

Basic Act on Transportation Policy

(Act No. 92 of December 4, 2013)

Table of Contents

Chapter I General Provisions (Articles 1 through 14)

Chapter II Basic Policies on Transportation

Section 1 Basic Plan for Transportation Policies (Article 15)

Section 2 State Policies (Articles 16 through 31)

Section 3 Local Government Policies (Article 32)

Supplementary Provisions

Chapter I General Provisions

(Purpose)

Article 1 The purpose of this Act is to improve the stability of the lives of the people and ensure a sound development of the national economy through a comprehensive and systematic implementation of transportation policies, coupled with the Basic Act on Traffic Safety Measures (Act No. 110 of 1970), by establishing basic principles and matters that will serve as the basis for putting those basic principles into practice, and by clarifying the responsibilities of the national and local governments.

(Basic Understanding for the Promotion of Transportation Policies)

Article 2 Since the function of transportation is to ensure the people can carry out their everyday activities and lead their lives in society independently, enable an active inter-regional and international exchange, as well as guarantee a smooth distribution of goods, and since transportation is indispensable for improving stability of the lives of the people and ensuring a sound development of the national economy, transportation policies must be promoted with the basic understanding that it is important to properly satisfy the basic transportation needs of residents and other members of the public (referred to below as "the public") by making sure that transportation functions to its full potential into the future.

(Ensuring and Improving the Functioning of Transportation)

Article 3 (1) Since transportation is the basis that allows the people to carry out their everyday activities and lead their lives in society, plays an important role in the people's active participation in socioeconomic activities, and is the basis for economic activities, transportation policies must be promoted with the goal

of ensuring that transportation functions properly and improving its functionality so as to turn transportation into a means that will help the people achieve prosperity, as well as contribute to boosting the international competitiveness of Japan's industries, tourism, and other sectors, and to revitalizing local regions through efforts such as stimulating local economies or maintaining and developing local communities, while also coping with socioeconomic changes in Japan such as the recent rapid progression of an aging population combined with a low birthrate and a decrease in population.

- (2) To ensure that transportation functions properly and improve its functionality, due consideration must be given from the perspective of building national resilience to mitigating any deterioration in the functionality of transportation and to contributing to a quick recovery from that deterioration in the event of a large-scale disaster, as well as to ensuring that transportation is suitable for any evacuation efforts in the event of such a disaster by keeping transportation functional and ensuring a smooth evacuation in the event of such a disaster, considering the importance of keeping Japan's socioeconomic activities sustainable.

(Reducing the Environmental Impact of Transportation)

Article 4 Considering the fact that keeping the environment clean and rich in diversity is indispensable for ensuring that people may lead healthy and cultured lives, and considering the effect transportation has on the environment, transportation policies must be promoted with the goal of reducing the environmental impact of transportation so that the people may enjoy the benefits of a clean and highly diverse environment into the future.

(Appropriate Division of Roles and Organic and Efficient Coordination Among Different Means of Transportation)

Article 5 Transportation policies must be promoted with the goal of ensuring appropriate division of roles as well as organic and efficient coordination among means of transportation such as walking, bicycles, road vehicles, railway vehicles, vessels, or aircraft, taking into consideration the competition between the different means of transportation available (including transportation facilities and transportation services; the same applies below) and the free choice of the public, based on the characteristics of each means of transportation.

(Promotion of Policies Through Coordination)

Article 6 From the perspective of urban planning, developing Japan as a tourism-oriented country, and other efforts, transportation policies must be promoted through coordination and cooperation among the national

government, local governments, transport businesses, or other businesses related to transportation (referred to below as "transportation-related businesses"), persons who manage transportation facilities (referred to below as "managers of transportation facilities"), residents, and other relevant persons, by seeking mutual coordination between those policies, as well as by seeking to coordinate those policies with other relevant policies.

(Ensuring Transportation Safety)

Article 7 (1) Policies on ensuring transportation safety are to be governed by the Basic Act on Traffic Safety Measures and other relevant Acts since those policies play an important role in protecting the lives, physical health, and property of the public.

