



## International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, June 17, 2019

### Trump Administration

- Senior White House and congressional staff from both Parties will meet this week to try to negotiate the outline of a two-year budget deal that would lay the groundwork for federal spending bills and allow for a debt limit increase.  
<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/06/16/white-house-congress-leaders-spending-deal-1365905>

### Congress

- Both Chambers are in session this week.
- The Senate Commerce Committee will hold a FAST Act reauthorization hearing on Wednesday. <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2019/6/fast-act-reauthorization-transportation-and-safety-issues>
- The House will consider an appropriations bill providing funding for federal transportation programs this week.

### Analysis

- Congress and the White House risk another government funding showdown if they cannot agree to spending levels that will govern fiscal year 2020 appropriations. While talks will continue this week, the sides are not close to reaching agreement yet. The House continues to advance appropriations bills even without an agreed top-line number.
- Senior Republican and Democratic staff for the Senate Environment and Public Works (“EPW”) Committee have reported to Nossaman experts that negotiations are continuing to progress on a FAST Act reauthorization proposal. A Committee mark-up of the legislation before the August recess remains the goal towards which that both sides are working.
- The Senate Commerce Committee is also taking a step towards reauthorization this week. The Committee will hold a hearing to examine the reauthorization issues within that Committee’s jurisdiction. Typically, the EPW Committee moves first since that Committee has jurisdiction over most of the federal surface transportation programs, followed by the Senate Commerce and Senate Banking Committees. The fact that the

Senate Commerce Committee is holding a reauthorization hearing signals that it is preparing to move after EPW does.