



Transportation/Aviation Update
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NEXT WEEK

The House is not in session until January 10. The Senate will be in session working through nominations. Floor debate on the Build Back Better Act has been pushed to next year. The Senate break is shorter than that of the House, as the Senate will return to legislative session on January 3.

THIS WEEK

Senate

Hearing: Oversight of the Airline Industry. On December 15, the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held an oversight hearing on the airline industry. The hearing examined the impact of the \$54 billion that was provided in Payroll Support Program funding to the commercial airline sector, focusing on it had on the industry's workforce, and the effect of airline operational performance on passengers. The airline CEOs all expressed support for the federal government's actions, arguing those funds saved the airline industry. The flight attendants highlighted the problems its members are having with unruly passengers, calling for stricter federal penalties. There also was an exchange between Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) over the vaccine mandate for large companies. Witnesses included representatives of American, Delta, United and Southwest Airlines, as well as Association of Flight Attendants, and InterVISTAS Consulting Inc. Information on the hearing is [here](#).

Hearing: DOT Nominations. On December 16, the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a hearing on the nominations of 1) John Putnam to be DOT General Counsel, and Dr. Steven Cliff to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Information on the hearing is posted [here](#).

Department of Transportation

FHWA: IIJA Highway Authorizations. The Federal Highway Administration has published the program authorizations for fiscal years 2022-26, pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The \$52.5 billion in apportioned funding for FY 2022 is an increase of more than 20 percent over FY 2021. This funding is distributed annually by FHWA based on a statutory formula contained in the IIJA. FHWA is distributing these funds through a process known as an apportionment, using a statutory formula to determine the amount available to each State. The FHWA page is [here](#).

FAA: IIJA Airport Grant Awards. The Federal Aviation Administration has announced that it has awarded \$2.89 billion in airport grant funds that were provided by Congress in the IIJA. This is the first year installment of the IIJA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant funds. Funding will go to 3,075 airports around the nation and the funds can be invested in runways, taxiways, safety and sustainability projects, as well as terminal, airport-transit connections and roadway projects. An interactive map and listing of funding for individual airports, is [here](#).

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