111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 2724

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish national transportation objectives and performance targets for the purpose of assessing progress toward meeting national transportation objectives.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 4, 2009

Mr. Holt (for himself, Mr. Inslee, and Mr. Carnahan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish national transportation objectives and performance targets for the purpose of assessing progress toward meeting national transportation objectives.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "National Transpor-
- 5 tation Objectives Act of 2009".

1	SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION
2	OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS.
3	(a) In General.—Chapter 3 of title 49, United
4	States Code, in amended:
5	(1) by redesignating sections 304 through 309
6	as sections 307 through 312;
7	(2) by redesignating sections 303 and 303a as
8	sections 305 and 306, respectively; and
9	(3) by inserting after section 302, the following:
10	"§ 303. National transportation objectives and per-
11	formance targets
12	"(a) Statement of Purpose.—The purpose of this
13	section is to establish national transportation objectives to
14	provide a 21st century vision for the national surface
15	transportation system and national transportation per-
16	formance targets to ensure that transportation invest-
17	ments result in a national surface transportation system
18	that meets the needs of the 21st century.
19	"(b) National Transportation Objectives.—
20	The national transportation objectives are established and
21	prioritized, as follows:
22	"(1) Promote energy efficiency and achieve en-
23	ergy security.
24	"(2) Ensure environmental protection, restore
25	climate stability, and resolve persistent environ-
26	mental justice issues.

1	"(3) Improve economic competitiveness, system
2	efficiency, and workplace development opportunities.
3	"(4) Ensure safety for all transportation users
4	and improved public health outcomes.
5	"(5) Improve transportation system conditions
6	and connectivity.
7	"(6) Provide equal and equitable access to
8	transportation options in urban, suburban, and rural
9	communities.
10	"(c) National Transportation Performance
11	TARGETS.—The national transportation performance tar-
12	gets are established for the purpose of assessing progress
13	in the 20-year period beginning the day after the date of
14	enactment of the National Transportation Objectives Act
15	of 2009 toward meeting the national transportation objec-
16	tives, as follows:
17	"(1) Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled by
18	16 percent.
19	"(2) Triple walking, biking, and public trans-
20	portation usage.
21	"(3) Reduce transportation-generated carbon
22	dioxide level by 40 percent.
23	"(4) Reduce delay per capita by 10 percent.

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1	"(5) Increase proportion of freight transpor-
2	tation provided by railroad and intermodal services
3	by 20 percent.
4	"(6) Achieve 0 percent population exposure to
5	at-risk levels of air pollution.
6	"(7) Improve public safety and lower congestion
7	costs by reducing traffic crashes by 50 percent.
8	"(8) Increase share of major highways, regional
9	transit fleets and facilities, and bicycling/pedestrian
10	infrastructure in good state of repair condition by
11	20 percent.
12	"(9) Reduce average household combined hous-
13	ing plus transportation costs by 25 percent, using
14	2000 as a base year.
15	"(10) Increase by 50 percent the number of es-
16	sential destinations (work and non-work) accessible
17	within 30 minutes by public transportation or 15
18	minutes by walking, for low-income, senior, and dis-
19	abled populations.
20	"(d) Development of Baseline Levels.—Not
21	later than one year after the date of enactment of the Na-
22	tional Transportation Objectives Act of 2009, the Sec-
23	retary of Transportation shall develop baseline levels for

24 the national transportation performance targets estab-

25 lished by this section and determine appropriate methods

1	of data collection to assess success in meeting such per-
2	formance targets.
3	"(e) Requirements.—The Secretary, consistent
4	with the plan developed under section 304 and notwith-
5	standing any other provision of law in effect as of the date
6	of enactment of the National Transportation Objectives
7	Act of 2009, shall—
8	"(1) develop appropriate data collections sys-
9	tems for each Federal surface transportation pro-
10	gram in order to evaluate:
11	"(A) whether such programs are consistent
12	with the policy, objectives, and performance tar-
13	gets established by this section; and
14	"(B) how effective such programs are in
15	contributing to the achievement of the policy
16	objectives, and performance targets established
17	by this section;
18	"(2) using the criteria developed under para-
19	graph (1), annually evaluate each such program and
20	provide the results to the public;
21	"(3) based on the evaluation performed under
22	paragraph (2), make any necessary changes or im-
23	provements to such programs to ensure such consist-
24	ency and effectiveness;

1	"(4) align the availability and award of Federal
2	surface transportation funding to meet the policy,
3	objectives, and performance targets established by
4	this section, consistent with the evaluation per-
5	formed under paragraph (2);
6	"(5) carry out this section in a manner that is
7	consistent with sections 302, 5503, 10101, and
8	13101 of this title and section 101 of title 23 to the
9	extent that such sections do not conflict with the
10	policy, objectives, and performance targets estab-
11	lished by this section;
12	"(6) review, update, and reissue all relevant
13	surface transportation planning requirements to en-
14	sure that such requirements require that regional
15	State, and local surface transportation planning ef-
16	forts funded with Federal funds are consistent with
17	the policy, objectives, and performance targets estab-
18	lished by this section; and
19	"(7) require recipients of Federal surface trans-
20	portation funds to annually report on the use of
21	such funds, including a description of—
22	"(A) which projects and priorities were
23	funded with such funds;

1 "(B) the rationale and method employed 2 for apportioning such funds to the projects and 3 priorities; and

> "(C) how the obligation of such funds is consistent with or advances the policy, objectives, and performance targets established by this section.