(2) To promote transportation policies, sufficient coordination with policies on ensuring transportation safety that are to be implemented in accordance with what is provided for in the preceding paragraph must be assured.

(Responsibilities of the National Government)

Article 8 (1) The national government is to be responsible for comprehensively establishing and implementing transportation policies in accordance with the basic principles of the transportation policies prescribed in Articles 2 through 6 (referred to below simply as "basic principles").

(2) The national government must endeavor to raise awareness about the basic principles among the public and encourage the public to cooperate by providing relevant information or through other efforts.

(Responsibilities of Local Governments)

Article 9 (1) Local governments are to be responsible for establishing and implementing transportation policies based on the natural and socioeconomic conditions of the areas under their jurisdiction, in accordance with the basic principles and based on an appropriate division of roles with the national government.

(2) Local governments must endeavor to raise awareness about the basic principles among residents and other members of the public and to encourage them to cooperate by providing relevant information or through other efforts.

(Responsibilities of Transportation-Related Businesses and Managers of Transportation Facilities)

Article 10 (1) Given the importance of their roles in putting the basic principles into practice, transportation-related businesses and managers of transportation facilities are to endeavor to conduct their business appropriately and cooperate with any policies on transportation implemented

by the national or local governments.

- (2) Beyond what is provided for in the preceding paragraph, transportation-related businesses and managers of transportation facilities are to endeavor to provide correct and suitable information relevant to their business in accordance with the basic principles.

(Role of the Public)

Article 11 The public is to play a proactive role in putting the basic principles into practice by endeavoring to gain a better understanding of those basic principles and put them into practice through efforts they can engage in on their own, while also endeavoring to cooperate in implementing the transportation policies introduced by the national and local governments.

(Coordination and Cooperation Among Relevant Persons)

Article 12 The national and local governments, transportation-related businesses, managers of transportation facilities, residents, and other relevant persons are to endeavor to coordinate and cooperate with each other in an effort to put the basic principles into practice.

(Legislative Measures)

Article 13 The government must take legislative, financial, or other measures that are necessary to implement transportation policies.

(Annual Reports)

Article 14 (1) The government must annually submit to the National Diet a report on transportation trends and any transportation measures implemented by the government.

- (2) The government must annually prepare and submit to the National Diet documents explaining the policies that the government is going to implement based on the transportation trends included in the report in the preceding paragraph.

Chapter II Basic Policies on Transportation

Section 1 Basic Plan for Transportation Policies

Article 15 (1) The government must establish a basic plan for transportation policies (referred to below as "basic plan for transportation policies" in this Article) for a comprehensive and systematic promotion of transportation policies.

- (2) A basic plan for transportation policies is to state the following:
- (i) the basic direction of transportation policies;

- (ii) the objectives of transportation policies;
 - (iii) the measures on transportation that the government is to implement comprehensively and systematically;
 - (iv) beyond what is listed in the preceding three items, matters necessary for a comprehensive and systematic promotion of transportation policies.
- (3) A basic plan for transportation policies must be in conformity with national plans for comprehensive utilization, development, and conservation of national land, and with national basic plans for preservation of the environment.
- (4) The Prime Minister, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism must prepare a draft of a basic plan for transportation policies and seek a cabinet decision on those policies.
- (5) Before preparing a draft of a basic plan for transportation policies pursuant to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism must make public an outline of the plan, the details, and other necessary information related to the plan, and broadly seek the opinion of the public.
- (6) Before preparing a draft of a basic plan for transportation policies pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (4), the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism must seek the opinions of the Transportation Policy Council and the Infrastructure Development Council.
- (7) Before preparing a draft of a basic plan for transportation policies pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (4), the Prime Minister, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism must consult with the Minister of Environment with regard to preservation of the environment.
- (8) Once a basic plan for transportation policies is established, the government must report this to the National Diet and make those policies public without delay.
- (9) The provisions of paragraphs (4) through (8) of this Article apply *mutatis mutandis* to any changes made to a basic plan for transportation policies.

