Supplementary Information for

Using in-cell SHAPE-Seq and simulations to probe structure-function design principles of RNA transcriptional regulators

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Supplementary Methods

Simulation details

All-atom, replica exchange molecular dynamics (REMD) were performed for Fusion 3 and Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) sense strand, hairpins (nucleotides 14-61) using the GROMACS software package version 5.0.4 (Pronk et al. 2013). The Amber-99 force field (Wang et al. 2000) ported to GROMACS by Sorin and Pande (Sorin and Pande 2005) was used with modifications for nucleic acids introduced by Chen and Garcia (Chen and García 2013). Further improvements to the nucleic acid torsion and base-pairing potentials calibrated against ultrasonic absorption (Nishikawa et al. 2000) and NMR relaxation dispersion (Rinnenthal et al. 2010) were incorporated. A total of 13209 and 13186 explicit water molecules were added to the Fusion 3 and Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) systems respectively with the TIP3P model (Jorgensen et al. 1983). Additionally 86 Na⁺ and 39 Cl⁻ ions were added to each system to neutralize the net charge and bring the salt concentration to 0.15 M. Ions were modeled using parameters by Åqvist (Aaqvist 1990) following the approach by Chen and Pappu (Chen and Pappu 2007) to eliminate spurious ion-pairing artifacts.

Each RNA was centered in a 6.0 x 6.0 x 12.0 Å box and aligned to the principle axis. The box size was chosen based on maintaining a minimum distance of 10 Å between periodic images in the conformational space explored during preliminary, long, high-temperature simulations. A rough alignment with the principle axis was maintained by the application of 3 Å, flat-bottomed, cylindrical restraints with weak, 100 kJ/mol force constant, harmonic edges to the C5' residues at the base of the stem and a 5 Å, flat-bottomed, spherical restraint with weak, 50 kJ/mol force constant, harmonic edges to the C3' residue at the center of the loop. Long-range electrostatic interactions were treated using the particle mesh Ewald approach (Cheatham et al. 1995).

Initial, all-atom RNA structures were generated by the MC-Sym package (Parisien and Major 2008) using secondary structures generated by RNAstructure (Reuter and Mathews 2010) as input. A steepest decent energy minimization was performed until the maximum force was less than 100.0 kJ/mol/nm. A 100 ps, constant volume simulation was used to equilibrate the temperature to 300 K and was followed by a 100 ps, constant pressure equilibration at 1 bar. Production simulations were performed for 130 ns with conformational sampling by replica exchange. Constant temperature was maintained for each replica using a modified Berendsen thermostat with a tau-t of 0.1 ps. A 2 fs time step was used and snapshots were saved every 2 ps. The first 30 ns were considered equilibration based on analysis of cumulative average base pair occupancy (Supplementary Figure S9).

A preliminary REMD temperature schedule was generated using the temperature predictor algorithm by Patriksson and van der Spoel (Patriksson and van der Spoel 2008). A 1 ns REMD run was used to optimize the temperature schedule by calculation of the rate of acceptance using Gaussian energy distributions as implemented by Garcia and Paschek (García et al. 2006). The resulting schedule comprised 66 replicates ranging from 290.00 K to 435.10 K. The upper temperature limit was selected to permit significant melting of loop and fusion region while leave the stem relatively intact. Exchange rates of 25% were obtained with swaps attempted every 2 ps.

Supplementary Table S1: Plasmids used in this study. Abbreviations are as follows. TrrnB = rrnB terminator, CmR = chloramphenicol resistance, AmpR = ampicillin resistance, SFGFP = super folder green fluorescent protein, t500 = T500 terminator, ECK120051404 = ECK120051404 terminator (Chen et al. 2013).

