



End of Week Summary: March 9, 2018

Federal Update

Surface Transportation Funding

Congressman Bill Shuster, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, told a group of AASHTO members that he and Minority Spokesman DeFazio would like to put together an infrastructure funding bill this year. Shuster, who is not running for re-election, said he would like to see the bill run before the August recess or during the lame duck session in November and that he wants to include a new source of funding in the bill. He endorsed raising the gas tax as one possible source of funding. [More](#)

Shuster's committee heard testimony on fixing the Highway Trust Fund this week. Testimony from both business and labor leaders called for increasing the federal gas tax and members of the committee expressed openness to doing so. [More](#)

Senate Democrats announced this week a plan to provide \$1 trillion in infrastructure funding by rolling back the Republican-backed tax cuts that were passed late last year. That plan is not expected to go anywhere. [More](#) However,

Speaker Paul Ryan [said he would not hold a vote](#) on raising the gas tax.

WRDA

The Chairmen of the two committees overseeing transportation infrastructure funding said separately that they intend to move a waterways bill this year and are working in a bipartisan fashion on this issue. [More](#)

FAA Re-authorization

House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Shuster has dropped his call for privatizing air traffic controllers, which should allow the FAA re-authorization to move forward easily. Privatizing air traffic controllers had become a politically difficult issue, with opposition and support coming from members on both sides of the aisle. [More](#) Speaker Ryan said the House will begin work on the FAA bill, which is scheduled to expire at the end of March, in the next week. [More](#)

Fuel Consumption Declined in 2017

For the first time in five years, American fuel consumption declined, although very marginally, in 2017. Bloomberg estimates it was the result of President Trump's immigration positions and rising oil prices. However, fuel consumption is predicted to rise again in 2018. [More](#)

Social Media Update

Twitter engagement was down this week, though followers increased. The most popular tweet showed drone footage of the Lincoln, IL newly renovated Amtrak station. Facebook page likes also increased this week, but engagement stayed down. The most popular post this week was about the ASCE-Illinois new report card detailing Illinois' declining infrastructure condition.

TFIC Calendar

Cancelled: Monday, March 12.

3:30PM. State House. 312 S. Fourth Street, Suite 200, Springfield and 712-775-7031 passcode 623-949-741

Wednesday, March 21. 2:00PM.

Steering Committee. Illinois Chamber's Springfield Office and 712-775-7031 passcode 623-949-741

News

[Rising Mississippi River Brings Traffic Restrictions, Early Spillway Opening](#)
Work Boat

[IDOT Gets \\$7.6M Federal Grant to Widen I-57 in Williamson County, with Aim at Safety](#)

The Southern

[Trump Steel Tariffs Will Make Infrastructure Projects More Expensive](#)
Curbed

[Uber Trucks Start Shuttling Goods Across Arizona--By Themselves](#)
USA Today

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