

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1942

To amend title 49, United States Code, to improve transportation for seniors,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 5, 2011

Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to improve
transportation for seniors, 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 “Senior Transportation
5 and Mobility Improvement Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) According to projections from the 2010 de-
9 cennial census, the number of individuals in the
10 United States who are 65 years of age or older will

1 increase from 40,000,000 in 2010 to 72,000,000 in
2 2030. Yet, a 2004 report by the Surface Transpor-
3 tation Policy Project found that more than 1 in 5
4 (or 21 percent) of individuals who are 65 years of
5 age or older do not drive.

6 (2) According to a 2011 report by the National
7 Association of Area Agencies on Aging, inadequate
8 transportation options for older adults has emerged
9 as the second greatest challenge identified by com-
10 munities during the 5-year period ending in 2011.

11 (3) According to a 2004 report by the Surface
12 Transportation Policy Project, more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of sen-
13 iors who are 65 years of age and older (numbering
14 3,600,000 individuals) who no longer drive due to a
15 decline in health, stay at home on any given day
16 partially because they lack transportation options.
17 Alternatives to driving are particularly sparse in
18 some regions and in rural and small town commu-
19 nities.

20 (4) According to a 2004 report by the Surface
21 Transportation Policy Project, compared with older
22 drivers, older non-drivers in the United States make
23 15 percent fewer trips to the doctor, 59 percent
24 fewer shopping trips, and 65 percent fewer trips for
25 social, family, and religious activities.

1 (5) In 2009, the program under section 5310 of
 2 title 49, United States Code, provided more than
 3 43,000,000 rides to older adults and people with dis-
 4 abilities.

5 (6) Access to mobility management services
 6 help transit and human services systems meet the
 7 needs of older adults and people with disabilities.
 8 This person-centered strategy helps individuals and
 9 families review available transportation options and
 10 support their decisions regarding the transportation
 11 options that are best suited to their circumstances,
 12 preferences and mobility needs.

13 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR ELDERLY**
 14 **INDIVIDUALS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-**
 15 **ABILITIES.**

16 (a) ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH
 17 DISABILITIES.—

18 (1) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 5310 of title 49,
 19 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 20 end the following:

21 “(i) OPERATING COSTS.—

22 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
 23 ‘covered amounts’ means, for a fiscal year, any
 24 amounts apportioned to a State under this section in

1 excess of the amounts apportioned to the State
2 under this section for fiscal year 2010.

3 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A State may use not
4 more than 33 percent of any covered amounts for
5 costs relating to the operation and maintenance of
6 vehicles and other capital assets acquired by the
7 State using funds under this section, including in-
8 surance, fuel, and driver compensation.

9 “(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
10 the cost of operation and maintenance carried out
11 using funds under this subsection may not exceed 50
12 percent.”.

13 (2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT
14 RECIPIENTS.—Section 5310(d) of title 49, United
15 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each re-
18 cipient of funding under this section shall submit to
19 the Administrator of the Federal Transit Adminis-
20 tration an annual report that describes how the re-
21 cipient will coordinate, or is coordinating, the activi-
22 ties carried out by the recipient using a grant under
23 this section with the activities, if any, carried out by
24 the recipient using a grant under title III of the

1 Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3021 et
2 seq.).”.

3 (3) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 5310(c)(1)(B)
4 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

5 (A) by striking “(B) EXCEPTION.—A
6 State” and inserting the following:

7 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

8 “(i) CERTAIN STATES.—A State”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(ii) MOBILITY MANAGEMENT.—A
11 grant under this section for a capital
12 project described in section 5302(a)(1)(L)
13 shall be for 90 percent of the capital costs
14 of the project, as determined by the Sec-
15 retary.”.

16 (b) NATIONAL TRANSIT DATABASE.—Section 5335
17 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “section 5307
19 or 5311” and inserting “section 5307, 5310, or
20 5311”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(c) DATA RELATING TO SECTIONS 5310 AND
23 5311.—The reporting and uniform systems established
24 under subsection (a) shall include information with respect
25 to activities carried out using a grant under section 5310

1 or 5311, including, for each recipient of a grant under
 2 section 5310 or 5311 and for each State—

3 “(1) the number of vehicles purchased; and

4 “(2) the number of rides provided.”.