Plasmid	Plasmid architecture	Name	Figures
number			U U
JBL001	TrrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	No	N/A
		attenuator	
		control	
JBL002	J23119 – TrrnB – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	No	N/A
		antisense	
		control	
JBL006	J23119 – pT181 attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB – backbone	pT181	2
	(p15A origin/CmR)		
JBL1521	J23119 – pT181 antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500 –	pT181	2
	backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	antisense	
JBL1815	J23119 – Fusion 1 attenuator – TrrnB – backbone (p15A	Fusion 1	2
	origin/CmR)		-
JBL1954	J23119 – Fusion 1 antisense – g – ECK120051404 – t500	Fusion 1	2, S2
	– backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	antisense	
JBL1017	J23119 – Fusion 2 attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB –	Fusion 2	2
	backbone (p15A origin/CmR)		
JBL1920	J23119 - Fusion 2 antisense - g - ECK120051404 - t500	Fusion 2	2, S2
	– backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	antisense	
JBL1039	J23119 – Fusion 3 attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB –	Fusion 3	2, 3
	backbone (p15A origin/CmR)		
JBL1921	J23119 - Fusion 3 antisense - g - ECK120051404 - t500	Fusion 3	2, 3, S2
	– backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	antisense	
JBL1037	J23119 – Fusion 10 attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB –	Fusion 10	2
	backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	F 1 40	<u> </u>
JBL1918	J23119 - Fusion 10 antisense - g - ECK120051404 - 1500 -	Fusion 10	2
	t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	antisense	
JBL1126	J23119 – Fusion 4 attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB –	Fusion 4	2, 3
	backbone (p15A origin/CmR)		
JBL1919	J23119 - Fusion 4 antisense $-g - ECK120051404 - t500$	Fusion 4	2, 3
	- Dackbone (Cole Forgin/AmpR)		2
JBL1932	J23119 – Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) attenuator – SFGFP –		3
	ImmB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	LI(UU-AA)	2
JBL19//	J23119 - Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) antisense - g - C(X120051404) t=00 healthana (CalF1 arigin(AmpB))		3
	ECK 12005 1404 – (500 – backbone (Cole Fongin/AmpR)	LI(UU-AA)	
IDI 1027	122110 Eusion 2 I 1(AA IIII) attenuator SECED		86
JDL1927	J23119 - Fusion 3 L1(AA-00) allendaloi - 3FGFF - TrrnP backbang (n154 grigin/CmP)		30
		LI(AA-00)	86
JDL1970	525119 - Fusion 5 ET(AA-00) antisense - y - ECK120051404 + t500 backbana (CalE1 origin/AmpD)		30
	ECK120051404 = (500 = backbolle (Cole Foligili/AllipK)	antisense	
IBI 1033	123110 - Eusion 312(11C-AG) attenuator - SEGEP -	Eusion 3	86
3DE 1933	TrrnB = hackbone (n15A origin/CmR)	$12(11C-\Delta G)$	50
IBI 1070	123119 - Fusion 312(11C-AG) antisense - a -	$\frac{12(00-A0)}{100}$	56
5021373	ECK120051404 - t500 - backbone (CoIF1 origin/AmpR)		
		antisense	
.IBI 1928	J23119 – Eusion 3 L2(GLI-CA) attenuator – SEGEP –	Fusion 3	3
3021020	TrrnB – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	L2(GU-CA)	Ĩ
1			1

JBL1980	J23119 – Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) antisense – g –	Fusion 3	3
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	L2(GU-CA)	
		antisense	-
JBL1948	J23119 – Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB	Fusion 4	3
	– backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	L(UG-AC)	0
JBL1982	J23119 - Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) antisense - g -	Fusion 4	3
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	L(UG-AC)	
		antisense	07
JBL1949	J23119 – Fusion 4 L(AC-UG) attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB	Fusion 4	S7
IDI 1062		L(UG-AC)	\$7
JDL1902	$FCK_{120051404} = FC_{1200} = FCK_{120051404} = t_{1200} = t_{12$		37
		antisense	
IDI 5222	122110 NILIDACK Eucion 1 attonuator SECED TrrnP	ND Eucion	6
JDLJZJZ	backhone (n154 origin/CmP)	1	0
IDI 5222	23110 NUDACK Eucion 1 anticonco TrrnP	I ND Eucion	6
JDL5255	J23119 - NOFACK FUSION 1 anilisense - 11110 -	1 anticonco	0
			6
JDL0204	- backbone (n15A origin/CmR)	2	0
JBL 5235	J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 2 antisense – TrrnB –	– NP Fusion	6
	backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	2 antisense	•
JBL 5236	J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 1 attenuator (112) – g –	NP Fusion	6. S13
	ECK120051404 - t500 - backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	1 (SHAPE)	0,010
JBL5237	J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 2 attenuator (112) – g –	NP Fusion	6. S13
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	2 (SHAPE)	-,
JBL1941	J23119 – Fusion 1 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404	Fusion 1	2, S2
	– t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	(SHAPE)	,
JBL1916	J23119 – Fusion 2 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404	Fusion 2	2, S2, S5
	 t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) 	(SHAPE)	
JBL1917	J23119 – Fusion 3 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404	Fusion 3	2, 3, 4, 5,
	 t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) 	(SHAPE)	S2, S6, S8
JBL1914	J23119 – Fusion 10 attenuator (112) – g –	Fusion 10	2, S4, S5
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	(SHAPE)	
JBL1915	J23119 – Fusion 4 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404	Fusion 4	2, 3, 5, S4
	 t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR) 	(SHAPE)	
JBL1522	J23119 – pT181 attenuator (112) – g – ECK120051404 –	pT181	1
	t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	(SHAPE)	
JBL1974	J23119 – Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) attenuator (112) – g –	Fusion 3	3
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	L1(UU-AA)	
		(SHAPE)	
JBL1975	J23119 – Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) attenuator (112) – g –	Fusion 3	S6
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	L1(AA-UU)	
		(SHAPE)	
JBL1984	J23119 – Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) attenuator (112) – g –	Fusion 3	3, 4, S5,
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	L2(GU-CA)	S8
		(SHAPE)	
JRL19/6	JZ3T19 - FUSION 3 L2(UC-AG) attenuator (112) - g - FOR 120051404 - 1500 - 1501 (112) - g - 1000 (112)		50
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)		
		(SHAPE)	2.05
JRF1880	JZSIIS - FUSION 4 L(UG-AC) ATTENUATOR (112) - g - ECK120051404 + ECO - backbang (s154 primin (CmD))		১, ১ ১
	$E \subseteq K = 2005 = 404 - 1500 - backbone (p = 5A origin/CmR)$		
	122110 Euclop 4 L (AC LIC) attenuator (112)	(SHAPE)	87
JDL 199/	$y_{23} + y_{3} = Fu_{3} + u_{3} + u_{4} + u_{4} + u_{5} + u_$		31
			1

