



## International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, March 11, 2019

### Trump Administration

- The President will transmit his proposed fiscal year 2020 budget to Congress today. The budget will propose to eliminate the federal deficit within 15 years, request an additional \$8.6 billion for border security, increase spending on the military, and cut domestic programs. <https://www.rollcall.com/news/a-month-behind-schedule-white-house-readies-budget-with-big-nondefense-cuts>

### Congress

- Both Chambers are in session this week.
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Highways and Transit will hold a hearing on Wednesday entitled "Aligning Federal Surface Transportation Policy to Meet 21st Century Needs." <https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/aligning-federal-surface-transportation-policy-to-meet-21st-century-needs->

### Analysis

- With the release of the President's proposed budget, the government funding cycle for fiscal year 2020 officially kicks off. The \$8.6 billion request for additional border security funds makes clear that the partisan fight over wall funding is not over, at least for now.
- Whether the border wall remains a topic of dispute all year depends on whether congressional Republicans are willing to make it an issue as Congress begins the budget and appropriations process. Republicans have begun to fracture over the President's use of an emergency declaration to divert existing federal funds for the border wall. The Senate will vote on the measure this week. <https://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/scheduling/433438-this-week-trump-set-for-senate-setback-on-emergency-declaration>
- If debate over border security funding continues, the prospects of infrastructure legislation will suffer. While the House has reportedly reserved Floor time for infrastructure in late spring, there is no consensus over the scope of the legislation or how to pay for it. <https://www.rollcall.com/news/congress/5-ways-congress-may-try-fix-highway-trust-fund>

- The House Ways and Means Committee held its first hearing on the subject of infrastructure funding last week and the clear takeaway was that there is no agreement over how to fix the Highway Trust Fund or pay for a large infrastructure bill.

<https://aashtojournal.org/2019/03/08/house-ways-and-means-committee-holds-infrastructure-funding-hearing/>