AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

114–32

OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

Page 64, line 14, strike the closing quotation marks and the final period and insert the following:

“(f) Freight Research and Development Activities.—

“(1) Establishment.—The Secretary may support freight research and development activities.

“(2) Program Oversight Committee.—The Secretary may select a program oversight committee consisting of a representative cross-section of freight stakeholders, including the Department of Transportation, other Federal agencies, State transportation departments, local governments, nonprofit entities, academia, the private sector, nonprofit entities, trade associations, transportation coalitions, and other interested parties.

“(3) Governance.—The freight research and development activities authorized under this subsection may include the following administrative and management elements:
“(A) NATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDA.—The program oversight committee, in consultation with interested parties, may recommend a national research agenda for the program. The agenda may—

“(i) include an emphasis on the safe and efficient transportation and handling of hazardous materials by all modes of transportation;

“(ii) include an emphasis on workforce development programs to attract more students and the next generation of workers to transportation planning, engineering, and operation carriers; and

“(iii) include an emphasis on collaboration across multiple jurisdictions and between public and private sector funding partners to develop, maintain, and invest in transportation improvements.

“(B) INVOLVEMENT.—Interested parties may—

“(i) submit research proposals to the program oversight committee;
“(ii) participate in merit reviews of research proposals and peer reviews of research products; and

“(iii) receive research results.

“(C) Open competition and peer review of research proposals.—The Secretary may award research contracts and grants under the program through open competition and merit review conducted on a regular basis.

“(D) Research coordination.—The Secretary shall ensure that research contracts and grants awarded under this subsection are not duplicative with research conducted under other cooperative transportation research programs governed by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, nor with research conducted by the Department of Transportation or any other Federal, State, or local agency.

“(E) Evaluation of research.—

“(i) Peer review.—Research contracts and grants under the program may allow peer review of the research results.
“(ii) PROGRAMMATIC EVALUATIONS.—

The Secretary may conduct periodic programmatic evaluations on a regular basis.

“(F) DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the awardees disseminate research findings to researchers, practitioners, and decisionmakers, through conferences and seminars, field demonstrations, workshops, training programs, presentations, testimony to government officials, the Internet, publications for the general public, collaboration with the National Transportation Library, and other appropriate means.

“(4) CONTENTS.—The national research agenda, if recommended under paragraph (3)(A), shall at a minimum consider research in the following areas:

“(A) Techniques for measuring, estimating, and quantifying public benefits derived from freight transportation projects.

“(B) Approaches to calculating the contribution of truck and rail traffic to congestion on specific highway segments.

“(C) The feasibility of consolidating origins and destinations for freight movement.
“(D) Methods for incorporating estimates of domestic and international trade entering via all mode points of entry into landside transportation planning.

“(E) The use of technology applications, including to intelligent transportation systems applications, to increase capacity of highway lanes dedicated to truck-only traffic.

“(F) Development of infrastructure alternatives and policy for separating car and truck traffic.

“(G) Means of synchronizing infrastructure improvement projects with freight transportation demand projections.

“(H) The effect of changing patterns of freight movement on transportation planning decisions, including accessible private and public commercial vehicle parking and truck-rail crossings.

“(I) Methods for collecting and sharing robust and timely freight data by all modes to inform transportation planning and operations at the local, regional, and State levels.
“(J) Methods to gain local acceptance of freight development, expansion, and growth along existing corridors, terminals, and ports.

“(K) Impact of the development and transport of new sources of energy on the freight network capacity and performance, as well as the potential for synergistic development of new transportation infrastructure with distribution of energy.

“(L) Funding and financing alternatives for multimodal freight infrastructure development, as well as the cost of inaction on infrastructure needs to system users.

“(M) Other research areas to identify and address emerging and future research needs related to freight transportation by all modes.

“(5) FUNDING.—

“(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of an activity carried out under this subsection may be up to 100 percent.

“(B) USE OF NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—In addition to using funds authorized for this subsection, the Secretary may seek and accept additional funding sources from public and private
entities capable of accepting funding from the Department of Transportation, States, local governments, nonprofit foundations, and the private sector.

“(C) Period of availability.—Amounts made available to carry out this subsection shall remain available until expended.”.