JBL3273	J23119 – R1 hairpin1 – g – ECK120051404 – t500 –	R1	5, S11
	backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	(SHAPE)	
JBL3317	J23119 – pMU720 hairpin1 – g – ECK120051404 – t500 –	pMU720	5, S11
	backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	(SHAPE)	
JBL3286	J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 3 attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB	NP Fusion	S12
	– backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	3	
JBL3288	J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 4 attenuator – SFGFP – TrrnB	NP Fusion	S12
	– backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	4	
JBL3287	J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 3 antisense – TrrnB –	NP Fusion	S12
	backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	3 antisense	
JBL3289	J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 4 antisense – TrrnB –	NP Fusion	S12
	backbone (ColE1 origin/AmpR)	3 antisense	
JBL3309	J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 3 attenuator (112) – g –	NP Fusion	S12
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	3 (SHAPE)	
JBL3313	J23119 – NUPACK Fusion 4 attenuator (112) – g –	NP Fusion	S12
	ECK120051404 – t500 – backbone (p15A origin/CmR)	4 (SHAPE)	

Supplementary Table S2: Important DNA sequences. Abbreviations are as follows. TrrnB = rrnB terminator, CmR = chloramphenicol resistance, AmpR = ampicillin resistance, SFGFP = super folder green fluorescent protein, t500 = T500 terminator, ECK120051404 = ECK120051404 terminator (Chen et al. 2013).

Name	Sequence
	GGATCCTTACTCGAGTCTAGACTGCAGTTGATCG <mark>GGCACGTAAGAGGTTCCA</mark>
Backbone	ACTTTCACCATAATGAAATAAGATCACTACCGGGCGTATTTTTTGAGTTATCGA
(p15A	GATTTTCAGGAGCTAAGGAAGCTAAAATGGAGAAAAAAATCACTGGATATACC
origin/CmR	ACCGTTGATATATCCCAATGGCATCGTAAAGAACATTTTGAGGCATTTCAGTC
)	AGTTGCTCAATGTACCTATAACCAGACCGTTCAGCTGGATATTACGGCCTTTT
	TAAAGACCGTAAAGAAAAATAAGCACAAGTTTTATCCGGCCTTTATTCACATTC
CmR –	TIGCCCGCCIGAIGAAIGCICAICCGGAATTICGIAIGGCAAIGAAAGACGGI
p15A origin	GAGCIGGIGATAIGGGATAGIGIICACCCIIGIIACACCGIIIICCAIGAGCA
	CCGTTTCACCATGGGCAAATATTATACGCAAGGCGACAAGGTGCTGATGCC
	TTGATATCGAGCTCGCTTGGACTCCTGTTGATAGATCCAGTAATGACCTCAGA
	ACTOCATCTGGATTTGTTCAGAACGCTCGGTTGCCGCCGGCGTTTTTTATTG
	GTGAGAATCCAAGCCTCCGATCAACGTCTCATTTTCGCCAAAAGTTGGCCCAG
	GGCTTCCCGGTATCAACAGGGACACCAGGATTTATTTATT
	TTCCGTCACAGGTATTTATTCGGCGCAAAGTGCGTCGGGTGATGCTGCCAAC
	TTACTGATTTAGTGTATGATGGTGTTTTTGAGGTGCTCCAGTGGCTTCTGTTTC
	TATCAGCTGTCCCTCCTGTTCAGCTACTGACGGGGTGGTGCGTAACGGCAAA
	AGCACCGCCGGACATCAGCGCTAGCGGAGTGTATACTGGCTTACTATGTTGG
	CACTGATGAGGGTGTCAGTGAAGTGCTTCATGTGGCAGGAGAAAAAAGGCTG
	CACCGGTGCGTCAGCAGAATATGTGATACAGGATATATTCCGCTTCCTCGCTC
	ACTGACTCGCTACGCTCGGTCGTTCGACTGCGGCGAGCGGAAATGGCTTACG
	AACGGGGCGGAGATTTCCTGGAAGATGCCAGGAAGATACTTAACAGGGAAGT
	GAGAGGGCCGCGGCAAAGCCGTTTTTCCATAGGCTCCGCCCCCTGACAAG
	CATCACGAAATCTGACGCTCAAATCAGTGGTGGCGAAACCCGACAGGACTAT
	AAAGATACCAGGCGTTTCCCCCTGGCGGCTCCCTCGTGCGCTCTCCTGTTCC
	TGCCTTTCGGTTTACCGGTGTCATTCCGCTGTTATGGCCGCGTTTGTCTCATT
	CCACGCCTGACACTCAGTTCCGGGTAGGCAGTTCGCTCCAAGCTGGACTGTA
	TGCACGAACCCCCCGTTCAGTCCGACCGCTGCGCCTTATCCGGTAACTATCG
	GGTAATTGATTTAGAGGAGTTAGTCTTGAAGTCATGCGCCGGTTAAGGCTAAA
Paakhana	
Digin/Amp	
	GTGGCGAAACCCGACAGGACTATAAAGATACCAGGCGTTTCCCCCTGGAAG
origin –	CTCCCTCGTGCGCTCTCCTGTTCCGACCCTGCCGCTTACCGGATACCTGTCC
AmpR	GCCTTCCCCTCGGGAAGCGTGGCGCCTTTCTCATAGCTCACGCTGTAGGT
	ATCTCAGTTCGGTGTAGGTCGTTCGCTCCAAGCTGGGCTGTGTGCACGAACC
	CCCCGTTCAGCCCGACCGCTGCGCCTTATCCGGTAACTATCGTCTTGAGTCC

