

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4355

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require reporting by the Department of Transportation on requests for funding projects or programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require reporting by the Department of Transportation on requests for funding projects or programs, 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 “Missed Opportunities
5 in Transportation Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) the United States relies on an integrated,
2 multimodal system of transportation to facilitate the
3 movement of people and goods across the Nation;

4 (2) the United States has a history of investing
5 in forward-thinking ideas to improve transportation;

6 (3) Congress has a duty to do all it can to im-
7 prove transportation in the United States;

8 (4) both Congress and the States have failed to
9 meet the needs of the American people in recent
10 years;

11 (5) inflation-adjusted public spending on trans-
12 portation infrastructure has declined over the past
13 decade;

14 (6) Americans are suffering from the con-
15 sequences of that inaction;

16 (7) investment in transportation and infrastruc-
17 ture is vital to national security and prosperity;

18 (8) failure to invest adequately in United States
19 infrastructure will continue to impede economic
20 growth and harm the health and competitiveness of
21 the United States economy;

22 (9) proposals to improve transportation in the
23 United States exceed available funds;

24 (10) the American people deserve to be in-
25 formed about and consider possible solutions for the

1 gridlock and disrepair they experience every day;
2 and

3 (11) Congress must have good information
4 about potential projects for transportation mod-
5 ernization in order to make reasonable judgments
6 about funding levels for transportation projects and
7 research.

8 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORTING ON MISSED OPPORTUNITIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 49, United
10 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 **“§ 312. Annual reporting on missed opportunities**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31 of
14 each year, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit
15 to Congress a report on missed opportunities for each
16 competitive or discretionary grant program administered
17 by the Department of Transportation in the preceding fis-
18 cal year.

19 “(b) CONTENTS.—For each grant program described
20 in subsection (a), the report shall detail the 10 individual
21 applications, proposals, or requests for funding that—

22 “(1) were not funded or awarded, completely or
23 partially; but

24 “(2) showed the greatest potential to improve
25 transportation in the United States, according to the

1 selection criteria and established goals of that grant
2 program.

3 “(c) REPORTING DATE FLEXIBILITY.—If a law re-
4 quires an annual report to Congress with respect to a
5 grant program described in subsection (a), the report on
6 missed opportunities required under this section for that
7 program may—

8 “(1) be included in that annual report; and

9 “(2) be submitted on or before the date that
10 annual report is due.

11 “(d) PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY.—Upon submission of
12 a report on missed opportunities to Congress under this
13 section, the Secretary shall make the report available to
14 the public on an internet website of the Department of
15 Transportation in a manner that is user friendly and able
16 to be searched and downloaded by users of the website.

17 “(e) TRADE SECRETS AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMA-
18 TION.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary
19 to disclose any information that is a trade secret or con-
20 fidential information subject to section 552(b)(4) of title
21 5 or section 1905 of title 18.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
23 ter 3 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by insert-
24 ing after the item relating to section 311 the following:

“312. Annual reporting on missed opportunities.”.