

**AMENDMENT TO RULES**  
**COMMITTEE PRINT 117-8**  
**OFFERED BY MR. PENCE OF INDIANA**

At end of subtitle F of title I of division B, add the following:

1 **SEC. 1640. RURAL OPPORTUNITIES TO USE TRANSPORTATION FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS INITIATIVE.**  
2

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation  
4 shall establish the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success Initiative (hereinafter referred to as the “ROUTES Office”), to—

7 (1) improve analysis of rural projects applying  
8 for Department of Transportation discretionary  
9 grants, including ensuring that project costs, local  
10 resources, and the larger benefits to the American  
11 people and the economy are appropriately considered; and  
12

13 (2) provide rural communities with technical assistance for meeting the Nation’s transportation infrastructure investment need in a financially sustainable manner.  
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16

17 (b) OBJECTIVES.—The ROUTES Office shall—

1           (1) collect input from knowledgeable entities  
2           and the public on the benefits of rural transpor-  
3           tation projects, the technical and financial assistance  
4           required for constructing and operating rural trans-  
5           portation infrastructure and services, and barriers  
6           and opportunities to funding such rural transpor-  
7           tation projects;

8           (2) evaluate data on rural transportation chal-  
9           lenges and determining methods to align the Depart-  
10          ment of Transportation’s discretionary funding and  
11          financing opportunities with the needs of rural com-  
12          munities for meeting National transportation goals;  
13          and

14          (3) educate rural communities about applicable  
15          Department of Transportation discretionary grants,  
16          developing effective methods to evaluate rural  
17          projects in discretionary grant programs, and com-  
18          municating those methods through program guid-  
19          ance.

20          (c) ROUTES COUNCIL.—

21           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
22          the ROUTES Council (hereinafter referred to as the  
23          “Council”) to—

24           (A) organize, guide, and lead the  
25          ROUTES Office; and

1 (B) coordinate rural-related funding pro-  
2 grams and assistance among the modal admin-  
3 istrations.

4 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be  
6 composed of the following officers of the De-  
7 partment of Transportation, or their designees:

8 (i) The Under Secretary of Transpor-  
9 tation for Policy.

10 (ii) The General Counsel.

11 (iii) The Chief Financial Officer and  
12 Assistant Secretary for Budget and Pro-  
13 grams.

14 (iv) The Assistant Secretary for Re-  
15 search and Technology.

16 (v) The Administrators of the—

17 (I) Federal Aviation Administra-  
18 tion;

19 (II) Federal Highway Adminis-  
20 tration;

21 (III) Federal Railroad Adminis-  
22 tration; and

23 (IV) Federal Transit Administra-  
24 tion.

1 (vi) The Chief Infrastructure Funding  
2 Officer.

3 (vii) The Assistant Secretary of Gov-  
4 ernment Affairs.

5 (viii) The Director of the Office of  
6 Public Affairs.

7 (B) CHAIR.—The Under Secretary of  
8 Transportation for Policy shall be the Chair of  
9 the Council.

10 (C) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Sec-  
11 retary of Transportation or the Chair of the  
12 Council may designate additional members to  
13 serve on the Council.

14 (3) ADDITIONAL MODAL INPUT.—To address  
15 issues related to safety and transport of rural com-  
16 modities, the Council shall consult with the Adminis-  
17 trators (or their designees) of the—

18 (A) Maritime Administration;

19 (B) Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway De-  
20 velopment Corporation; and

21 (C) National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-  
22 ministration.

23 (4) DUTIES.—Members of the Council shall—

24 (A) participate in all meetings and relevant  
25 Council activities and be prepared to share in-

1           formation relevant to rural transportation infra-  
2           structure projects and issues;

3           (B) provide guidance and leadership on  
4           rural transportation infrastructure issues and  
5           represent the work of the Council and Depart-  
6           ment of Transportation on such issues to exter-  
7           nal stakeholders; and

8           (C) recommend initiatives to the Chair of  
9           the Council to consider, establish, and staff any  
10          resulting activities or working groups.

11          (5) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet bi-  
12          monthly.

13          (6) WORK PRODUCTS AND DELIVERABLES.—  
14          The Council my develop work products or  
15          deliverables to meet its goals, including—

16                (A) an annual report to Congress describ-  
17                ing Council activities for the past year and ex-  
18                pected activities for the coming year;

19                (B) any recommendations to enhance the  
20                effectiveness of Department of Transportation  
21                discretionary grant programs regarding rural  
22                infrastructure issues; and

23                (C) other guides and reports for relevant  
24                groups and the public.