	AACCCGGTAAGACACGACTTATCGCCACTGGCAGCAGCCACTGGTAACAGGA TTAGCAGAGCGAGGTATGTAGGCGGTGCTACAGAGTTCTTGAAGTGGTGGCC TAACTACGGCTACACTAGAAGAAGAGTTGTAGGTGATCTGGCGCTTGCTGAAGC CAGTTACCTTCGGAAAAAGAGTTGGTAGCTCTTGATCCGGCAAACAAA
Example attenuator- SFGFP	GATGATTCACGAGGCAGAATTCAGATAAAAAAATCCTTAGCTTTCGCTAAG GATGATTCTG GAATTCTAAAGATCTTTGACAGCTAGCTCAGTCCTAGGTATAATACTAGTAACA AAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCCTGACCAAAGTTTGTGAACGACATCATTC AAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGA
construct (EcoRi - J23119 – pT181 attenuator – RBS – SFGFP – TrrnB)	TATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAAACGAAATT GAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCA AATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAAT AGCCGGTTGTAAGGATCTAGGAGGAAGGATCTATGAGCAAAGGAGGAGAAGAACT TTTCACTGGAGTTGTCCCAATTCTTGTTGAATTAGATGGTGATGTTAATGGGCA
	CAAATTTTCTGTCCGTGGAGAGGGTGAAGGTGATGCTACAAACGGAAAACTC ACCCTTAAATTTATTTGCACTACTGGAAAACTACCTGTTCCGTGGCCAACACTT GTCACTACTCTGACCTATGGTGTTCAATGCTTTTCCCGTTATCCGGATCACAT GAAACGGCATGACTTTTTCAAGAGTGCCATGCCCGAAGGTTATGTACAGGAA CGCACTATATCTTTCAAAGATGACGGGACCTACAAGACGCGTGCTGAAGTCAA
	AGAAGATGGAAACATTCTTGGACACAAACTCGAGTAAAGGGTATTGATTTTAA AGAAGATGGAAACATTCTTGGACACAAACTCGAGTACAACTTTAACTCACACA ATGTATACATCACGGCAGACAAACAAAAGAATGGAATCAAAGCTAACTTCAAA ATTCGCCACAACGTTGAAGATGGTTCCGTTCAACTAGCAGACCATTATCAACA AAATACTCCAATTGGCGATGGCCCTGTCCTTTTACCAGACAACCATTACCTGT
	CTTCTTGAGTTTGTAACTGCTGCTGGGATTACACATGGCATGGACCACATGGTC CTTCTTGAGTTTGTAACTGCTGCTGGGATTACACATGGCATGGCATGAGCTCTA CAAATAAGGATCTGAAGCTTGGGCCCGAACAAAAACTCATCTCAGAAGAGAGGAT CTGAATAGCGCCGTCGACCATCATCATCATCATCATCATTGAGTTTAAACGGTCTC CAGCTTGGCTGTTTTGGCGGATGAGAGAAGATTTTCAGCCTGATACAGATTAA
	ATCAGAACGCAGAAGCGGTCTGATAAAACAGAATTTGCCTGGCGGCAGTAGC GCGGTGGTCCCACCTGACCCCATGCCGAACTCAGAAGTGAAACGCCGTAGC GCCGATGGTAGTGTGGGGTCTCCCCATGCGAGAGTAGGGAACTGCCAGGCA

	TCAAATAAAACGAAAGGCTCAGTCGAAAGACTGGGCCTTTCGTTTTATCTGTT
	GTTTGTCGGTGAACT
Example	GAATTCTAAAGATCTTTGACAGCTAGCTCAGTCCTAGGTATAATACTAGTATAC
antisense	AAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTCTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACAAACT
construct	TTGGTCAGGGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTTGCCTCTACCTGCTTCGGCCGA
	TAAAGCCGACGATAATACTCCCAAAGCCCGCCGAAAGGCGGGCTTTTTTT
(<mark>EcoRI</mark> –	
pT181	
antisense –	
g-	
ECK12005	
1404 –	
t500)	
Example	GAATTC TAAAGATCT TTGACAGCTAGCTCAGTCCTAGGTATAATACTAGTAACA
attenuator	AAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCCTGACCAAAGTTTGTGAACGACATCATTC
SHAPE	AAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGA
construct	GCCTCTACCTGCTTCGGCCGATAAAGCCGACGATAATACTCCCAAAGCCCGC
	CGAAAGGCGGGCTTTTTTT
(<mark>EcoRI</mark> –	
pT181	
attenuator	
(112) – g –	
ECK12005	
1404 -	
t500)	

Supplementary Table S3: Attenuator sequences.

