

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 411

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a university transportation center to be known as the “Southwest Bridge Research Center”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Mr. BINGAMAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a university transportation center to be known as the “Southwest Bridge Research Center”.

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 “Southwest Bridge Re-  
5       search Center Establishment Act of 2003”.

6       **SEC. 2. BRIDGE RESEARCH CENTER.**

7       Section 5505 of title 49, United States Code, is  
8       amended by adding at the end the following:

9       “(k) SOUTHWEST BRIDGE RESEARCH CENTER.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the univer-  
2           sity transportation centers receiving grants under  
3           subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall provide  
4           grants to New Mexico State University, in collabora-  
5           tion with the Oklahoma Transportation Center, to  
6           establish and operate a university transportation  
7           center to be known as the ‘Southwest Bridge Re-  
8           search Center’ (referred to in this subsection as the  
9           ‘Center’).

10           “(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center  
11           shall be to contribute at a national level to a systems  
12           approach to improving the overall performance of  
13           bridges, with an emphasis on—

14                   “(A) increasing the number of highly  
15                   skilled individuals entering the field of transpor-  
16                   tation;

17                   “(B) improving the monitoring of struc-  
18                   tural health over the life of bridges;

19                   “(C) developing innovative technologies for  
20                   bridge testing and assessment;

21                   “(D) developing technologies and proce-  
22                   dures for ensuring bridge safety, reliability, and  
23                   security; and

24                   “(E) providing training in the methods for  
25                   bridge inspection and evaluation.

1           “(3) OBJECTIVES.—The Center shall carry out  
2 the following programs and activities:

3           “(A) Basic and applied research, the prod-  
4 ucts of which shall be judged by peers or other  
5 experts in the field to advance the body of  
6 knowledge in transportation.

7           “(B) An education program that includes  
8 multidisciplinary course work and participation  
9 in research.

10          “(C) An ongoing program of technology  
11 transfer that makes research results available  
12 to potential users in a form that can be imple-  
13 mented.

14          “(4) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—To be eligi-  
15 ble to receive a grant under this subsection, the in-  
16 stitution specified in paragraph (1) shall enter into  
17 an agreement with the Secretary to ensure that, for  
18 each fiscal year after establishment of the Center,  
19 the institution will fund research activities relating  
20 to transportation in an amount that is at least equal  
21 to the average annual amount of funds expended for  
22 the activities for the 2 fiscal years preceding the fis-  
23 cal year in which the grant is received.

24          “(5) COST SHARING.—

1           “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal  
2 share of the cost of any activity carried out  
3 using funds from a grant provided under this  
4 subsection shall be 50 percent.

5           “(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-  
6 Federal share of the cost of any activity carried  
7 out using funds from a grant provided under  
8 this subsection may include funds provided to  
9 the recipient under any of sections 503, 504(b),  
10 and 505 of title 23.

11           “(C) ONGOING PROGRAMS.—After estab-  
12 lishment of the Center, the institution specified  
13 in paragraph (1) shall obligate for each fiscal  
14 year not less than \$200,000 in regularly budg-  
15 eted institutional funds to support ongoing  
16 transportation research and education pro-  
17 grams.

18           “(6) PROGRAM COORDINATION.—

19           “(A) COORDINATION.—The Secretary  
20 shall—

21                   “(i) coordinate the research, edu-  
22 cation, training, and technology transfer  
23 activities carried out by the Center;

24                   “(ii) disseminate the results of that  
25 research; and

1                   “(iii) establish and operate a clearing-  
2                   house for information derived from that re-  
3                   search.

4                   “(B) ANNUAL REVIEW AND EVALUA-  
5                   TION.—At least annually, and in accordance  
6                   with the plan developed under section 508 of  
7                   title 23, the Secretary shall review and evaluate  
8                   each program carried out by the Center using  
9                   funds from a grant provided under this sub-  
10                  section.

11                  “(7) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF  
12                  FUNDS.—Funds made available to carry out this  
13                  subsection shall remain available for obligation for a  
14                  period of 2 years after the last day of the fiscal year  
15                  for which the funds are authorized.

16                  “(8) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—For each of fiscal  
17                  years 2004 through 2009, the Secretary shall pro-  
18                  vide a grant in the amount of \$3,000,000 to the in-  
19                  stitution specified in paragraph (1) to carry out this  
20                  subsection.

21                  “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
22                  There is authorized to be appropriated from the  
23                  Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit

1 Account) to carry out this subsection \$3,000,000 for  
2 each of fiscal years 2004 through 2009.”.

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