

1           ment strategic plan under section 6503 of title  
2           49”; and

3           (B) in section 5206(e)(2)(A), by striking  
4           “or the Surface Transportation Research and  
5           Development Strategic Plan developed under  
6           section 508 of title 23” and inserting “or the  
7           transportation research and development stra-  
8           tegic plan under section 6503 of title 49”.

9           (3) INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM  
10          RESEARCH.—Section 5305(h)(3)(A) of SAFETEA-  
11          LU (23 U.S.C. 512 note; Public Law 109–59) is  
12          amended by striking “the strategic plan under sec-  
13          tion 508 of title 23, United States Code” and insert-  
14          ing “the 5-year strategic plan under 6503 of title  
15          49, United States Code”.

16   **SEC. 6020. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FUNDING**  
17                           **ALTERNATIVES.**

18          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
19          program to provide grants to States to demonstrate user-  
20          based alternative revenue mechanisms that utilize a user  
21          fee structure to maintain the long-term solvency of the  
22          Highway Trust Fund.

23          (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under  
24          this section, a State or group of States shall submit to

1 the Secretary an application in such form and containing  
2 such information as the Secretary may require.

3 (c) OBJECTIVES.—The Secretary shall ensure that  
4 the activities carried out using funds provided under this  
5 section meet the following objectives:

6 (1) To test the design, acceptance, and imple-  
7 mentation of 2 or more future user-based alternative  
8 revenue mechanisms.

9 (2) To improve the functionality of such user-  
10 based alternative revenue mechanisms.

11 (3) To conduct outreach to increase public  
12 awareness regarding the need for alternative funding  
13 sources for surface transportation programs and to  
14 provide information on possible approaches.

15 (4) To provide recommendations regarding  
16 adoption and implementation of user-based alter-  
17 native revenue mechanisms.

18 (5) To minimize the administrative cost of any  
19 potential user-based alternative revenue mechanisms.

20 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or group of States re-  
21 ceiving funds under this section to test the design, accept-  
22 ance, and implementation of a user-based alternative rev-  
23 enue mechanism—

24 (1) shall address—

1 (A) the implementation, interoperability,  
2 public acceptance, and other potential hurdles  
3 to the adoption of the user-based alternative  
4 revenue mechanism;

5 (B) the protection of personal privacy;

6 (C) the use of independent and private  
7 third-party vendors to collect fees and operate  
8 the user-based alternative revenue mechanism;

9 (D) market-based congestion mitigation, if  
10 appropriate;

11 (E) equity concerns, including the impacts  
12 of the user-based alternative revenue mecha-  
13 nism on differing income groups, various geo-  
14 graphic areas, and the relative burdens on rural  
15 and urban drivers;

16 (F) ease of compliance for different users  
17 of the transportation system; and

18 (G) the reliability and security of tech-  
19 nology used to implement the user-based alter-  
20 native revenue mechanism; and

21 (2) may address—

22 (A) the flexibility and choices of user-based  
23 alternative revenue mechanisms, including the  
24 ability of users to select from various tech-  
25 nology and payment options;

1 (B) the cost of administering the user-  
2 based alternative revenue mechanism; and

3 (C) the ability of the administering entity  
4 to audit and enforce user compliance.

5 (e) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall consider  
6 geographic diversity in awarding grants under this section.

7 (f) LIMITATIONS ON REVENUE COLLECTED.—Any  
8 revenue collected through a user-based alternative revenue  
9 mechanism established using funds provided under this  
10 section shall not be considered a toll under section 301  
11 of title 23, United States Code.

12 (g) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost  
13 of an activity carried out under this section may not ex-  
14 ceed 50 percent of the total cost of the activity.

15 (h) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year  
16 after the date on which the first eligible entity receives  
17 a grant under this section, and each year thereafter, each  
18 recipient of a grant under this section shall submit to the  
19 Secretary a report that describes—

20 (1) how the demonstration activities carried out  
21 with grant funds meet the objectives described in  
22 subsection (c); and

23 (2) lessons learned for future deployment of al-  
24 ternative revenue mechanisms that utilize a user fee  
25 structure.