(C) developing a regional transportation
18 improvement program for consideration by the
19 State;

20 “(D) fostering the coordination of local
21 planning, land use, and economic development
22 plans with State, regional, and local transpor-
23 tation plans and programs;

24 “(E) providing technical assistance to local
25 officials;

1 “(F) participating in national, multistate,
2 and State policy and planning development
3 processes to ensure the regional and local input
4 of nonmetropolitan areas;

5 “(G) providing a forum for public partici-
6 pation in the statewide and regional transpor-
7 tation planning processes;

8 “(H) considering and sharing plans and
9 programs with neighboring regional transpor-
10 tation planning organizations, metropolitan
11 planning organizations, and, where appropriate,
12 tribal organizations; and

13 “(I) conducting other duties, as necessary,
14 to support and enhance the statewide planning
15 process under subsection (d).”.

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