Name	Sequence
pT181	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCCTGACCAAAGTTTGTGAACGACATC
	ATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAA
	ACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAAACG
	AAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATC
	ATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACT
	CTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA
Fusion 1	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCTTGGCGGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAA
	AGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGATA
	TTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAAACGAAATTG
	AGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAA
	ATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATA
	GCCGGTTGTAA
Fusion 2	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGGAACTTGGCGGAACTGTGAACGACAT
	CATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTA
	AACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAAAC
	GAAATIGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAAT
Fusion 3	
Eusion 10	
	TATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAAACGAAATT
	GAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCA
	AATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAAT
	AGCCGGTTGTAA
Fusion 4	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTACGATGTGAAC
	GACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGA
	TATTAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTT
	AAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGC
	AAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGG
	CTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA
Fusion 3	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCTCGTTCTTGGCGGAACGCAGTGTG
L1(UU-AA)	AACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTT
	AGATATTAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATAT
Fusion 3	
L1(AA-00)	
Eucion 2	
	ΑGΑΤΑΤΤΑΔΑΛΟGΑΤΑΤΤΤΑΔΑΤΑΤΑΛΟΛΟΤΟΛΟΤΟΤΟΤΤΤΤΑΛΑΤΟΤΟΙΑΙΑΠΤ
1	

	ATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAAC
	CGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA
Fusion 3	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCTGCGAACTTGGCGGAACGCAGTGTG
L2(GU-CA)	AACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTT
	AGATATTAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATAT
	CCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATC
	ATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAAC
	CGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA
Fusion 4	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTGTACTTTGGCGAGTACGATGTGAAC
L(UG-AC)	GACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGA
	TATTAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTT
	AAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGC
	AAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGG
	CTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA
Fusion 4	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTTGGATGTGAAC
L(AC-UG)	GACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGA
	TATTAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTT
	AAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGC
	AAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGG
	CTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA
NP Fusion	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGGAGGCCTTGGCGGGAGTCTGTGAACG
1	ACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGAT
	ATTAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTA
	AACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCA
	AATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGC
	TACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA
NP Fusion	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGGGGGTGTTGGCGCAGACCTGTGAACG
2	ACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGAT
	ATTAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTA
	AACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCA
	AATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGC
NP Fusion	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGAAGACCGCCCTCCCT
3	CATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTA
	AACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAAAC
	GAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAAT
NP Fusion	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGAACCTAACCTGGCATGTGAACGACATC
4	
p1181	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCCTGACCAAAGTTTGTGAACGACATC
(SHAPE)	
Fusion 1	AACAAAAIAAAAAGGAGICGCICACGCIIGGCGGIGIGAACGACAICAIICAA
(SHAPE)	AGAAAAAAAACACIGAGIIGIIIIIATAAICIIGIATAIIIAGATAIIAAACGA
Fusion 2	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGGAACTTGGCGGAACTGTGAACGACAT
(SHAPE)	CATICAAAGAAAAAAACACIGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTA
	AACGA
Fusion 3	AACAAAAIAAAAGGAGICGCICACGCCTCGAACTTGGCGGAACGCAGTGTG
(SHAPE)	AAUGAUATUATICAAAGAAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTT AGATATTAAACGA

Fusion 10	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCTTTGGCGAGTGTGAACGACATCATTC
(SHAPE)	AAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAACGA
Fusion 4	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTACGATGTGAAC
(SHAPE)	GACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGA
	TATTAAACGA
Fusion 3	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCTCGTTCTTGGCGGAACGCAGTGTG
L1(UU-AA)	AACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTT
(SHAPE)	AGATATTAAACGA
Fusion 3	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCTCGAACTTGGCGGTTCGCAGTGTG
L1(AA-UU)	AACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTT
(SHAPE)	AGATATTAAACGA
Fusion 3	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCTGCGAACTTGGCGGAACGCAGTGTG
L2(UC-AG)	AACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTT
(SHAPE)	AGATATTAAACGA
Fusion 3	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCTCGAACTTGGCGGAACGAGGTGTG
L2(GU-CA)	AACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTT
(SHAPE)	AGATATTAAACGA
Fusion 4	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTGTACTTTGGCGAGTACGATGTGAAC
L(UG-AC)	GACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGA
(SHAPE)	
Fusion 4	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTCAACTTTGGCGAGTTGGATGTGAAC
L(AC-UG)	GACATCATICAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGA
(SHAPE)	
R1 hairpin	
NP Fusion	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGGAGGCCTTGGCGGGAGTCTGTGAACG
1 (SHAPE)	ACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGAT
, ,	ATTAAACGA
NP Fusion	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGGGGGTGTTGGCGCAGACCTGTGAACG
2 (SHAPE)	ACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGAT
	ATTAAACGA
NP Fusion	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGAAGACCGCCCTCCCT
3 (SHAPE)	CATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTA
	AACGA
NP Fusion	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGAACCTAACCTGGCATGTGAACGACATC
4 (SHAPE)	ATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAA
	ACGA
pMU720	AAGGAAAACCCCCACTATTTTCCTCGAACTTGGCGGAACGCAGAAAAATAAT
hairpin	GGGGGCCTCACAGAATAC

