



**Transportation/Aviation Update**

March 7, 2025

**NEXT WEEK**

***FY 2025 Appropriations.*** The Current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires next Friday, March 14. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and President Trump are urging passage of a CR that would be for the full fiscal year, through September 30, which would freeze all funding levels at FY 2024 levels. A vote in the House is expected early next week; if successful, the Senate would then likely pass the CR. If the House vote fails, it is possible that there will be a series of short-term CRs, in an effort to avert a government shutdown.

**House**

As of today, there are no aviation or transportation events scheduled for next week. The House has a short week due to the annual Democratic retreat.

**Senate**

***Markup: Subpoena Authorization.*** On March 12, the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a markup to continue consideration of an authorization to “subpoena the production of memoranda, documents, records, or other materials from the Massachusetts Port Authority.”

- Over the last year, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), who is now Chairman, has been seeking information from various airports about migrants being housed at those airports. To date, because Massport has not responded, Chairman Cruz is seeking authority to mandate the requested documents be sent to the Committee. Additional information is in the Committee [release](#).

**THIS WEEK**

**House**

***Hearing: Air Traffic Control.*** On March 4, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing titled, “America Builds: Air Traffic Control System Infrastructure and Staffing.” Witnesses included representatives from the Government Accountability Office, Airlines for America, National Air Traffic Controllers Association, General Aviation Manufacturers Association, and Rinaldi Consultants. Information on the hearing can be found [here](#).

- Much of the focus of the hearing was on air traffic workforce hiring, training and staffing, technologies needed to upgrade air traffic facilities and equipment, and management of airspace.
- Witnesses generally opposed proposals to privatize the air traffic control system, which has been an issue raised regularly in recent decades. But they did express a desire that the FAA be exempt from any future government shutdowns, as it hurts the hiring and training of new controllers.



## Senate

**Floor Vote: DOT Deputy Secretary.** Senate Majority Leader, John Thune (R-SD), has filed cloture to advance the nomination of Steven Bradbury, to be the next DOT Deputy Secretary. The vote on cloture could happen next week, which would be followed by a final vote on Mr. Bradbury's nomination.

**Status Update: FTA Administrator Nomination.** It was reported this week that Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, has not yet met with Marcus Molinaro, the FTA Administrator nominee. She added that she has not discussed a hearing date for Mr. Molinaro, meaning it could be a few weeks until his confirmation hearing occurs.

## Department of Transportation

**Secretary Duffy: Letters on Washington DC Transportation.** On March 6, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy sent letters to D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, Amtrak CEO Stephen Gardner, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority CEO Randy Clarke to prioritize improvements to passenger security, crime reduction, and roadway safety.

- In the [letter](#) to Mayor Bowser, Secretary Duffy expressed concern with the District of Columbia's compliance with various federal safety standards, including the safe and efficient operation of public roadways and the associated right-of-way. The Secretary has requested that the Mayor direct the District DOT to submit a written report within 30 days that identifies all potential areas of roadway non-compliance, locations of elevated risk impacting safety for the traveling public, and any proposed plans that may need to be reviewed as a result of these concerns.
- In a [letter](#) to Amtrak's CEO Stephen Gardner, the Secretary called on Amtrak to prevent crime and improve its management of Washington's Union Station. DOT and FRA have also directed Amtrak to submit an updated Crime Prevention Plan within 30 days, including details about coordination with other law enforcement agencies and tracking of security expenditures.
- In the [letter](#) to WMATA CEO Randy Clarke, Secretary Duffy highlighted the need to address fare evasion and reduce crime on the Washington Metro system to protect the safety and security of riders and workers. The letter directs the agency to provide information about practices, expenditures, and initiatives related to safety and security to the FTA. The Secretary also asked CEO Clarke to provide specific information on safety and security programs and strategies and how they are funded.

## Transportation Security Administration

**TSA Collective Bargaining Agreement Terminated.** On March 7, the Department of Homeland Security announced that it has terminated its collective bargaining agreement with its Transportation Security Officers. The press release is [here](#).

- A DHS Spokesperson said: "Thanks to Secretary Noem's action, Transportation Security Officers will no longer lose their hard-earned dollars to a union that does not represent them. The Trump



Administration is committed returning to merit-based hiring and firing policies. This action will ensure Americans will have a more effective and modernized workforces across the nation’s transportation networks. TSA is renewing its commitment to providing a quick and secure travel process for Americans.”

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