



International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, July 10, 2017

It was generally a quiet week in Washington, D.C. due to the July 4th holiday.

Trump Administration

- President Trump's week was dominated by his trip to Europe for G-20 meetings and a speech in Warsaw, Poland.
- On Friday President Trump and Russian President Putin held a lengthy bilateral private meeting that included a discussion of Russian interference in U.S. elections. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/heres-whats-at-stake-whentrump-finally-meets-putin/2017/07/07/a5c577d2-627c-11e7-80a2-8c226031ac3f_story.html
- Vice President Pence traveled to the Kennedy Space Center to discuss the newly reconstituted National Space Council. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/vice-president-inside-kennedy-space-center-48475901>

Congress

- Congress left D.C. for the July 4 district work period and so the focus moved to Members' interactions with their constituents. Senators around the country were pressed by constituents about health care, whether at town halls or parades. <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/07/07/kansas-republican-feels-obamacare-squeeze-240280>
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-senate-republicans-are-faring-on-recess-amid-health-care-fight/>
- Majority Leader Mitch McConnell continued in his effort to find a path forward on healthcare reform, but acknowledged in a speech in Kentucky that some market stabilization action would be necessary if no major legislation is passed. <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/340890-mcconnell-signals-doubts-about-obamacare-vote>
- House Budget Chairwoman Diane Black (R-TN-6) appears to be making progress on a budget, telling her local Rotary Club that the committee may markup the budget the week of July 10. <http://www.rollcall.com/news/policy/black-predicts-markup-fy-2018-budget-next-week-house>
- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on Wednesday, July 12 at 10 am entitled "The Use of TIFIA and Innovative Financing in Improving Infrastructure to Enhance Safety, Mobility, and Economic Opportunity" <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/7/the-use-of-tifia-and-innovative->

[financing-in-improving-infrastructure-to-enhance-safety-mobility-and-economic-opportunity](#)

- The House Transportation Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management will hold a hearing on Wednesday, July 12 at 10 am entitled “Implementing the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA): Maximizing Taxpayer Returns and Reducing Waste in Real Estate”
<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401734>
- The House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee will markup their FY18 bill on Tuesday, July 11 at 7 pm. Bill text will be released about 24 hours in advance.
<https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=394959>
- Secretary Elaine Chao will testify before the Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on the FY18 Department of Transportation budget request on Thursday, July 13 at 2 pm.
<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news/majority/schedule-for-the-week-of-july-10-2017>

Analysis

- The feedback some Republican Senators received from their constituents this week opposing changes to the Affordable Care Act will not help McConnell get the consensus he needs from his caucus to move forward. Failure to make major changes to the ACA would be a huge blow to the Republican congressional agenda and will impact efforts at tax reform and infrastructure.
- As we have discussed in previous updates, President Trump’s legislative agenda requires a precise sequence of events where each item must be accomplished to set the stage for those that follow. The debate over repealing and replacing the ACA has already dragged on much longer than the Administration originally anticipated. If Leader McConnell is unable to generate enough support in the Senate to pass some ACA reform, Democratic congressional leaders will only be that much more emboldened to resist the entirety of the President’s agenda, including tax reform and infrastructure.