



Transportation/Aviation Update

November 22, 2024

NEXT WEEK

With Thanksgiving next week, the House and Senate will not be in session, returning the week of December 2.

THIS WEEK

House

Hearing: Transportation Cybersecurity. On November 19, the Homeland Security Committee held a hearing entitled “Impacts of Emergency Authority Cybersecurity Regulations on the Transportation Sector.” Witnesses included representative from the Transportation Security Administration, Government Accountability Office, Association of American Railroads, and American Gas Association.

- Republicans and industry leaders raised questions about the efficacy of TSA’s recently proposed surface transportation cyber rule. The regulation would require designated railroads and pipeline facilities to conduct an annual cybersecurity evaluation, among other things.
- Subcommittee Ranking Democrat Shri Thanedar (D-MI) and TSA defended the agency’s rule as flexible and necessary to combat threats to infrastructure by foreign adversaries. Members from both parties acknowledged the increasing potential for countries like China to disrupt U.S. transportation. Video of the hearing is [here](#).

White House

DOT Secretary Named. On November 18, President-elect Trump announced his intent to nominate former Wisconsin Republican Congressman Sean Duffy to be the next Secretary of Transportation, The Senate Commerce Committee will hold its confirmation hearing as early as January 20, once Mr. Duffy is formally nominated. The announcement is [here](#).

- Mr. Duffy was elected to Congress in 2010, where he served on the House Financial Services Committee, the Budget Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.
- During his time in Congress, he sponsored four bills that were referred to the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.
 - Three of them were related to waiving certain truck size limits on a Wisconsin interstate, fines for blocked grade crossings and seeking to penalize EPA for not satisfying various regulatory requirements were not considered by the Committee.
 - Another bill concerning a national lakeshore in Wisconsin died in the Senate.
 - Two transportation bills he co-sponsored became law — one was the tax title for the surface transportation bill, and another was a measure to carve out an exemption to exempt commercial truck drivers delivering critical heating fuels during a shortage from rules restricting how long they can drive.



Department of Transportation

FTA: TRACS Meeting. On December 4 and 5, FTA will hold a Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) meeting in Washington, D.C. Members of the public are invited to participate in the meeting in-person or virtually. More information is available in the [Federal Register Notice](#).

FTA: Bus Research NOFO. On November 18, FTA released a Notice of Funding Opportunity to submit applications for the Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Program for up to \$10 million under the Public Transportation Innovation Program in multiple fiscal years. The goal for this program is to make existing and new buses safer for their operators and vulnerable road users, and safer and more accessible for their passengers. The FTA announcement is [here](#).

DOT: Safe Streets for All Grants Awarded. On November 15, DOT announced \$172 million in grants to 257 communities through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. The funding announced will go directly to 257 local, regional, and Tribal communities for planning and demonstration. The DOT Press release is [here](#).

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