Supplementary Table S4: Antisense sequences

Name	Sequence
pT181	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
	AACTTTGGTCAGGGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 1	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
	CCGCCAAGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 2	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
	GTTCCGCCAAGTTCCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 3	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
	CTGCGTTCCGCCAAGTTCGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 10	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
	CTCGCCAAAGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 4	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
	TCGTACTCGCCAAAGTTGAACGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 3	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
L1(UU-AA)	CTGCGTTCCGCCAAGAACGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 3	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
L1(AA-UU)	CTGCGAACCGCCAAGTTCGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 3	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
L2(UC-AG)	CCTCGTTCCGCCAAGTTCGAGGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 3	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
L2(GU-CA)	CTGCGTTCCGCCAAGTTCGCAGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 4	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
L(UG-AC)	TCGTACTCGCCAAAGTACAACGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
Fusion 4	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
L(AC-UG)	TCCAACTCGCCAAAGTTGAACGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
NP Fusion	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
1	GACTCCCGCCAAGGCCTCCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
NP Fusion	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
2	GGTCTGCGCCAACACCCCCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
NP Fusion	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
3	GGGAGGGCGGTCTTCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTATTT
NP Fusion	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTTTTTTGAATGATGTCGTTCACA
4	TGCCAGGTTAGGTTCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTT

Supplementary Table S5: Oligonucleotides used for in-cell SHAPE-Seq. Abbreviations within primer sequences are as follows: '/5Biosg/' is a 5' biotin moiety, '/5Phos/' is a 5' monophosphate group, '/3SpC3/' is a 3' 3-carbon spacer group, VIC and NED are fluorophores (ABI), and asterisks indicate a phosphorothioate backbone modification.

Reverse Transcription		
ECK120051404	·	
Terminator	/5Biosg/TTTATCGGCCGAAGCAGGTAG	
(ECK404)		
	Adapter Ligation	
A_adapter_b		
(A_b) (ssDNA	/5Phos/AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAACTCCAGTCAC/3SpC3/	
adapter)		
	Fluorescent Quality Analysis	
Reverse QA		
primer (+)	VIC-GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Reverse QA		
primer (-)	NED-GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
	Primers for Building dsDNA Libraries	
ECK404 (+)		
selection primer	CTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTRRRYtTTATCGGCCGAAGCAGGTAgA*G*G*C	
(forward)		
ECK404 (-)		
selection primer	CTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTYYYRtTTATCGGCCGAAGCAGGTAgA*G*G*C	
(forward)		
PE_forward [†] AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT		
Illumina Multiplexing Primers (Oligonucleotide sequences © 2007-2013 Illumina, Inc. All		
	rights reserved.)	
Illumina Index #1 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATCGTGATGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #2 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATACATCGGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #3 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATGCCTAAGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #4 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATTGGTCAGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #5 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATCACTGTGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #6 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATATTGGCGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #7 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATGATCTGGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #8 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATTCAAGTGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #9 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATCTGATCGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #10 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATAAGCTAGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #11 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATGTAGCCGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #12 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATTACAAGGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #13 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATTTGACTGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #14 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATGGAACTGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #15 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATTGACATGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #16 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATGGACGGGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	
Illumina Index #18 [†]	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATGCGGACGTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTC	

[†]Oligonucleotide sequences © 2007-2013 Illumina, Inc. All rights reserved.

Supplementary Table S6. RMDB data deposition table. SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra generated in this work is freely available from the RNA Mapping Database (RMDB) (http://rmdb.stanford.edu/repository/), accessible using the RMDB ID numbers listed in the table below.

Name	RMDB ID	Contents	Figure(s) used in
Fusion 1	FUS01_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of Fusion 1 sensing hairpin	2, S2
Fusion 2	FUS02_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of Fusion 2 sensing hairpin	2, S2, S5
Fusion 3	FUS03_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of Fusion 3 sensing hairpin	2, 3, 4, 5, S2, S6, S8
Fusion 4	FUS04_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of Fusion 4 sensing hairpin	2, 3, 5, S4
Fusion 10	FUS10_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of Fusion 10 sensing hairpin	2, S4, S5
Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA)	FUS3L1A_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA) sensing hairpin	3
Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU)	FUS3L1B_1M7_0001	Single data of Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU) sensing hairpin	S6
Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG)	FUS3L2B_1M7_0001	Single data of Fusion 3 L2(UC-AG)	S6
Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA)	FUS3L2A_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) sensing hairpin	3, 4, S5, S8
Fusion 4 L(UG-AC)	FUS4LA_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of Fusion 4 L(UG-AC) sensing hairpin	3, S5
Fusion 4 L(AC-UG)	FUS4LB_1M7_0001	Single data of Fusion 4 L(AC-UG) sensing hairpin	S7
NP Fusion 1	NPFUS1_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of NP Fusion 1 sensing hairpin	6, S13
NP Fusion 2	NPFUS2_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of NP Fusion 2 sensing hairpin	6, S13
NP Fusion 3	NPFUS3_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of NP Fusion 3 sensing hairpin	S12
NP Fusion 4	NPFUS4_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of NP Fusion 4 sensing hairpin	S12
pMU720 hairpin	PMU720_1M7_0001	Triplicate data of pMU720 regulator5, S11sensing hairpin	
R1 hairpin	R1HP1_1M7_0001	Quadruple data of R1 regulator sensing5, S11hairpin	

