



International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, December 11, 2017

Trump Administration

- In a conversation with senior White House staff last week, a Nossaman expert confirmed that the White House plans to transmit its infrastructure proposal to Congress in January. While the date may slip, as these dates are wont to do, the White House is targeting January 8th to transmit the plan to Congress.

Congress

- Congress averted a government shutdown by sending a Continuing Resolution to the President late last week extending funding authority until December 22nd.
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-12-07/house-passes-two-week-spending-bill-to-avoid-shutdown-this-week>
- The House and the Senate continue negotiating the tax reform bill, with the hope of having a compromise version agreed and drafted by this Friday, so both Chambers can pass the measure and send it to the President for his signature by midweek next week.
<https://www.axios.com/scoop-trumps-closing-argument-on-taxes-2516457260.html>

Analysis

- Congress is in for a busy two weeks as both Chambers negotiate a compromise tax reform package at break-neck speed and face another looming funding deadline on the 22nd. Regarding the latter, senior congressional staff expect that the most likely outcome is another Continuing Resolution for five or six weeks to provide time for Members of Congress to spend the holidays at home and then cut a more comprehensive funding deal in January.
- Since both Chambers have passed a tax reform measure, the odds are good that congressional Republicans will negotiate a compromise that can pass both Chambers, but getting to that point will be fraught with proverbial landmines, given the stakes and the importance of each individual participant in the formal Conference Committee negotiations.
- As we anticipated in last week's update, the talk of moving to healthcare or welfare reform in January has subsided and infrastructure again seems to be next on the Administration's agenda. One big question is how Congress will react to the

Administration's plan. The President is scheduled to sit down this afternoon with Bill Shuster, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, who will be essential to moving the White House's proposal in the House.