



NEXT WEEK

House

Organizational Meeting: Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. On February 1, the Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee will meet to organize, approve Committee rules for the 118th Congress, and confirm Committee appointments.

Hearing: Transportation Supply Chain. On February 1, the T&I Committee will hold a hearing entitled, “The State of Transportation Infrastructure and Supply Chain Challenges.” Witnesses will include representatives from the American Trucking Associations, Association of American Railroads, Hamilton Construction, (on behalf of Associated General Contractors of America), Port Houston, and Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO. Testimony and a video link to the hearing will be posted [here](#).

Senate

No transportation or aviation events are planned for next week. The Senate continues to organize as Republicans sort through the appointment of their members to committees. Democrats have named committee rosters, which can be seen in the attached document.

White House

State of the Union. House Speaker McCarthy has invited President Biden to speak before the Congress on February 7 to present the annual State of the Union address.

FY 2024 Budget Delayed. The White House has said that because of the delayed completion of the FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill, the submission of the President’s budget proposal for FY 2024 to Congress will be delayed until March.

THIS WEEK**House**

Passage: NOTAM Improvement Act. On January 24, the House voted 424 to 4 to pass H.R. [346](#), the NOTAM Improvement Act. H.R. 346 would establish a task force under the FAA to review and provide recommendations to update and improve aviation safety notifications to pilots and prevent failures of the notice to air missions (NOTAM) system, like the one that occurred earlier this month causing thousands of cancelled and delayed flights. Identical legislation passed the House in the 117th and 116th Congresses, but the Senate did not act on either bill.

FAA Reauthorization Bill: T&I Committee Chairman Schedule. Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO), Chairman of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, said this week that it is his intention that the next five-year FAA Reauthorization bill pass the House by July. The current FAA bill expires on September 30. Chairman Graves provided no additional details.

- He also said that Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA) would be named Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Department of Transportation

FTA: Low/No and Bus/Bus Facility Grant NOFO. On January 27, FTA released the FY 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Low/No (\$1.22 billion) and Bus/Bus Facilities (\$469 million) competitive grants. Grant applications are due April 13. The NOFO is [here](#).

Webinar: Upcoming Grant Opportunities. On February 8 at 3:00 pm EST, DOT will hold a webinar to highlight the tools available on the DOT Navigator, which is DOT's one stop shop for technical assistance, including the upcoming funding opportunity calendar, tools for identifying Federal disadvantaged community areas, and which programs provide non-Federal match flexibility. The session will also highlight several DOT funding opportunities that are currently accepting applications to expand transportation opportunities to urban, rural, and Tribal communities.

- Speakers will include Amit Bose, FRA Administrator; Andrea Jacobsen, RAISE Grants Program Manager; Lynda Tran, Director of Public Engagement; Veronica McBeth, Senior Advisor, FTA; and Mariia Zimmerman, DOT's Strategic Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Solutions.
- Register at: https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_RIEqzND6Rn-khxCI7Y1QiQ.

FTA: Ferry Boat Grant Awards. On January 26, FTA announced the award of \$384.4 million for 23 ferry projects in 11 states, with funds intended to improve ferry service and reduce emissions. The majority of the funds, about \$286 million, were awarded to projects in Alaska. See the full list of grants [here](#).

Government Accountability Office

Report: Integrating Drones into National Airspace. On January 26, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled, “FAA Should Improve Its Approach to Integrating Drones into the National Airspace System.” The GAO found that the FAA had not yet developed a strategy for integrating drones into the airspace, as it lacked goals, objectives, and milestones, which would help FAA manage more effectively. The report is [here](#).

###