Supplementary Table S7. A thermodynamic folding analysis of the ON and OFF states predicts that all fusions should be functional. Free energies of the ON, OFF (no antisense), and OFF (with antisense) were calculated using RNAstructure (Reuter and Mathews 2010) and are reported in kcal/mol. The ON structure was obtained by forced pairing of the antiterminator with the 5' half of the terminator stem using the RNAStructure fold utility with default parameters. Similarly, the OFF (no antisense) structure is the lowest free energy structure where the complete terminator and poly U are formed. The OFF-with-antisense free energy was calculated using the duplex utility by also including the complete antisense sequence (without terminator). All of these analysis predict that OFF (with antisense) is much more stable than OFF (no antisense), indicating that from a thermodynamic perspective all fusions should be functional.

Attenuator	ON	OFF (no antisense)	OFF (with antisense)
Fusion 1	-50.1	-54.6	-173.6
Fusion 2	-48.2	-52.7	-184.4
Fusion 3	-54.6	-55.5	-204.8
Fusion 3 L1(UU-AA)	-58	-61.4	-204.8
Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA)	-56	-63.1	-204.8



Supplementary Figure S1. Plasmid architecture for (A) Attenuator-SFGFP constructs for functional testing. (B) Antisense constructs for functional testing. (C) Truncated attenuator constructs for in-cell SHAPE-Seq. (D) Antisense constructs for functional testing or in-cell SHAPE-Seq. Specific sequences can be found in Supplementary Tables S2-S4. The no-antisense control plasmid lacked an antisense coding sequence.



Supplementary Figure S2. Full comparison of in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra for Fusions 1-3. The common sequence from the pT181 attenuator is nucleotides 1-26 and 49-120. Shaded region indicates the fusion region shown in Figure 2. The Fusion 3 sequence is used for the comparison. Nucleotide positions that are not included in Fusions 1 or 2 are left without data. Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide. Secondary structures are in-cell SHAPE-constrained predictions (see Materials and Methods).



Supplementary Figure S3. In-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity comparison for Fusions 1-3 antisense RNAs (AS). The common sequence from the pT181 antisense is nucleotides 1-55 and 78-99. The shaded region indicates the pMU720 sequence included for each Fusion. The Fusion 3 antisense sequence is used for the comparison. Nucleotide positions that are not included in Fusions 1 or 2 are left without data. Reactivity spectra represent an average of two independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing the high and low value for each nucleotide. Secondary structures are in-cell SHAPE-constrained predictions (see Materials and Methods).



Supplementary Figure S4. Full comparison of in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra for Fusions 10 and 4. The common sequence from the pT181 attenuator is nucleotides 1-26 and 47-118. Shaded region indicates the fusion region shown in Figure 2. The Fusion 4 sequence is used for the comparison. Nucleotide positions that are not included in Fusion 10 are left without data. Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide.



Supplementary Figure S5. Comparison of interior loop closures to non-functional fusions. (A) Incell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 3 hairpin indicating mutations to close the lower interior loop L2(GU-CA). Boxed region indicates nucleotides shown in the reactivity spectra in (B). The nucleotides included in Fusion 2 are in the colored box. (B) Incell SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra comparing Fusion 2 and Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA). The data is the same as represented in Figures 2C and 3F respectively. (C) In-cell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 4 hairpin indicating mutations to close the interior loop L(UG-AC). Boxed region indicates nucleotides shown in the reactivity spectra in D. The nucleotides included in Fusion 10 are in the colored box. (D) In-cell reactivity spectra comparing Fusion 10 and Fusion 4 L(UG-AC). The data is the same as represented in Figures 2F and 3I respectively.



Supplementary Figure S6. Mutations to the 3' side of Fusion 3 interior loops. Data complementary to Figure 3. The Fusion 3 data is the same as represented in Figure 3. (A) Functional characterization of Fusion 3 and the Fusion 3 L1 mutant that closes the top interior loop. Average fluorescence (FL/OD) of *E. coli* TG1 cells with (+ AS) or without (- AS) antisense RNA. Error bars represent standard deviations of nine biological replicates. (B) In-cell SHAPE-- constrained secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 3 hairpin indicating mutations to close the upper interior loop (L1, AA-UU). Boxed region indicates nucleotides shown in the reactivity spectra in (C). (C) In-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity comparison for Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU). A single in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiment was performed for Fusion 3 L1(AA-UU). Shaded regions and colored brackets indicate nucleotides of the mutated interior loop. (D, E, F) As in (A, B, C) but for the Fusion 3 L2 mutant that closes the bottom interior loop.