Section 2 National Government Policies

(Ensuring Means of Transportation Indispensable for Everyday Activities)

Article 16 The national government is to take necessary measures such as ensuring different means of transportation, while taking into account the transportation situation on remote islands and other natural and socioeconomic conditions of local regions, in order to make it possible for people to commute to work, travel to school, or visit hospitals quickly and efficiently,

and to make other forms of transportation that are essential for the people's everyday activities and their lives in society quick and efficient for both people and goods, even in a situation where the people's needs for transportation are diversifying or the demand is decreasing along with the progression of a declining birthrate and aging population, a decrease in population, and other socioeconomic changes.

(Policies to Allow Elderly Persons, Persons with Disabilities, and Pregnant Women to Travel Smoothly)

Article 17 The national government is to take necessary measures such as boosting improvements in the structure and features of road vehicles, railway vehicles, vessels, aircraft, passenger facilities, roads, and parking lots in order to make it possible for elderly persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and other persons for whom everyday activities and lives in society are restricted due to their physical limitations, as well as persons accompanied by infants to travel quickly and efficiently when carrying out their everyday activities and leading their lives in society.

(Ensuring Safety and Sanitation of Passenger Facilities for Public Transportation)

Article 17-2 In order to enable the people to use public transportation safely and without stress, the national government is to take necessary measures such as providing support to ensure that passenger facilities and services related to public transportation are safe and sanitary.

(Efforts to Make Transportation More Convenient, Seamless, and Efficient)

Article 18 Beyond what is provided for in the preceding three Articles, in order to properly satisfy the basic transportation needs of the public for their everyday activities and their lives in society, the national government is to take necessary measures to make transportation more convenient, seamless, and efficient, including ensuring punctuality (meaning ensuring that transportation services operate within set departure and arrival times), improving speed (meaning shortening the time required to reach a destination), ensuring comfort, facilitating connections for passengers, or otherwise enhancing transportation connections (meaning enhancing connections between two or more means of transportation to transport a certain number of passengers using transportation facilities and any surrounding facilities), as well as streamlining transportation services.

(Policies Necessary to Boost International Competitiveness)

Article 19 In order to boost the international competitiveness of Japan's

industries, tourism, and other sectors, the national government is to take necessary measures such as creating international maritime transportation networks and international air transportation networks, improving seaports and airports that are hubs in those international transportation networks, and enhancing the connections between those international transportation networks and nationwide domestic transportation networks.

(Policies Necessary to Revitalize Local Regions)

Article 20 In order to revitalize local economies, maintain and develop local communities, or otherwise revitalize local communities, the national government is to take necessary measures, such as creating domestic transportation networks and transportation hubs (including creating core high-speed transportation networks) that can contribute to boosting the establishment of enterprise sites within local regions as well as communication and exchange of goods within and between local regions.

(Sound Development of Transport Businesses and Other Businesses Related to Transportation)

Article 21 The national government is to take necessary measures such as enhancing business infrastructure, offering support to secure sufficient human resources (including making the necessary improvements to working conditions), and developing human resources in order to promote a sound development of the transport business and other business fields related to transportation since stable operations in those fields can help ensure that transportation functions properly and improve its functionality.

(Policies Necessary to Mitigate Deterioration in the Functionality of Transportation and to Ensure a Quick Recovery from that Deterioration in the Event of a Large-Scale Disaster)

Article 22 From the perspective of building national resilience, the national government must take necessary measures such as improving the safety of transportation facilities against earthquakes, securing means of transportation that are mutually replaceable, ensuring coordination between relevant persons for a quick recovery of transportation functionality, and developing means of transportation by taking into account that evacuation of a large number of people may be temporarily necessary in the event of a large-scale disaster, in order to mitigate any deterioration in the functionality of transportation, contribute to a quick recovery from that deterioration in the event of such a disaster, and ensure a smooth evacuation in the event of such a disaster, given the importance of keeping Japan's socioeconomic activities sustainable.

(Policies Necessary to Reduce the Environmental Impact of Transportation)

Article 23 In order to reduce the environmental impact of transportation, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions linked to transportation, preventing air pollution, marine pollution, and noise, the national government is to take necessary measures such as promoting the development, diffusion, and proper use of vehicles and other transportation machinery or equipment that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and emissions of other substances that impact the environment, as well as making transportation more seamless, promoting a shift to rail and sea freight or otherwise optimizing transportation of goods, making public transportation more convenient for passengers, preventing any discharge of waste from vessels into the ocean, and preventing any damage caused by noise from aircraft.

