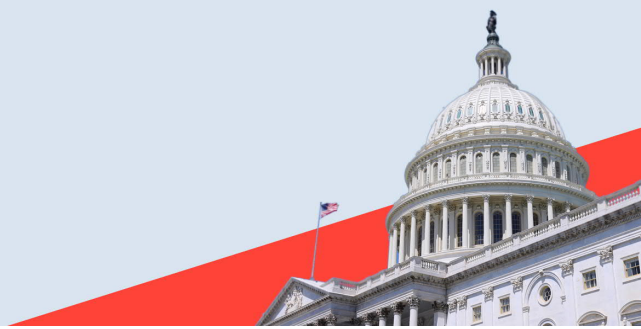




# WASHINGTON UPDATE

PREPARED BY CATHY CONNOR,  
DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



## February 13, 2019

The latest in a long line of short-term Continuing Resolutions (CR) keeping the federal government open expires on Friday. While Congress and the White House all claim that they do not want another government shutdown, the clock is ticking. The sticking point continues to be funding for the southern border wall. As of this writing, it appears Congress has a tentative deal to fund the nine federal agencies (including US DOT) which do not have full-year FY'19 funding in place, but the White House has not yet formally indicated if the President will sign off. Once a final deal has been struck, passed, and signed into law, details about funding levels and any policy changes for key transportation/infrastructure programs will be reported in an interim Update.

The delay in completing FY'19 funding has pushed back the Administration's release of its FY'20 budget request from early February to mid to late March.

President Trump made a brief reference of support for a major infrastructure program in his State of the Union address. House and Senate leaders continue to identify infrastructure as a priority for bi-partisan action; however, the issue of how to fund such an investment has yet to be resolved. Recently, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) announced that without new revenue, the Highway Trust Fund's transit account will become insolvent in 2021 and the highway account is estimated to run out of money by sometime in 2022. The FAST Act surface transportation authorization expires on September 30, 2020.

## House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee (T&I) held its first hearing of the year on Thursday, February 7 on "The Cost of Doing Nothing: Why Investing in Our Nation's Infrastructure Cannot Wait". The witness testimony can be found online [here](#) as well as background on the hearing and an archived webcast. Here is a [link](#) to Chairman DeFazio's opening remarks and a [link](#) to a Minority press release with brief summaries of the witness testimony. DeFazio highlighted his "A Penny for Progress" bill which would index the federal gas and diesel tax and bond off the new revenue. He also discussed his bills to draw down the balance in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for port and waterway projects and to raise or eliminate the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) which are used to fund airport construction.

Witnesses who testified included: Former US DOT Secretary Ray LaHood, LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota, the CEO of Amtrak, the US Chamber of Commerce, the Port of Spokane, and the AFL-CIO.



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The House T&I committee – now under Democratic control – has reorganized, named new members, and identified new subcommittee leaders.

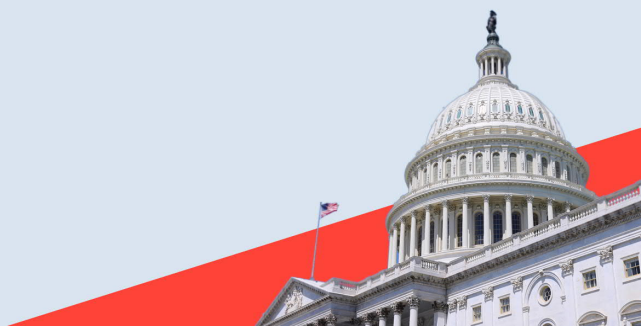
Below is a list of the subcommittee leaders – both Chairmen and Ranking Republicans - and a list of all committee members for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress which includes a large number of new members, both freshmen and existing members. The committee also grew in overall size.

<u>Committee/Subcommittee</u>	<u>Democratic Chairman</u>	<u>Republican Ranking Member</u>
Full Committee	Peter DeFazio - Oregon	Sam Graves - Missouri
Full Comte Vice Chair	Salud Carbajal – California	NA
Aviation Subcommittee	Rick Larsen - Washington	Garret Graves – Louisiana
Highways & Transit Subcommittee	Eleanor Holmes Norton - DC	Rodney Davis – Illinois
Railroad, Pipelines & Haz Mat Subcommittee	Dan Lipinski - Illinois	Rick Crawford – Arkansas
Water Resources Subcommittee	Grace Napolitano - California	Bruce Westerman – Arkansas
Coast Guard & Maritime Subcommittee	Sean Patrick Maloney – New York	Bob Gibbs – Ohio
Economic Development, Public Buildings & Emergency Management Subcomte	Dina Titus - Nevada	Mark Meadows – North Carolina



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In total, T&I has 37 Democratic members, 16 of which are new to the Committee, and 30 Republican members, eight of which are new to the Committee -- new Committee members are in red; \* indicates a new Member of Congress.

