

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Subcommittee on Research and Technology Members and Staff
FROM: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Staff
DATE: September 4, 2015
RE: Research and Technology Subcommittee Markup

The Subcommittee on Research and Technology will meet on **Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.**, in Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building to consider the following:

- **Committee Print of H.R. _____, the “Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2015”;**
- **H.R. 2886, the “Future Transportation Research and Innovation for Prosperity Act”**

Committee Print of H.R. _____, the “Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2015”. The Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2015, to be introduced by Research and Technology Subcommittee Chair Barbara Comstock, authorizes research and development activities within the Department of Transportation (DOT). The bill focuses on a making research at DOT multi-modal, non-duplicative and transparent, and makes the reduction of traffic congestion a priority area of research and development within DOT. The bill also directs DOT to study the state of rail safety technologies and whether the railroad industry is keeping up with innovations in technologies to make rail cars safer. The bill simplifies guidelines for University Transportation Centers grant applicants while maintaining a system to maximize participation by large and small institutions, and makes changes to DOT prize competitions so that the language is consistent with the changes provided in HR 1162, the Science Prize Competitions Act, which passed the House on May 19, 2015 under suspension. The bill does not authorize any appropriation.

H.R. 2886, the “Future Transportation Research and Innovation for Prosperity Act” was introduced by Research and Technology Subcommittee Ranking Member Daniel Lipinski on June 25, 2015. The Future TRIP Act would establish priorities for the next generation of connected and autonomous vehicle research and establish an Intelligent Transportation Systems Center of Excellence to improve sharing of best practices, training, and technical assistance. The bill would direct the Department of Transportation (DOT) to create Strategic Research, Development, and Technology plans based on critiques from the National Academies, including

intermodal and interagency collaborations, and also direct the Office of Science and Technology Policy to engage in cross-agency coordination of transportation research. The legislation would also strengthen DOT's transportation data collection in a number of areas, including efficiency and safety of freight transportation. The Future TRIP Act would authorize pavement research, support the application of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to multimodal transportation challenges, remove burdensome regulations on the University Transportation Center program, and bolster technology transfer.

For questions about this markup, please contact James Danford of the Science Committee at 225-6371.