

Transportation/Aviation Update

September 8, 2023

NEXT WEEK**House**

Hearing: Automated Trucks. On September 13, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing entitled “The Future of Automated Commercial Motor Vehicles: Impacts on Society, the Supply Chain, and U.S. Economic Leadership.” Witnesses have not yet been announced. Information on the hearing will be posted [here](#).

Senate

Floor Debate: FY 2024 THUD Appropriations. Next week, the Senate will begin debating a “minibus” that will include three FY 2024 appropriations bills, including the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill, Agriculture bill, and the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs bill. Debate could last into the following week. The House has not announced plans for floor debate of its version of the THUD bill.

Hearing: Impact of Extreme Weather on Transportation. On September 13, the Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing entitled “Examining the Effects of Extreme Heat and Weather on Transportation.” Witnesses will include representatives from the City of Phoenix, Laborers International Union of North America, and Jacobs. Information related to the hearing is [here](#).

FAA Reauthorization – Possible Extension. As of today, the Senate Commerce Committee has not scheduled a markup [S. 1939](#), the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2023. In order to ensure that funding for FAA programs does not lapse at the start of FY 2024 on October 1, a short-term extension is likely to be developed. That legislative extension could be carried on the FY 2024 Continuing Appropriations Resolution.

THIS WEEK**Surface Transportation Board**

Proposed Rule: Rail Reciprocal Switching. On September 6, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) voted unanimously to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule (NPRM) which focuses on providing rail customers with access to reciprocal switching as a remedy for poor service. This would entitle shippers to request relief from a nearby railroad if their existing carrier is not meeting minimum service standards. The STB prelease and NPRM is [here](#).

White House

Nomination: FAA Administrator. On September 7, The President nominated Michael Whitaker to be the next FAA Administrator. If confirmed, he will serve a five-year fixed term. Mr. Whitaker, who is a private pilot, currently serves as the CEO of Supernal, Hyundai’s electric aircraft spinoff. He served as FAA’s Deputy Administrator in the Obama Administration.

- Other private sector positions included group CEO of InterGlobe Enterprises, India’s largest travel conglomerate and operator of its largest airline, IndiGo, and United Airlines working on commercial alliances and joint ventures, international and regulatory affairs.

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