

Section 2164(c) of title 10, United States Code. The Committee encourages the Secretary as chief executive of the Department to render a final decision regarding these payments that is consistent with the law and is in the best interest of the affected children.

General provisions.—The Committee reiterates its direction to the Department to provide a detailed explanation for each and every general provision requested in the budget. The Committee expects each of the modal administrations to provide a similar justification for each requested general provision.

Bill language.—The bill continues language that permits up to \$2,500,000 of fees to be credited to the office of the secretary for salaries and expenses.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriation, fiscal year 2007	\$8,528,000
Budget request, fiscal year 2008	9,140,900
Recommended in the bill	9,140,900
Bill compared with:	
Appropriation, fiscal year 2007	+612,900
Budget request, fiscal year 2008	---

The office of civil rights is responsible for advising the secretary on civil rights and equal opportunity matters and ensuring full implementation of civil rights opportunity precepts in all of the department's official actions and programs. This office is responsible for enforcing laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination in federally operated and federally assisted transportation programs. This office also handles all civil rights cases related to Department of Transportation employees.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee provides \$9,140,900 for the office of civil rights, which represents a \$612,900 increase above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and the same as the budget request.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

Appropriation, fiscal year 2007	\$14,893,000
Budget request, fiscal year 2008	9,115,000
Recommended in the bill	8,515,000
Bill compared with:	
Appropriation, fiscal year 2007	-6,378,000
Budget request, fiscal year 2008	-600,000

This appropriation finances those research activities and studies concerned with the planning, analysis, and information development needed to support the secretary's responsibilities in the formulation of national transportation policies. It also finances the staff necessary to conduct these efforts. The overall program is carried out primarily through contracts with other federal agencies, educational institutions, nonprofit research organizations, and private firms.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$8,515,000 for transportation planning, research and development, a decrease of \$6,378,000 below the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and \$600,000 below the budget request.

The Committee directs funding to be allocated to the following projects:

Advanced freight locomotive safety and monitoring system, MA ..	\$1,000,000
Ballast water research, UW-Superior, WI	1,000,000
Center for commercial deployment of transportation technologies, CA	250,000
Commercial vehicle rollover prevention technology demonstra- tion, MI	1,000,000
Great lakes maritime research institute, WI	1,000,000
National center for manufacturing sciences (NCMS), MI	750,000

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

Limitation, fiscal year 2007	(\$118,014,000)
Budget request, fiscal year 2008 ¹	---
Recommended in the bill	(128,094,000)
Bill compared with:	
Limitation, fiscal year 2007	(+10,080,000)
Budget request, fiscal year 2008	(+128,094,000)

¹ Proposed without limitation.

The working capital fund (WCF) was created to provide common administrative services to the various modes and outside entities that desire those services for economy and efficiency. The fund is financed through negotiated agreements with the department's operating administrations and other governmental elements requiring the WCF's capabilities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$128,094,000 on the working capital fund. The budget request proposed a limitless program level for the fund in fiscal year 2008. The Committee's recommendation is appropriate considering the funding levels of the operations and administrative accounts.

Modal usage of working capital fund.—Consistent with past practice, the Committee directs the department, in its fiscal year 2009 congressional justifications for each of the modal administrations, to account for increases or decreases in WCF billings based on planned usage requested or anticipated by the modes rather than anticipated by WCF managers.

MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM

	Appropriation	Limitation on guaranteed loans
Appropriation, fiscal year 2007	\$893,000	(\$18,367,000)
Budget request, fiscal year 2008	891,000	(18,367,000)
Recommended in the bill	893,000	(18,367,000)
Bill compared to:		
Appropriation, fiscal year 2007	---	(---)
Budget request, fiscal year 2008	+2,000	(---)

The minority business resource center of the office of small and disadvantaged business utilization provides assistance in obtaining short-term working capital and bonding for disadvantaged, minority, and women-owned businesses. The program enables qualified businesses to obtain loans at prime interest rates for transportation-related projects.