



## International Right of Way Association Weekly Update

Monday, February 25, 2019

### Trump Administration

- The Administration is preparing to transmit the President's fiscal year 2020 budget request to Congress the week of March 11<sup>th</sup>. It is unclear what the President will include with respect to infrastructure funding and policy, but this will provide an opportunity to lay out the President's priorities as Congress prepares infrastructure legislation.

### Congress

- Both Chambers are in session this week.
- The House will vote this week on a measure to block the President's national emergency declaration to divert funds for use building a wall along the nation's southern border. <https://www.politico.com/story/2019/02/22/house-to-vote-tuesday-to-block-trumps-emergency-declaration-1179991>
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing on Tuesday at 10:00am ET entitled "Examining How Federal Infrastructure Policy Could Help Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change." <https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/examining-how-federal-infrastructure-policy-could-help-mitigate-and-adapt-to-climate-change>
- The Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety of the Senate Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on Tuesday at 2:30pm ET entitled "Connecting America: Examining Intermodal Connections Across Our Surface Transportation Network." <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2019/2/connecting-america-examining-intermodal-connections-across-our-surface-transportation-network>

### Analysis

- Attention in DC this week will be on the House and its activities related to the President's national emergency declaration. The measure is expected to pass in the House without issue. The procedural mechanism used by the House will then require the Senate to consider the measure by mid-March. The President has indicated that even if the Senate also passes the measure, which seems unlikely, he plans to veto it. That would then require more than 50 House Republicans and a significant number of Senate Republicans to side with Democrats to override the President's veto.

- As the border security drama continues to unfold, the White House is preparing to transmit the President's fiscal year 2020 budget request to Congress. This transmittal presents a prime opportunity for the President to articulate his goals for an infrastructure package this year.
- Committees in both Chambers are actively holding hearings and have already begun soliciting policy priorities from Members as the Committees work towards a goal of having draft legislation released this summer.