



## International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, July 15, 2019

### The White House

- The White House will focus this week on negotiations with Congress related to the debt limit and the federal budget. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and Speaker Pelosi have been speaking multiple times a day in efforts to strike a deal on the debt limit, which must be raised before Congress is scheduled to return from its August recess to avoid a default. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-07-12/mnuchin-warns-pelosi-u-s-may-run-out-of-cash-in-early-september>

### Congress

- Both Chambers are in session this week.
- On Tuesday, the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit of the House Transportation and Infrastructure (“T&I”) Committee will hold a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Transit Administration’s Implementation of the Capital Investment Grant Program.” <https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/the-subcommittee-on-highways-and-transit-hearing-on-oversight-of-the-federal-transit-administrations-implementation-of-the-capital-investment-grant-program>
- Last week, the Senate Environment and Public Works (“EPW”) Committee held a hearing entitled “Investing in America’s Surface Transportation Infrastructure: The Need for a Multi-Year Reauthorization Bill.” <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2019/7/investing-in-america-s-surface-transportation-infrastructure-the-need-for-a-multi-year-reauthorization-bill>

### Analysis

- While the White House and congressional leaders are focused on the debt limit and federal funding issues, the Committees continue their work on a transportation reauthorization bill. The Senate EPW Committee held a hearing last week on this topic, and Nossaman experts have confirmed with EPW Committee staff that the Committee plans to release its draft of the bill and pass it through Committee before the August recess.
- The House T&I Committee continues to work towards its goal of releasing a draft reauthorization bill later this year. On Tuesday, the T&I Committee will hold a hearing on

one of the highest-profile transportation programs administered by the federal government.

- Whether Committee action can translate into an enacted bill before the Presidential election is yet to be seen, but the Committees continue to take the lead on this issue and are making steady progress.