

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3649

To establish an advisory committee to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation regarding comprehensive, interdisciplinary issues relating to transportation from a variety of stakeholders in transportation planning, design, research, policy, and advocacy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish an advisory committee to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation regarding comprehensive, interdisciplinary issues relating to transportation from a variety of stakeholders in transportation planning, design, research, policy, and advocacy, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Transportation Equity
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION EQUITY COMMITTEE.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) COMMITTEE.—The term “Committee”
7 means the Transportation Equity Committee estab-
8 lished under subsection (b).

9 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Transportation.

11 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
13 tablish an advisory committee, to be known as the Trans-
14 portation Equity Committee, to study and provide advice
15 on comprehensive and interdisciplinary issues relating to
16 transportation equity from a variety of stakeholders in
17 transportation planning, design, research, policy, and ad-
18 vocacy.

19 (c) PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE.—The Committee shall
20 provide independent advice and recommendations to the
21 Secretary on transportation equity, including by devel-
22 oping a strategic plan that includes recommendations to
23 the Secretary on national transportation metrics and the
24 effect of transportation equity on such factors as economic
25 development, connectivity, accessibility, and public engage-
26 ment.

1 (d) DUTIES.—The Committee shall evaluate the work
2 of the Department of Transportation in—

3 (1) connecting people to economic and related
4 forms of opportunity;

5 (2) revitalizing communities in carrying out
6 strategic, research, technological, regulatory, com-
7 munity engagement, and economic policy activities
8 relating to transportation and opportunity; and

9 (3) ensuring equal access to transportation for
10 all residents, including those with disabilities and
11 older adults.

12 (e) MEMBERSHIP.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint
14 an odd number of not less than 9 but not more than
15 15 members to the Committee, which shall include
16 balanced representation with varying points of view
17 from academia, community groups, industry and
18 business, nongovernmental organizations, State and
19 local governments, federally recognized Indian
20 Tribes, advocacy organizations, and indigenous
21 groups.

22 (2) BROAD REPRESENTATION.—To the extent
23 practicable, members of the Committee shall re-
24 flect—

1 (A) a variety of backgrounds and experi-
2 ences;

3 (B) geographic diversity, including urban,
4 rural, Tribal, territorial, and underserved and
5 marginalized communities throughout the
6 United States; and

7 (C) individuals with expertise in related
8 areas such as housing, health care, disability
9 access, and the environment.

10 (3) REPLACEMENT FOR INACTIVE MEMBERS.—

11 If a member misses 3 consecutive meetings, the Sec-
12 retary may—

13 (A) remove the member; and

14 (B) appoint a replacement to serve for the
15 remainder of the term as provided under sub-
16 section (i).

17 (f) DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint
19 a full-time Federal employee as the Designated Fed-
20 eral Officer for the Committee, who shall—

21 (A) serve as the coordinator of the Com-
22 mittee; and

23 (B) ensure that administrative support is
24 provided for the Committee, including by car-

1 rying out the responsibilities described in para-
2 graph (2).

3 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Designated Fed-
4 eral Officer shall—

5 (A) call meetings of the Committee, and
6 any subcommittees that the Committee des-
7 ignates, after consultation with the Chair;

8 (B) formulate and approve an agenda, in
9 consultation with the Chair, for each meeting;

10 (C) notify all Committee members of the
11 time, place, and agenda for any meeting;

12 (D) provide administrative support for all
13 meetings of the Committee;

14 (E) attend each Committee and sub-
15 committee meeting;

16 (F) maintain all Committee files and
17 records, including minutes from each meeting;

18 (G) adjourn any meeting when it is deter-
19 mined to be in the public interest;

20 (H) serve as the chair at a meeting, if di-
21 rected to do so by the Secretary;

22 (I) make available to the public meeting
23 notes and information; and

1 (J) publish in the Federal Register notice
2 of any meeting of the Committee not less than
3 15 days before the meeting.

4 (g) MEETINGS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall meet
6 not less than 2 times each year, with not more than
7 9 months between meetings.

8 (2) TIME AND PLACE.—Meetings of the Com-
9 mittee shall be—

10 (A) at a reasonable time;

11 (B) in a place accessible to the public;

12 (C) in a room—

13 (i) large enough to accommodate at
14 least 100 people, including the Committee
15 members, staff, and a reasonable number
16 of interested members of the public; and

17 (ii) that is in compliance with the
18 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
19 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.); and

20 (D) in compliance with section 504 of the
21 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794).

22 (h) QUORUM.—A quorum shall be a majority of the
23 members of the Committee, rounded up to the nearest odd
24 number.

25 (i) TERM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Com-
2 mittee shall serve a 2-year term with not more than
3 2 consecutive term reappointments.

4 (2) DELAYED REPLACEMENTS.—Notwith-
5 standing paragraph (1), a member may continue
6 service until a replacement member is appointed.

7 (j) SUPPORT.—The Office of the Under Secretary for
8 Policy of the Department of Transportation shall provide
9 necessary funding, logistics, and administrative support
10 for the Committee.

11 (k) APPLICATION OF FACA.—Section 14 of the Fed-
12 eral Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not
13 apply to the Committee.

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