



International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, April 1, 2019

Trump Administration

- Attorney General Barr announced that he would release Special Counsel Mueller's report to Congress and the public by mid-April.
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/03/29/robert-mueller-report-ag-william-barr-release-mid-april/3313601002/>
- Ivanka Trump has taken the lead on the White House's infrastructure outreach.
<https://businessrecord.com/Content/Default/All-Latest-News/Article/Ivanka-Trump-pushes-workforce-broadband-infrastructure/-3/248/81723>

Congress

- Both Chambers are in session this week.

Analysis

- It's April and Congress does not appear to be any closer to moving infrastructure legislation than it was in January. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Senate Environment & Public Works and Commerce Committees have held numerous hearings. They have been general and focused on establishing the need for infrastructure legislation, rather than the details of what the legislation should look like.
- More importantly, House Leadership has not given direction to the Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways & Means Committees regarding the timing of infrastructure legislation, let alone the amount or level of infrastructure investment the legislation should achieve. Until decisions are made and direction is provided on these top-line issues at the congressional leadership level, these committees will likely not begin to work on actual legislative text.
- Ivanka Trump, while limited in experience with federal infrastructure legislation, certainly has the ability to raise the profile of the White House push for it. Her role also signals, however, that the White House is essentially acquiescing to the House on the details of the policy, including how to fund it.

- The impending release of the Mueller report, and the ongoing House investigations into the Administration, make it less likely that the House will be able to engage in a meaningful way with the White House on infrastructure policy.