



Transportation/Aviation Update

October 9, 2020

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NEXT WEEK

While the schedule could change based on the call of House and Senate leaders, the House is in recess and will be until November 16; the Senate is in session, but solely focused on the Supreme Court Justice confirmation process. No transportation-activities are expected during this time.

THIS WEEK

Department of Transportation

FTA: COVID-19 R&D NOFO. On October 8, FTA issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) of \$10 million to support research demonstration grants to public transit agencies to develop, deploy, and demonstrate innovative solutions that improve the operational efficiency of transit agencies, as well as enhance the mobility of transit users affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency. Applications must be submitted by November 2. The NOFO is [here](#).

FTA: Safety Grant Awards. On October 8, FTA announced the award of \$9.1 million for 10 projects through the Safety Research and Demonstration Program and the Bus Operator Compartment Program to support safety and innovation in the transit industry. The press release and list a grant recipients is [here](#).

FTA: HOPE Grant Awards. On October 7, FTA announced the award of \$8.5 million for 25 projects in the Helping Improve Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) Program. The grant awards will support planning and technical studies to improve transit, such as evaluating new routes, creating new connections and incorporating modern technologies. Information on the program and grant recipients is [here](#).

Government Accountability Office

Report: Aircraft Cybersecurity. On October 9, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “FAA Should Fully Implement Key Practices to Strengthen Its Oversight of Avionics Risks.” FAA is responsible for overseeing the safety of commercial aviation, including avionics systems. The GAO concluded that “while FAA recognizes avionics cybersecurity as a potential safety issue for modern commercial airplanes, it has not fully implemented key practices that are necessary to carry out a risk-based cybersecurity oversight program.” The report is [here](#).

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