Supplementary Figure S7. Mutations to the 3' side of the Fusion 4 interior loop. Data complementary to Figure 3. The Fusion 4 data is the same as represented in Figure 3. (A) Functional characterization of Fusion 4 and the Fusion 4 mutant that closes the interior loop. Average fluorescence (FL/OD) of *E. coli* TG1 cells with (+ AS) or without (- AS) antisense RNA. Error bars represent standard deviations of nine biological replicates. (B) In-cell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 4 hairpin indicating mutations to close the interior loop L(AC-UG). Boxed region indicates nucleotides shown in the reactivity spectra in (C). (C) In-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity comparison for Fusion 4 and Fusion 4 L(AC-UG). A single in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiment was performed for Fusion 4 L(AC-UG). Shaded regions and colored brackets indicate nucleotides of the mutated interior loop.



Supplementary Figure S8. Percent base pair occupancies from molecular dynamics simulations performed at (A) 311 K and (B) 400 K show the increased stability in the fusion region of the interior loop mutant Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) compared to Fusion 3. Simulation data converted to percent frames with bases unpaired, or open, for (C) 311K and (D) 400K to allow for comparison to SHAPE-Seq reactivities. (E) Comparison of percent change in base pair occupancy at 311 K and 400 K. Percent base pair occupancies were first converted into percentages of frames in which each base pair was not occupied (C and D). This was then used to calculate a percent change in this value from Fusion 3 to Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA) at each base pair. Shaded regions indicate the L1 and L2 interior loops.



Supplementary Figure S9. The simulation cumulative average base pair occupancy is shown for A) fusion 3 and B) fusion 3L2 at 311K. The first 30 ns (the grayed region) was discarded as equilibration while the following 100 ns was considered converged and used in the calculation of the reported base pair occupancies.



Supplementary Figure S10. Representative simulation structures are shown at (A) 311 K and (B) 400 K for Fusion 3 and Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA). Ribbon representations of nucleic acid backbone and bases are colored according to in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivities from Figure 3F. Solvent accessible surface representations, shown in transparent gray, depict the points contacted by a spherical probe of 1.4Å radius rolled across the van der Waals radii of the RNA atoms. Images generated using VMD software (Humphrey et al. 1996).



Supplementary Figure S11. Full in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity profiles for natural translational regulator hairpins. (A) In-cell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the pMU720 hairpin with in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity profile in (B). (C) In-cell SHAPE-constrained secondary structure prediction of the R1 hairpin with in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity profile in (D). Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide. Shaded regions indicate the data presented in Figure 5.



Supplementary Figure S12. Using NUPACK to design additional chimeric attenuators with defined interior loops. (A) NUPACK (Zadeh et al. 2011) design constraints. The nucleotides specified in the base of the hairpin are the same as those in the fusions from this study. Filled circles represent nucleotides that NUPACK was allowed to design. (B) Functional characterization of two NUPACK (NP) designed fusions. Average fluorescence (FL/OD) of *E. coli* TG1 cells with (+ AS) or without (- AS) antisense RNA. Error bars represent standard deviations of nine biological replicates. (C) In-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity spectra for the upper portion of NP Fusion 3 and 4 hairpin stems. Shaded regions indicate nucleotides in the interior loop. Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide.



Supplementary Figure S13. (A) Secondary structure prediction of the Fusion 4, NUPACK Fusion 1 and 2 hairpins. (B) Full in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivity profiles for NUPACK fusions compared to Fusion 4. The common sequence from the pT181 attenuator is nucleotides 1-26 and 47-118. Shaded region indicates the fusion region shown in Figure 2 and 6. The Fusion 4 sequence is used for the comparison. Nucleotide positions that are not included in NP Fusion 1 and 2 are left without data. Reactivity spectra represent an average of three independent in-cell SHAPE-Seq experiments with error bars representing standard deviations at each nucleotide.

Supplementary Note. Code used to design *in silico* attenuators using the NUPACK webservers (Zadeh et al. 2011).

NUPACK web server design algorithm
material = rna
temperature[C] = 37
trials = 2
sodium[M] = 1.0
dangles = some
allowmismatch = true

#sequence domains
domain a = AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACG
domain b = N6
domain c = TTGGCG
domain d = N6
domain e = TGTGAACGACATCATTCAAA

stickfigure.seq = a b c d e

stickfigure.stop = 10.0

Supplementary Movie 1. Movie of a 2 ns segment from REMD simulations of Fusion 3. These trajectories were generated by following the dynamics of an initial conformation, including exchanges across neighboring temperature replicas. This process results in a physically contiguous trajectory in which the simulation temperature is free to gradually vary in the REMD range (290.00 K to 435.10 K). Ribbon representations of nucleic backbone and bases are colored according to in-cell SHAPE-Seq reactivities from Figure 3F. The surface, shown in transparent gray, follows the contour of a constant global atomic density generated using the VMD software (Chen and García 2013; Humphrey et al. 1996) gsurf representation.

Supplementary Movie 2. Movie of a 2 ns segment from REMD simulations of Fusion 3 L2(GU-CA). As in Supplementary Movie 1.

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