

FAST Act: 2015 Surface Transportation Reauthorization

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Contents

Overview	2
HTF Funding Sources.....	2
Research Funding Levels	2
Notable Research Policy Items.....	2
Research Administration.....	2
SEC 6003: AIDP*	3
SEC 6004: ITS Congestion Management Technology Deployment.....	3
SEC 6005: ITS Goals – <i>Adds Freight</i>	3
SEC 6006: ITS Purposes – <i>Adds Cybersecurity</i>	3
SEC 6008: ITS Arch & Standards – <i>Broadens SDO membership</i>	3
SEC 6009: V2V/V2I Deployment Report – <i>Date shift</i>	3
SEC 6011: Departmental research programs.....	3
SEC 6013: Web-Based Training for Emergency Responders – <i>Adds On-Line Training</i>	3
SEC 6016: UTC – <i>Adds dedicated regional AV/CV UTC*</i>	3
SEC 6017: BTS Autonomy*	3
SEC 6018: Port Performance Freight Statistics Program	3
SEC 6019: Modal Research Plan Coordination and 5-Year Strategic Plan by OST-R.....	4
SEC 6020: Surface transportation system funding alternatives.	4
SEC 6021: Future Interstate Study	4
SEC 6022: Highway Efficiency Study	4
SEC 6023: Transportation Technology Policy Working Group*	4
SEC 6024: Collaboration and Support*	4
SEC 6025: GAO Study on Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Readiness*	4
SEC 6026: Traffic Congestion	4
SEC 6027: Smart Cities Transportation Planning Study	4
SEC 6028: Performance Management Data Support Program*	5
SEC 24201: Report on Council for Vehicle Electronics, Vehicle Software, and Emerging Technologies ..	5

***Associated with Rep. Lipinski’s Future TRIP Act**

Overview

The FAST Act, passed on Friday 12/4/15, is a 5 year surface transportation reauthorization bill, which is the first reauthorization lasting more than 2 years since 2005 (MAP-21 was only 2 years). This bill represents a compromise between the Senate DRIVE Act and House STRR Act. The funding for the bill is about 77% from gas tax and 23% from other temporary funding sources. This bill contains many research provisions outlined in this document. The also bill contains a non-germane rider that reauthorizes the controversial US Import-Export bank.

HTF Funding Sources

Source	Amount (\$ billions)
Gas Tax	235
Federal Reserve Bank Surplus	53.3
Reducing Dividends Paid to Banks by Fed Reserve	6.9
Strategic Oil Reserves	6.2
Customs Fees	5.1
IRS to Use Private Tax Collection Companies	2.4
Total	305

Research Funding Levels

Agency	Program	2015 (\$M)	FAST Act (\$M)
OST-R	ITS JPO	100	100
	UTC	72.5	72.5 (rising to 75 in 2017, then 77.5 in 2019)
	BTS	26	26
FHWA	HRDP	115	125
	TIDP	62.5	67 (rising to 67.5 in 2017)
	Training and Educ	24	24

Notable Research Policy Items

Research Administration

FHWA will now administer ITS JPO, UTCs, and BTS. It is unclear how this change will impact research activities.

SEC 6003: AIDP*

Within TIDP, the AIDP (Accelerated implementation and deployment of pavement technologies) is reauthorized (it would have expired), and will now have annual reporting requirements. 23 USC 503(c)(3)

SEC 6004: ITS Congestion Management Technology Deployment

This ITS Deployment program sets aside \$60M from three pots of money: *FHWA HRDP* (\$125M, Section 503(b)), *FHWA TIDP* (\$62.5M, Section 503(c)), and *ITS JPO* (\$100, Section 512-518). 50% cost share. Eligible grantees: state, local, MPO, or consortia of research/ academic institutions. Explicitly includes V2V, V2I, AVs, elderly/disabled, rideshare. RFP w/in 6 months of passage. Includes self-program evaluation & reporting.

SEC 6005: ITS Goals – *Adds Freight*

Adds freight to ITS goals.

SEC 6006: ITS Purposes – *Adds Cybersecurity*

ITS JPO to assist in development of cybersecurity research to prevent hacking, spoofing, and CV/AV.

