



Transportation/Aviation Update

May 20, 2022

NEXT WEEK

As of today, no transportation events are planned for the House or Senate.

THIS WEEK

House

Hearing: Airports and Climate Change. On May 17, the Aviation Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing entitled “Preparing for Take-Off: Examining Efforts to Address Climate Change at U.S. Airports.” Witnesses included representatives from Alaska Airlines, Allegheny Airport Authority, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, General Aviation Manufacturers Association, Port of Portland, SkyNRG Americas, and ZeroAvia. A video of the hearing and testimony can be found [here](#).

Hearing: FY 2023 TSA Budget. On May 18, the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on the budget request for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for FY 2023. TSA Administrator David Pekoske was the sole witness. Administrator Pekoske highlighted the fact that the FY 2023 budget proposal no longer proposes to divert TSA security-fee revenues to deficit reduction. He said that TSA recognizes the need for those revenues to compensate for the increased costs of providing equitable pay to the TSA workforce. Other issues that were raised by Subcommittee members included cybersecurity, TSA PreCheck, data privacy concerns, and aging airport equipment. Testimony and a video archive of the hearing is [here](#).

Senate

DOT Confirmation: Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs. On May 18, the Senate confirmed Annie Petsonk on a voice vote to be DOT Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs. Her nomination had been approved by the Commerce Committee in August 2021 and again the past in March, but a floor vote had been blocked by Republicans who had concerns about Essential Air Service. Ms. Petsonk has been serving as the Principal

Deputy Assistant Secretary since joining DOT last year. Prior to that she was at the Environmental Defense Fund.

White House

Technical Assistance: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. On May 18, the White House released a Technical Assistance Guide, which provides a list of over 65 technical assistance resources and programs across the federal government to help communities deliver infrastructure projects. The guide is organized by types of infrastructure investments, including transportation, clean energy and power, high-speed internet, water, resilience, and environmental remediation. The Guide is [here](#).

Department of Transportation

DOT: Safe Streets for All NOFO. On May 16, DOT released its Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A). The SS4A is a five-year \$5 billion grant program, with \$1 billion being made available for FY 2022. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The SS4A program supports the Department's goal of zero deaths and serious highway and road injuries. The program website, along with the NOFO is [here](#). DOT is holding a series of [webinars](#) to assist with grant applications for the SS4A program beginning on June 13.

Department of Homeland Security

FEMA: Transit Security Grant NOFO. On May 13, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity of \$93 million for the FY 2022 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP). According to the NOFO, enhancing cybersecurity and protecting soft targets/crowded places are two priorities for which TSGP applicants will receive a 20 percent increase to their scores if they are addressed. FEMA also outlined second-tier priorities in the NOFO of effective planning; training and awareness campaigns; equipment and capital projects; and responsiveness exercises. Applications are due on June 13. The NOFO is [here](#).

Congressional Research Service

Report: Highway Bridges. On May 6, the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service released a brief [report](#) on high bridges, which provides basic information on the condition of bridges and funding for bridge improvements.

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