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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration to convene a task force on establishing benchmarks for transit operations and coordination, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DESAULNIER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration to convene a task force on establishing benchmarks for transit operations and coordination, and for other purposes.

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 “Better Transit for Rid-
5 ers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING BENCHMARKS FOR TRANSIT AGEN-**
2 **CY COORDINATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
5 Federal Transit Administration shall convene a task force
6 to provide recommendations regarding benchmarks for ur-
7 banized areas (as such term is defined in section 5302
8 of title 49, United States Code) for—

9 (1) best practices on the allocation and use of
10 transit funds, including ranges or consideration for
11 investment across categories such as capital mod-
12 ernization, state of good repair, infrastructure ex-
13 pansion, operations, workforce and labor costs, safe-
14 ty improvements, and resiliency;

15 (2) best practices regarding the composition of
16 transit agency funding sources, including roles of
17 Federal, state, local and farebox revenues, public-
18 private partnerships, value capture, and other dedi-
19 cated funding mechanisms;

20 (3) indicators of effective transit coordination
21 within the same metropolitan service area that re-
22 cipients of Federal funds should consider when de-
23 veloping planning activities, which shall include con-
24 siderations for any matters determined relevant by
25 the task force or Administrator, including—

1 (A) integrated payments and fare integra-
2 tion within the same metropolitan service area;

3 (B) cooperative planning;

4 (C) transactional data standards for mobil-
5 ity scheduling software to assist in coordinating
6 services across multiple providers;

7 (D) network redesign; and

8 (E) sharing of infrastructure;

9 (4) best practices for access to transit; and

10 (5) best practices for coordinating regional
11 transit and land use planning, funding, and imple-
12 mentation.

13 (b) COMPOSITION.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall con-
15 sist of up to 15 members selected by the Adminis-
16 trator and having expertise in an operational or aca-
17 demic discipline that is relevant to the operations,
18 maintenance, or governance of transit services in re-
19 gions that are served by multiple transit agencies.

20 (2) FAIR REPRESENTATION.—The number of
21 members shall be determined by the Administrator
22 to ensure sufficient and fair representation of rel-
23 evant disciplines.

24 (c) DISCIPLINES.—For purposes of subsection (b),
25 disciplines shall include transit agencies, municipal gov-

1 ernments that have land use authority, representatives of
2 State departments of transportation, representatives from
3 transit unions, relevant standards development organiza-
4 tions, metropolitan planning organizations, academia, first
5 and last mile service providers, community groups or indi-
6 viduals who use public transportation, and associations
7 that represent public transportation.

8 (d) DURATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Members of the task force
10 shall be appointed for the duration of the task force.

11 (2) LENGTH OF EXISTENCE.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The task force shall
13 have an initial length of existence of 2 years.

14 (B) OPTION.—The Administrator may ex-
15 ercise an option to lengthen the duration of the
16 existence of the task force for a period of 2
17 years.

18 (e) DUTIES.—Not later than the date on which the
19 Task Force is terminated, the task force shall submit to
20 Congress and make publicly available a report that pro-
21 vides the recommendations described in subsection (a)(1).

22 (f) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the rec-
23 ommendations described in subsection (a)(1), the task
24 force shall—

1 (1) consider the interconnection between land
2 use, transit-oriented development, and transit serv-
3 ices to provide better options for transit riders;

4 (2) prioritize improving the experience of tran-
5 sit riders and improved service delivery, especially
6 riders who utilize multiple forms of transit in a sin-
7 gle ride, like the ease and quality of the ride, safety,
8 reducing delays, connection to other modes of tran-
9 sit, and location of transfer points;

10 (3) prioritize safety and security of riders
11 across transit systems;

12 (4) develop and recommend a framework or
13 model to assist transit agencies in making strategic
14 investment decisions, including how to prioritize lim-
15 ited funding to maximize rider benefits, service reli-
16 ability, safety, and long-term system sustainability;

17 (5) examine potential methods for self-sus-
18 taining long-term funding or public financing for
19 transit to achieve cost-effectiveness, such as value
20 capture;

21 (6) consider the use of first and last mile serv-
22 ice and associated infrastructure by riders;

23 (7) include considerations to reduce vehicle
24 miles traveled by riders;

1 (8) consider greenhouse gas emissions impacts,
2 compliance with the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401
3 et seq.), applicable State and local regulations, and
4 applicable judiciary rulings;

5 (9) consider the interconnection between land
6 use, transit-oriented development, and transit serv-
7 ices to provide better options for transit riders; and

8 (10) examine data and technology needs across
9 transit providers, including how interoperable data
10 and technology may improve transit reliability and
11 operations.

12 (g) INITIAL REPORT.—If the Administrator exercises
13 the option to lengthen the duration of the task force under
14 subsection (d)(2)(B), not later than 2 years after the date
15 of the establishment of the task force, the task force shall
16 submit to Congress and make publicly available an initial
17 report containing an update on the information described
18 in subsection (a)(1).