SEC 6008: ITS Arch & Standards – *Broadens SDO membership*

DOT's support of standards development by SDOs – broadens definition of eligible SDOs from those whose "memberships are comprised of, and represent," to "memberships include representatives of" the surface transportation and intelligent transportation systems industries.

SEC 6009: V2V/V2I Deployment Report – *Date shift*

Moves back date for this report to July 6, 2016.

SEC 6011: Departmental research programs

Contracting authority clarifications. Limits program evaluation and oversight funding to 1.5% of total OST-R funding.

SEC 6013: Web-Based Training for Emergency Responders – *Adds On-Line Training*

Adds on-line curriculum as eligible.

SEC 6016. UTC – *Adds dedicated regional AV/CV UTC**

A dedicated regional transportation center (\$1-2M) for connected vehicle, connected infrastructure, and autonomous vehicle technologies. The language also simplifies limitations on how many UTCs a school may apply for, the complexity of which has been a challenge for UTCs and US DOT alike.

SEC 6017: BTS Autonomy*

Adds language to ensure BTS autonomy from political pressure.

SEC 6018: Port Performance Freight Statistics Program

BTS to establish program to provide nationally consistent measures of performance.

SEC 6019: Modal Research Plan Coordination and 5-Year Strategic Plan by OST-R

- Requires each modality to submit a research plan for OST-R approval, focused largely on identifying duplicative research. Research funds cannot be dispensed until plans are approved. [*seems to add a lot of unnecessary bureaucracy*]
- DOT shall publish a description of all research programs on a public website, identifying total dollars spent on specific topics
- Shall develop a new 5-year R&D Strategic Plan, published by Dec 31, 2016. This report may be re-assessed in 2.5 years. [**this piece was from Rep. Lipinski's Future TRIP Act*]

SEC 6020: Surface transportation system funding alternatives.

Stands up a funding alternatives research program that includes at least 2 mechanisms, i.e., VMT and one more. \$15M in 2016 rising to \$20M for 2017-2020 from HRDP. Grantees are states.

SEC 6021: Future Interstate Study

Conducted by TRB using methodology similar to “National Cooperative Highway Research Program Project 20–24(79): Specifications for a National Study of the Future 3R, 4R, and Capacity Needs of the Interstate System.”

SEC 6022: Highway Efficiency Study

Study on “impact of pavement durability and sustainability on vehicle fuel consumption, vehicle wear and tear, road conditions, and road repairs”

SEC 6023: Transportation Technology Policy Working Group*

The DOT OST-R may convene a working group to coordinate with universities & private sector.

SEC 6024: Collaboration and Support*

DOT may solicit the support of, and identify opportunities to collaborate with, other Federal research agencies and national laboratories.

SEC 6025: GAO Study on Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Readiness*

The study would assess the status of autonomous transportation technology policy in the US, assess the organizational readiness of DOT to address AV challenges, and recommend implementation paths for autonomous transportation technology, including policies for DOT.

SEC 6026: Traffic Congestion

“conduct research on the reduction of traffic congestion.

- (1) recommend research to accelerate the adoption of transportation management systems that allow traffic to flow in the safest and most efficient manner possible while alleviating current and future traffic congestion challenges;” ...etc

SEC 6027: Smart Cities Transportation Planning Study

DOT *may* conduct a study of digital technologies and information technologies, including shared mobility, data, transportation network companies, and on-demand transportation services—

- (1) to understand the degree to which cities are adopting those technologies;
- (2) to assess future planning, infrastructure, and investment needs; and

- (3) to provide best practices to plan for smart cities in which information and technology are used—
- a. to improve city operations;
 - b. to grow the local economy;
 - c. to improve response in times of emergencies and natural disasters; and
 - d. to improve the lives of city residents.

SEC 6028: Performance Management Data Support Program*

DOT shall develop, use, and maintain data sets and data analysis tools to assist metropolitan planning organizations, States, and the Federal Highway Administration in carrying out performance management analyses; to include vehicle probe data, household travel behavior, enhancing current tools. Funded \$10M from FHWA HRDP.

SEC 24201: Report on Council for Vehicle Electronics, Vehicle Software, and Emerging Technologies

Report due 1 year after enactment

*** Associated with Rep. Lipinski's Future TRIP Act**