(Development of an Integrated Transportation System)

Article 24 (1) The national government is to take necessary measures to develop an integrated transportation system such as facilitating the enhancement of coordination between road traffic, railway traffic, marine traffic, and air traffic as well as the enhancement of mutual coordination between public transportation services, considering the importance of appropriate division of roles among means of transportation such as walking, bicycles, road vehicles, railway vehicles, vessels, and aircraft based on the characteristics of each mode of transportation, as well as the importance of creating organic and efficient transportation networks.

(2) The national government is to take necessary measures to intensively, effectively, and efficiently promote the development of means of transportation through the coordination provided for in the preceding paragraph, while taking into account trends in the demand for transportation and the level of deterioration of transportation facilities, as well as other circumstances.

(Promotion of Policies from the Perspective of Urban Planning)

Article 25 The national government is to take necessary measures so that transportation policies implemented by local government can be promoted through coordination and cooperation with the national government, transportation-related businesses, managers of transportation facilities, residents, and other relevant persons, from the perspective of urban planning and based on comprehensive plans on land use, and other relevant matters. In this case, the national government is to endeavor to have the transportation needs of residents and other members of the public and other circumstances be considered for that coordination and cooperation.

(Promotion of Policies from the Perspective of Developing Japan as a Tourism-

Oriented Country)

Article 26 Since developing Japan as a tourism-oriented country is vital for Japan's socioeconomic development and boosting tourist travel helps improve the stability of the lives of the people and ensure a sound development of the national economy as well as contributes to promoting cross-cultural appreciation through the expansion of inter-regional and international exchange, the national government is to take necessary measures related to transportation to boost tourist travel such as facilitating the provision of the necessary means of transportation that allow tourists to travel smoothly or facilitating access to information on road vehicles, railway vehicles, vessels, aircraft, passenger facilities, and roads for foreign tourists by providing that information in foreign languages or implementing other measures.

(Encouraging Consultation)

Article 27 The national government is to take necessary measures to facilitate mutual coordination and cooperation between relevant persons such as facilitating consultation between the national government, local governments, transportation-related businesses, managers of transportation facilities, residents, and other relevant persons, considering that mutual coordination and cooperation among these parties enable the transportation policies to be effectively promoted.

(Research and Study)

Article 28 The national government is to promote necessary research and study on transportation trends or other matters to formulate transportation policies.

(Development and Diffusion of Technology)

Article 29 Since utilizing information and communications technologies and other technologies contributes to an effective promotion of transportation policies, the national government is to take necessary measures such as setting specific goals for research and development of transportation-related technologies, enhancing coordination among the national research and development institutions, research and development institutions of incorporated administrative agencies, universities, private-sector organizations, and other organizations that conduct research and development, and facilitating the introduction of means of transportation that make use of technologies which facilitate putting the basic principles into practice, so as to effectively promote research and development as well as diffusion of technologies for transportation.

(Promoting International Coordination and Securing International

Cooperation)

Article 30 Considering the importance of promoting transportation policies through international collaboration, the national government is to take necessary measures to promote international coordination regarding transportation such as standardizing international standards or facilitating other forms of international cooperation, as well as facilitating technological cooperation for developing regions, while giving consideration to the possibility of technologies and knowledge accumulated in Japan being utilized in foreign countries.

(Measures to Implement Policies by Taking into Account the Needs of the Public)

Article 31 The national government is to take necessary measures such as measures to ensure the public's opinions are taken into consideration, so as to implement transportation policies from the perspective of the needs of the Public based on those opinions.

Section 3 Policies of Local Governments

Article 32 Local governments are to comprehensively and systematically implement transportation policies based on the natural and socioeconomic conditions of the areas under their jurisdiction by seeking mutual coordination between those policies, as well as by seeking to coordinate those policies with other relevant policies, from the perspective of urban planning and other factors.

Supplementary Provisions

(Effective Date)

(1) This Act comes into effect on the date of promulgation.