

**Transportation/Aviation Update**April 28, 2023

NEXT WEEK**House**

The House will be in recess next week, returning to legislative session on Tuesday, May 9.

Senate

As of today, no transportation or aviation activities are scheduled next week in the Senate.

THIS WEEK

Hearing: FAA FY 2024 Budget. On April 26, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on the FAA budget proposal for FY 2024. Acting Administrator Billy Nolen, who last Friday said he was leaving the FAA this summer, was the sole witness. Hearing video is available [here](#). Issues discussed at the hearing included:

- Administrator Nolen said he has met with the manufacturers of aircraft altimeters and 5G telecom companies and said that the FAA does not expect to take any further actions on the deployment of 5G towers near airports, asserting that the two can safely co-exist together.
- When asked about the recent series of aircraft near-misses and air traffic controller errors, he said that the FAA wants a zero tolerance for near-misses.
 - In a related step, the FAA announced that it was bringing together a group of safety experts to conduct an independent safety review over the next six months. The safety review team will include former leaders of NASA, Air Line Pilots Association, National Air Traffic Controllers Association, FAA and NTSB.
- The Administrator urged Congress to provide funding to hire and train additional air traffic controllers. He added that FAA is better equipped to handle a busy summer travel season, saying that a preemptive effort to limit the number of flights in the New York airports

should help, and that the Jacksonville, Florida's air traffic control center is better staffed compared to last summer.

Department of Transportation

DOT: Regional Infrastructure Accelerators. On April 27, DOT's Build America Bureau announced that it will add \$24 million in grants to the Regional Infrastructure Accelerators Program, bringing the total investment to \$34 million to expedite delivery of transportation infrastructure projects at the local and regional levels. The Bureau issued a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) to solicit applications for grants to designate Accelerators that will serve defined geographic areas, provide technical resources, and fund planning and development activities to expedite project delivery through TIFIA and other loan programs and other innovative financing and delivery methods, including public-private partnerships.

DOT: Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program. On April 27, FHWA issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2022-23 funding for the Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program, which will total \$160 million. Eligible project activities include: 1) the development of port-related infrastructure that reduces emissions from port-related truck idling; 2) on-truck technologies that reduce emissions from port-related truck idling; 3) the use of zero or low emissions powertrains or fuels on trucks; 4) reducing truck congestion within or adjacent to ports, including through enhanced intermodal rail connections; and 5) reducing port-related emissions from idling trucks, including through port electrification and improving the efficiency of port operations. The NOFO is [here](#). Applications are due June 26.

FRA: Regulations Governing PTC Outages. On April 27, FRA issued a Notice on regulations governing certain outages of positive train control (PTC) systems during, for example, infrastructure upgrades and capital projects. The Notice also contains information about the process a railroad must follow to obtain FRA's approval before temporarily disabling its PTC system. The Notice is [here](#).

FTA: Public Transportation Safety Plans. On April 26, FTA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) outlining new requirements for Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans, which include revised requirements for Agency Safety Plans (ASP), safety committees, cooperation with frontline transit worker representatives in the development of ASPs, safety risk reduction programs, safety performance targets, de-escalation training for certain transit workers, and addressing infectious diseases through the Safety Management System process.

- FTA also announced that it will hold a webinar on May 10 from 2pm-3pm EDT to discuss the proposed new safety plan requirements and how to submit comments on the proposed changes. [Registration](#) for the webinar, which is open and the webinar will be recorded.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Webinar: Transit Security Grants. FEMA announced that on May 4 from 1:00-2:00 pm EDT, it will host a webinar to provide technical assistance regarding the Transit Security Grant Program. FEMA transit security grant applications are open until May 18. Registration for the webinar is not required and you can access the webinar [here](#).

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