



International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, November 27, 2017

Trump Administration

- The President will meet today and tomorrow with Senate Republicans in an effort to generate enough votes to pass a tax reform measure.
<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/11/24/trump-senate-gop-meeting-tax-plan-259611>
- Back at the White House, the Deputies of the agencies involved in the President's environmental review and permit streamlining efforts will meet with White House staff today to finalize the environmental streamlining portion of the infrastructure proposal.

Congress

- All eyes are on the Senate this week as the Republicans try to generate support to pass a tax reform measure and go to conference with the House.
- Government funding expires at the end of next week, so Congress and the White House will need to negotiate at least a short stop-gap measure to avoid a shutdown.
<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/11/22/government-shutdown-trump-congressional-leaders-259441>

Analysis

- A Nossaman expert has confirmed that the White House plans to unveil its infrastructure proposal in January, after tax reform has been enacted. But most of the big-picture decisions that require the President's input are still pending, as healthcare, the Asia trip, and tax reform have dominated the President's attention. A meeting between the President and his infrastructure staff is tentatively scheduled for next week to discuss the infrastructure proposal.
- Furthermore, this infrastructure roll-out schedule presumes that tax reform will be enacted, and at the present, we are still a number of steps away from that reality. Six Republican Senators have expressed concern with the current draft of the Senate tax reform bill, and Republican leaders are now considering what changes to make this week that will give them the votes needed to pass the measure (Republicans can only lose two votes). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/business/wp/2017/11/26/gop-leaders-in-advanced-talks-to-change-tax-plan-in-bid-to-win-over-holdouts/>

- Overlay an impending government shutdown, and the next two weeks are sure to be some of the busiest of the year for Congress. While it should not be controversial to enact a government funding extension for a week or two, to buy time to negotiate a more comprehensive package, it could still take up to three days next week for Congress to draft the extension, for each Chamber to pass it, and for the President to sign it.
- At some point next month, when Congress does slug it out over a longer-term funding deal, there are some incredibly controversial issues that will be addressed. These include supplemental funding for hurricane relief, renewing federal surveillance powers, funding children's health insurance, and immigration issues relating to "Dreamers."
<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/11/26/congress-taxes-shutdown-immigration-december-259826> The results of the Alabama special election, which will be held on December 12th, will also have a major impact on the Senate, regardless of the outcome, and one House Democrat has said that he will force a vote on impeaching the President.