5 **SEC. 4. METROPOLITAN AND STATEWIDE TRANSPOR-**
 6 **TATION PLANNING.**

7 (a) METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.—
 8 Section 5303(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
 9 ed by adding at the end the following:

10 “(8) PARTICIPATION BY OLDER INDIVIDUALS
 11 AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.—

12 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph,
 13 the terms ‘disability’ and ‘older individual’ have
 14 the same meanings as in section 102 of the
 15 Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002).

16 “(B) PARTICIPATION REQUIRED.—In de-
 17 veloping a transportation plan under this sec-
 18 tion, a metropolitan planning organization
 19 shall—

20 “(i) ensure that organizations that
 21 represent older individuals and individuals
 22 with disabilities (including community ac-
 23 tion agencies, area agencies on aging,
 24 aging and disability resource centers, and
 25 other representatives of the aging and dis-

1 ability networks) have a reasonable oppor-
2 tunity to comment on the transportation
3 plan and document the efforts of the met-
4 ropolitan planning organization to solicit
5 such comments;

6 “(ii) take into consideration any com-
7 ments received under clause (i) and docu-
8 ment how any such comments were taken
9 into consideration in the development of
10 the transportation plan; and

11 “(iii) give organizations that represent
12 older individuals and individuals with dis-
13 abilities (including community action agen-
14 cies, area agencies on aging, aging and dis-
15 ability resource centers, and other rep-
16 resentatives of the aging and disability net-
17 works) an opportunity to review and com-
18 ment on the transportation plan before the
19 transportation plan becomes final.”.

20 (b) STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.—Sec-
21 tion 5304 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by
22 adding at the end the following:

23 “(k) PARTICIPATION BY OLDER INDIVIDUALS AND
24 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.—

1 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
2 terms ‘disability’ and ‘older individual’ have the
3 same meanings as in section 102 of the Older Amer-
4 icans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002).

5 “(2) PARTICIPATION REQUIRED.—In developing
6 a statewide transportation plan or a statewide trans-
7 portation improvement program under this section, a
8 State shall—

9 “(A) ensure that organizations that rep-
10 resent older individuals and individuals with
11 disabilities have a reasonable opportunity to
12 comment on the plan or program and document
13 the efforts of the State to solicit such com-
14 ments;

15 “(B) take into consideration any comments
16 received under subparagraph (A) and document
17 how any such comments were taken into consid-
18 eration in the development of the plan or pro-
19 gram; and

20 “(C) give organizations that represent
21 older individuals and individuals with disabil-
22 ities an opportunity to review and comment on
23 the plan or program before the plan or program
24 becomes final.”.

1 **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MOBILITY MANAGE-**
2 **MENT.**

3 (a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

4 (1) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-
5 section—

6 (A) the term “eligible entity” means a
7 nonprofit organization that provides transpor-
8 tation services to older individuals;

9 (B) the term “older individual” has the
10 same meaning as in section 102 of the Older
11 Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002); and

12 (C) the term “urbanized area” has the
13 same meaning as in section 5302 of title 49,
14 United States Code.

15 (2) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
16 Federal Transit Administration shall enter into a co-
17 operative agreement with the National Center on
18 Senior Transportation—

19 (A) to provide technical assistance to tran-
20 sit and human services organizations;

21 (B) to disseminate best practices with re-
22 spect to transportation for older individuals to
23 consumers, Federal, State, and local transpor-
24 tation and aging services providers, and re-
25 searchers; and

1 (C) to make grants to eligible entities to
2 test innovative and replicable approaches for
3 addressing the mobility needs of older individ-
4 uals, including individuals in other than urban-
5 ized areas.

6 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
8 this subsection—

9 (A) \$5,500,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

10 (B) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

11 (b) MOBILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Transit Admin-
13 istration shall make grants to nonprofit aging serv-
14 ices organizations—

15 (A) to offer mobility management services,
16 including mobility management activities and
17 projects described in section 5302(a)(1)(L) of
18 title 49, United States Code; and

19 (B) to develop and implement enhanced
20 technology to support mobility management
21 services.

22 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

23 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
24 this subsection—

25 (A) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

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(B) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

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