



## International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, April 15, 2019

### Trump Administration

- The White House confirmed that the President and Speaker Pelosi are planning to meet to discuss infrastructure legislation in the near future.  
<https://thehill.com/homenews/house/438859-trump-pelosi-to-meet-on-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-report> This announcement comes as Pelosi recently stated her goal of enacting a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment.  
<https://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/4919-2/>
- The President signed two Executive Orders (“EOs”) last week aimed at reducing uncertainty in the regulatory and permitting process for oil and gas transmission. The First EO directs the Environmental Protection Agency to review Clean Water Act implementation and directs the Department of Transportation to commence a rulemaking updating liquefied natural gas transmission rules.  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-promoting-energy-infrastructure-economic-growth/> The second EO clarifies that the President will be the executive decision-maker, instead of the Secretary of State, on any cross-border permits. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/order-issuance-permits-respect-facilities-land-transportation-crossings-international-boundaries-united-states/>
- The news in DC will focus on the impending release of the Special Counsel’s report this week. Attorney General Barr announced that he would release a redacted version of the report to Congress and the public at some point this week.  
<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/04/15/trump-barr-mueller-report-investigation-release-1274817>

### Congress

- Both Chambers are in recess this week.
- Due to disagreement within the Democratic Party in the House, Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth (D-KY) announced that he will begin working on the fiscal year 2020 budget in a bi-cameral manner. The budget, if passed by both Chambers, will set the ground rules for appropriations legislation that Congress considers for fiscal year 2020. <https://www.politico.com/story/2019/04/09/federal-spending-bill-house-democrats-1263550>

Analysis

- It is promising that the President and Speaker are planning to meet to discuss infrastructure legislation. The biggest issue remains how to pay for any amount of federal infrastructure investment. While many in the House have discussed the idea of raising the gas tax, Senate Minority Leader Schumer (D-NY) opposes the idea. Even Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), a progressive ideologue, opposes the idea of a gas tax increase and would prefer to fund infrastructure through taxing the wealthy.  
<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-transportation/2019/03/20/trump-finally-nominates-an-faa-chief-412647>
- The President's EOs on oil and gas infrastructure demonstrate the continued interest by the Administration of taking action that cuts red tape and improves infrastructure development without relying on Congress.