

Section 20013(b) of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21, Pub. L. 112-141, 126 STAT. 405, July 6, 2012)

(b) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROCEDURES AND APPROACHES.— (1) IDENTIFY IMPEDIMENTS.— The Secretary shall—

(A) except as provided in paragraph (6), identify any provisions of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, and any regulations or practices thereunder, that impede greater use of public-private partnerships and private investment in public transportation capital projects; and

(B) develop and implement on a project basis procedures and approaches that—

(i) address such impediments in a manner similar to the Special Experimental Project Number 15 of the Federal Highway Administration (commonly referred to as “SEP-15”); and

(ii) protect the public interest and any public investment in public transportation capital projects that involve public-private partnerships or private investment in public transportation capital projects.

(2) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall develop guidance to promote greater transparency and public access to public-private partnership agreements involving recipients of assistance under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, including—

(A) any conflict of interest involving any party involved in the public-private partnership;

(B) tax and financing aspects related to a public-private partnership agreement;

(C) changes in the workforce and wages, benefits, or rules as a result of a public-private partnership;

(D) estimates of the revenue or savings the public-private partnership will produce for the private entity and public entity;

(E) any impacts on other developments and transportation modes as a result of non-compete clauses contained in public-private partnership agreements; and

(F) any other issues the Secretary believes will increase transparency of public-private partnership agreements and protect the public interest.

(3) ASSESSMENT.—In developing and implementing the guidance under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall encourage project sponsors to conduct assessments to determine whether use of a public-private partnership represents a better public and financial benefit than a similar transaction using public funding or public project delivery.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the procedures, approaches, and guidance developed and implemented under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(5) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue rules to carry out the procedures and approaches developed under paragraph (1).

(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to allow the Secretary to waive any requirement under—

(A) section 5333 of title 49, United States Code;

(B) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

(C) any other provision of Federal law.