



## NEXT WEEK

### House

**Floor Vote: FAA Extension.** Next week, the House is expected to pass an legislation extending the current FAA authorization to March 8. The current authority to collect aviation taxes and award airport grants expires on December 31. The Senate is expected to pass the bill once the House has approved it.

**Hearing: IJA Implementation.** On December 13, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing entitled : "Oversight of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Modal Perspectives." Witnesses have not yet been announced. Information on the hearing will be posed [here](#).

### Senate

**Hearing: Commercial Space.** On December 13, the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing entitled "Government Promotion of Safety and Innovation in the New Space Economy." According to the Committee, the hearing will address the federal government's role in ensuring the safety, viability and economic competitiveness of commercial space activities and discuss regulatory approaches for the rapidly evolving industry. Witnesses include representatives from NASA, FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Department of Defense. Information on the hearing will be posted [here](#).

## THIS WEEK

### Senate

**Hearing: Wildlife Crossings.** On December 6, the Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing entitled "IJA Investments in Habitat and Ecosystem Restoration, Pollinators, and Wildlife Crossings." Witnesses included representatives from Federal Highway Administration and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Testimony and video of the hearing is [here](#).

- On December 5, FHWA announced \$110 million in grants for 19 wildlife crossing projects in 17 states, including four Indian Tribes. Information on the grant awards is [here](#).

### Department of Transportation

**FRA: Rail Projects Advanced.** On December 8, FRA announced the award of \$8.2 billion for 10 passenger rail projects through the Federal State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program, while also announcing 69 corridor selections across 44 states through the Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program, which will drive future passenger rail expansion. The FRA press release, including the lists of projects funded and included in the Corridor ID program, is [here](#).

**FAA: Land Use Disposal Policy.** On December 8, FAA announced this final policy on the FAA's procedures for processing land use changes on federally acquired or federally conveyed airport land or in situations where a land use change impacts safety or aircraft operations. The changes were needed because of legislative changes made in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. According to the FAA, the policy is intended to simplify the procedures required to make a land use change and to protect airport land by limiting the use of releases to the actual sale or disposal of airport property. The FAA Notice is [here](#).

**FAA: Policy on Aeronautical Activities.** . On December 8, FAA extended the comment period for its proposed policy changes regarding the definition of "aeronautical activity" to include unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), advanced air mobility (AAM), and commercial space launch or re-entry vehicle operations as activities that must be afforded by public use airports. Comments are due January 15. The FAA Notice is [here](#).

**FHWA: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure.** On December 7, FHWA issued a Final Rule mandating the measurement and reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with transportation. The Rule requires State DOTs and MPOs to establish declining carbon dioxide (CO2) targets for the GHG measure and report on progress toward the achievement of those targets. The rule does not mandate how low targets must be. Rather, State DOTs and MPOs have flexibility to set targets that are appropriate for their communities and that work for their respective climate change and other policy priorities, as long as the targets aim to reduce emissions over time. The FHWA Rule is [here](#).

**FAA: Drug Testing at Foreign Repair Stations.** On December 6, FAA [proposed a rule](#) that would require people working at foreign air repair stations to undergo drug and alcohol testing. The rule would affect roughly 977 repair stations in 65 countries.

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