



International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, April 22, 2019

Trump Administration

- The U.S. Department of Transportation released a notice of funding opportunity for \$900 million in “BUILD” grants, which have broad transportation and infrastructure eligibility. <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/policy-initiatives/build/114796/build-nofo-2019.pdf>

Congress

- Both Chambers are in recess this week.
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure (“T&I”) Committee has solicited stakeholder feedback on the Committee’s work on infrastructure legislation and has scheduled a “Members’ Day” on May 1st where Members of the House of Representatives will have an opportunity to present their ideas and priorities to the Committee.

Analysis

- If any IRWA Members are interested in sharing policy priorities related to federal infrastructure legislation with the T&I Committee, please email the T&I Committee at TISTakeholders@mail.house.gov with your ideas.
- The T&I Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works (“EPW”) Committee continue to work behind the scenes on infrastructure legislation. The T&I Committee’s announcement requesting stakeholder input and scheduling a hearing for House Members to present their ideas and priorities is further evidence that T&I Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-MO) are doing everything they can to lay the groundwork for infrastructure legislation in the House.
- If Speaker Pelosi and the President can agree on a top-line funding amount and a general scope to the legislation setting out which infrastructure classes will be covered and how long the bill will be in effect, then there is still a chance that Congress will advance infrastructure legislation this year. Without agreement on these issues and on a way to pay for the legislation by the President and the Speaker, however, it will be infinitely more difficult for the T&I and EPW Committees to advance legislation beyond their Committees.