



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

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April 9, 2021

SUMMARY OF SUBJECT MATTER

TO: Members, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
FROM: Staff, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
RE: Full Committee Hearing on “Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Members’ Day”

PURPOSE

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I Committee) will meet on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. EDT in 2167 Rayburn House Office Building and via Zoom to receive testimony related to “Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Members’ Day.” Pursuant to Section 3(a) of H. Res. 8, the purpose of this hearing is to provide Members of Congress not on the T&I Committee an opportunity to testify before the T&I Committee on the Member’s policy priorities within the Committee’s jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

T&I Committee Jurisdiction

The T&I Committee has broad jurisdiction over all modes of transportation and numerous types of infrastructure programs and funding, which is overseen as delineated below by six subcommittees.

Subcommittee on Aviation:

The Subcommittee on Aviation has jurisdiction over all matters relating to civil aviation, including airport infrastructure, the air traffic control system, aviation safety, aviation noise, economic regulation of airlines, international aviation relations of the United States, war risk insurance, labor-management relations involving airlines and their employees; and the operation and administration of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation:

The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation has jurisdiction over all matters relating to the Coast Guard, including merchant vessel, fishing vessel, and recreational vessel safety; vessel navigation and related laws; rules and international arrangements to prevent collisions at sea; and oil spill laws and associated financial responsibility requirements.

The Subcommittee also has jurisdiction over matters relating to the Maritime Administration, including ports, passenger vessels, international maritime activities, and intermodal transportation, except those matters related to national security. Finally, measures relating to the Federal Maritime Commission, including matters involving water carriers in domestic and international trade, fall within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management:

The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management is responsible for economic development for economically distressed urban and rural areas, including programs administered by the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, and the Denali Commission; economic adjustment, including assistance to communities needing relief due to natural disasters and military base closures; and general infrastructure issues.

Additionally, it has jurisdiction over the purchase, construction, repair, alteration, operation, and maintenance of federally owned or leased buildings and United States courthouses controlled by the General Services Administration; matters relating to the Capitol buildings and the Senate and House office buildings; and construction, maintenance, and care of the buildings and grounds of the Botanic Gardens, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Lastly, the Subcommittee covers Federal management of emergencies and natural disasters, including disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Subcommittee on Highways and Transit:

The Subcommittee on Highways and Transit is responsible for the development of federal surface transportation policy and the authorization of programs for the construction and improvement of highway and transit facilities, highway and transit safety, commercial motor vehicle and driver safety, and research and innovation programs. Related to these responsibilities, the Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the following modal administrations and offices within the U.S. Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Federal Transit Administration (FTA); Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA); National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) (partial); Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology; National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau; and Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST).

Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials:

The Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials exercises jurisdiction over the programs and activities of two U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) modal administrations: the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee includes all federal laws and programs regulating railroad transportation, including railroad safety, rail infrastructure programs, economic regulation, railroad labor laws, and the non-revenue aspects of the federal railroad retirement and railroad unemployment systems. The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee also includes all federal laws and programs regulating the safety of gas and liquid pipelines and the safety of transporting material and freight that has been classified as hazardous, regardless of the mode of transportation.

Agencies and other establishments outside the DOT whose rail-related activities fall within the Subcommittee jurisdiction include: Surface Transportation Board (STB); Amtrak; Amtrak Inspector General (IG); Northeast Corridor (NEC) Commission; Railroad Retirement Board (RRB); Railroad Retirement Board Inspector General (RRB IG); National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust; and National Mediation Board (NMB).

Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment:

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment consists generally of matters relating to water resources development, conservation and management, water pollution control and water infrastructure, and hazardous waste cleanup.

Issues under the Subcommittee include: water resources programs (projects and regulations) – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps); *Clean Water Act*, water infrastructure and watershed protection programs – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); *Clean Water Act*, regulatory authorities – EPA and Corps; Superfund and Brownfields revitalization – EPA; ocean dumping – EPA and Corps; oil pollution – EPA and Coast Guard; Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA); Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation – DOT; National Resources Conservation Service's Small Watershed Program – U.S. Department of Agriculture; deepwater ports – EPA, Coast Guard, Corps; invasive/aquatic nuisance species/harmful algal blooms – EPA, Coast Guard, Corps, and other agencies; coastal pollution and coastal zone management – EPA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); natural resource damages – NOAA, Department of the Interior (DOI), and other agencies; groundwater protection – primarily EPA and Corps; water resources policy – multiple agencies; toxic substances and public health – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR); and boundary water issues between the United States and Mexico – the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) at the U.S. Department of State.