Democratic Members:	Republican Members
1. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4), Chairman	1. Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO-06); RMM
2. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)	2. Rep. Don Young (R-AK-AL)
3. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX-30)	3. Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR-01)
4. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD-7)	4. Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH-07)
5. Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA-2)	5. Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL-11)
6. Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA-32)	6. Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY-04)
7. Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-IL-3)	7. Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC-11)
8. Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN-9)	8. Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA-10)
9. Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ-8)	9. Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL-13)
10. Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA-3)	10. Rep. Rob Woodall (R-GA-07)
11. Rep. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (D-GA-4)	11. Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX-36)
12. Rep. André Carson (D-IN-7)	12. Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA-06)
13. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-1)	13. Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC-07)
14. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY-18)	14. Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL-12)
15. Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-2)	15. Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX-14)
16. Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA-26)	16. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01)
17. Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-FL-24)	17. Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR-04)
18. Rep. Donald M. Payne Jr. (D-NJ-10)	18. Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA-11)
19. Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA-47)	19. Rep. Paul Mitchell (R-MI-10)
20. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA-11)	20. Rep. John Katko (R-NY-24)
21. Del. Stacey Plaskett (D-USVI)	21. Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL-18)
22. Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA-8)	22. Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI-08)
23. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24)	23. Rep. Jenniffer González-Colón (R-PR-AL)
24. Rep. Anthony Brown (D-MD-4)	24. Rep. Ross Spano (R-FL-15)*
25. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY-13)	25. Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN-08)*
26. Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ-7)*	26. Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV-03)*
27. Rep. Greg Stanton (D-AZ-9)*	27. Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH-12)
28. Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL-26)*	28. Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL-06)
29. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX-7)*	29. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01)
30. Rep. Colin Allred (D-TX-32)*	30. Rep. Greg Pence (R-IN-06)*
31. Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS-3)*	
32. Rep. Abby Finkenauer (D-IA-1)*	



<p>33. Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García (D-IL-4)* 34. Rep. Antonio Delgado (D-NY-19)* 35. Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH-1)* 36. Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-2)* 37. Rep. Harley Rouda (D-CA-48)*</p>	
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## Other News

- Last week, progressive Members of Congress introduced a non-binding resolution calling on Congress to adopt a "Green New Deal". It was introduced in the House by freshman Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) with 67 Democratic co-sponsors and in the Senate by Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) with 11 Democratic co-sponsors. At this point, the plan is mostly aspirational and it is unlikely that Congress will pass actual legislation implementing its recommendations in the near future. However, the plan is expected to play a role in shaping debate on how Congress should address climate change.

The plan calls for "overhauling transportation systems in the US" as part of an aggressive approach to addressing climate change. It calls for removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector including through investments in zero-emission vehicle infrastructure, public transit and high speed rail. It does not identify a funding source. Here is a [link](#) to the text of the resolution.

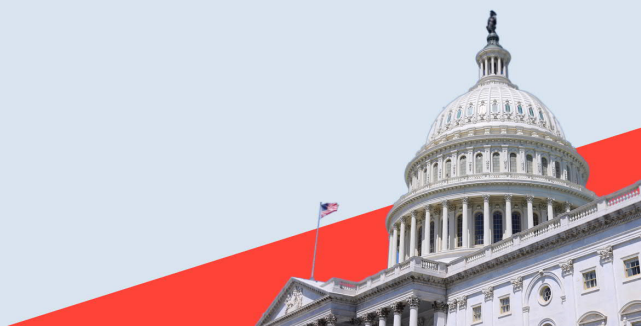
- The Administration has nominated Nicole Nason to be FHWA Administrator. FHWA has been without an Administrator since the end of the Obama Administration, after a previous Trump nominee dropped out over a year ago. The Senate Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW) easily approved Nason's nomination and a vote is expected shortly on the Senate floor. However, it not unheard of, even for popular nominees, to get caught up in larger political controversies and have their nominations languish.

Nason was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Administration at the US Department of State in December 2017. She previously served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Overseas Building Operations and as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State. She previously served as Administrator of the National Highway



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Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) at US DOT (2006–2008) and as DOT’s Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs (2003–2006). Nason also served at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (2002–2003), as counsel for the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, and as press secretary for Congressman Porter Goss (R-FL).

- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced the opportunity to apply for approximately \$30M in FY’19 competitive grant funding for passenger ferry projects nationwide. The Passenger Ferry Grant Program is authorized by Congress to support ferry service on many of the nation’s waterways, and helps to repair and modernize ferry boats, terminals, and related facilities that communities depend on. The application period will close on April 15, 2019.

Projects will be evaluated based on criteria which includes the need for improvements, demonstration of benefits to transit service, and integration with local and regional long-term planning. Here is a [link](#) to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), a [link](#) to the FTA press release, and a [link](#) to additional information about the program.

Additional information and materials, including archived Washington Updates, are located on the WSP Federal Briefing website at [www.federalbriefing.com](http://www.federalbriefing.com)