"(f) AUTHORITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law in effect as of the date of enactment of the National Transportation Objectives Act of 2009, the Secretary may, through a process of public notice and comment and with reasonable prior notice to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure preceding any significant change, consistent with the public interest, amend the performance targets under subsection (c) or develop additional performance targets to effectively meet the policy and objectives set forth in this section.

"(2) Recommendations.—The Secretary may also make recommendations to those Committees for reorganizing the Department of Transportation, as necessary and consistent with the requirements of

1	section 304(b)(6), in order to achieve the policy, ob-
2	jectives, and performance targets established by this
3	section.
4	"§ 304. National surface transportation performance
5	plan
6	"(a) Development.—Not later than 2 years after
7	the date of enactment of the National Transportation Ob-
8	jectives Act of 2009, the Secretary of Transportation shall
9	develop and implement a National Surface Transportation
10	Performance Plan to achieve the policy, objectives, and
11	performance targets set forth in section 303.
12	"(b) Contents.—The plan shall include—
13	"(1) an assessment of the current performance
14	of the national surface transportation system and an
15	analysis of the system's ability to achieve the policy,
16	objectives, and performance targets set forth in sec-
17	tion 303;
18	"(2) an analysis of emerging and long-term pro-
19	jected trends that will impact the performance,
20	needs, and uses of the national surface transpor-
21	tation system;
22	"(3) a description of the major impediments to
23	effectively meeting the policy, objectives, and per-
24	formance targets set forth in section 303 and rec-
25	ommended actions to address such impediments;

"(4) a comprehensive strategy and investment 1 2 plan to meet the policy, objectives, and performance 3 targets set forth in section 303; "(5) initiatives to improve transportation mod-4 5 eling, research, data collection, and analysis; and 6 "(6) a plan for any reorganization of the De-7 partment of Transportation or its agencies necessary 8 to meet the policy, objectives, and performance tar-9 gets set forth in section 303. 10 "(c) Consultation.—In developing the plan re-11 quired by subsection (a), the Secretary shall— 12 "(1) consult with local, State, and tribal gov-13 ernments, public and private transportation pro-14 viders and carriers, non-profit organizations rep-15 resenting transportation employees, appropriate for-16 eign governments, and other interested parties; and 17 "(2) provide public notice and hearings and so-18 licit public comments on the plan. 19 "(d) Submittal.—The Secretary shall submit the 20 completed plan to the Senate Committee on Commerce, 21 Science, and Transportation and the House of Represent-22 atives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. 23 "(e) Progress Reports.—The Secretary shall submit biennial progress reports on the implementation of the

plan beginning 2 years after the date of submittal of the

- plan under subsection (d) to the Committees. The progress
 report shall—
 "(1) describe progress made toward fully implementing the plan and achieving the policies, objectives, and performance targets established under sec-
- 6 tion 303;
- 7 "(2) describe challenges and obstacles to full mplementation;
- 9 "(3) describe updates to the plan necessary to 10 reflect changed circumstances or new developments; 11 and
- 12 "(4) make policy and legislative recommenda-13 tions the Secretary believes are necessary and appro-14 priate to fully implement the plan.
- "(f) DATA.—The Secretary shall have the authority
 to conduct studies, gather information, and require the
 production of data necessary to develop or update this
 plan, consistent with Federal privacy standards.
- "(g) Funding.—The Secretary may use such sums
 as may be necessary from any funds provided to the Department of Transportation for surface transportation
 programs for the purpose of completing and updating the
 plan and developing and issuing the progress reports pursuant to this section.".
- 25 (b) Conforming Amendments.—

1	(1) Section 302(a) of title 49, United States
2	Code, is amended by striking "10101 and 13101"
3	and inserting "303, 10101, and 13101".
4	(2) Section 308, as redesignated, of title 49,
5	United States Code, is amended by striking "sec-
6	tions 301–09304" and inserting "sections 301
7	through 307".
8	(3) The table of contents for chapter 3 of title
9	49, United States Code, is amended—
10	(A) by redesignating the items relating to
11	sections 303 through 309 as relating to sections
12	305 through 312; and
13	(B) by inserting after the item relating to
14	section 302 the following:

 $[\]lq\lq 303.$ National surface transportation policy.

[&]quot;304. National surface transportation performance plan.".