AFCC’S Legislative Language Request
To Overcome the Obstacles to Incorporating Innovations in Federally Funded Infrastructure Projects

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Committee:
To come

Federal Agency: Department of Transportation

Departments: Federal Highway Administration Center for Advancing Innovations

Proposed Legislative Language:
[Bill number and section where the following language is to be incorporated]
The Secretary of Transportation shall publish a notice in the Federal Register within 90 days of enactment of this legislation to encourage States to consider using advanced, innovative, transformative, and sustainable technologies and materials in all federally funded transportation projects by adopting amendments to their infrastructure construction and repair specifications within 180 days of enactment of this legislation to allow for the use of these technologies and materials in lieu of standard construction and repair methods.

The Secretary shall encourage States to include the benefits of using these technologies and materials in assessing the performance and cost-benefits of bids and awarding contracts, such as better performance, cost effectiveness, improved integrity and longevity, and making use of balanced mix designs using recycled materials with no limits on the amounts of recycled material that can be used, which provide reduced greenhouse gas emissions, in lieu of only awarding contracts to the lowest bidder.

The Secretary shall further stipulate that within twelve (12) months of enactment of this legislation all Federally funded infrastructure projects will require that construction and repair specifications allow for innovations to be incorporated into infrastructure projects when said innovations can be demonstrated to offer improved performance.