



International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, July 1, 2019

Trump Administration

- The President has a light public agenda this week.

Congress

- Both Chambers are in recess this week.
- The House passed a fiscal year 2020 funding bill on Tuesday that included appropriations for federal transportation programs. The bill provides \$86.6 billion in total budgetary resources for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), a \$167 million increase over fiscal year 2019 enacted levels.
- House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman DeFazio (D-OR) noted this week that he and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Neal (D-MA) have decided to make another effort to work with the White House on infrastructure funding issues.

Analysis

- Congress is in recess this week and then back for three weeks before the scheduled August recess. Congress is then scheduled to return after Labor Day for three more weeks before the end of the fiscal year. That leaves six weeks where Congress is in session in which it must fund the government before another shut down.
- As we have written about previously, the two Chambers have not agreed to a budget resolution to govern fiscal year 2020 funding levels. The House has decided to move forward despite that fact, but the Senate has not yet voted on any funding measures for the next fiscal year. Congressional leaders continue to negotiate with the White House on overall funding levels and on a debt limit increase, but those talks have faltered of late.
- When Congress returns next week, the focus will be on figuring out a strategy to deal with government funding before a shut-down becomes imminent.
- Democratic presidential candidates participated in two debates this past week, but neither debate addressed infrastructure in a meaningful way.