

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morning Transportation  
**Sent:** Fri 9/15/2017 2:02:38 PM  
**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Transportation: Let's get ready to (regulatory) rumble — Waymo: Way to go, policymakers — Collins: PFC cap hike in spending bill possibly 'too high'

By Brianna Gurciullo | 09/15/2017 10:00 AM EDT

*With help from Lauren Gardner, Tanya Snyder and Adrienne Hurst*

**REG RUMBLE:** An advisory panel tasked with recommending FAA rules to axe voted Thursday to suggest the repeal or modification of dozens of regulations, including one requiring pilots to have 1,500 hours of flight time before flying commercial airliners, Lauren [reports](#). Specifically, the report sanctions a proposal by regional airlines to allow additional ways for prospective pilots to get credit for those hours beyond the military and two-year or four-year college approaches - namely by letting the airlines provide the academic training, so long as FAA determines they're safe. Pros are well aware that this issue has bogged down progress on the Senate's long-term FAA bill ([S. 1405 \(115\)](#)).

**Forcing the issue:** The dissenters at the heated Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee meeting took issue with the recommendation itself and the process by which it and others were being presented to federal regulators as an ARAC product, considering the report includes several dissenting opinions on that issue alone. Other members acknowledged it wasn't necessarily a consensus document, but noted that groups represented on the panel (which was only tasked with the job in April) can oppose any changes to rules that may come down the line later.

**For your reading pleasure:** We snagged a [copy of the report](#) for Pros who want to dig into the 53 other recommendations made. But FYI, this version doesn't reflect the fact that ARAC amended the cover letter to remove a paragraph that called each proposal "a valid opportunity for the FAA to pursue." The rest of the report stayed untouched.

**ANOTHER WEEK DONE:** Thanks as always for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Be sure to send tips, feedback and lyrics my way: [bgurciullo@politico.com](mailto:bgurciullo@politico.com) or [@brigurciullo](https://twitter.com/brigurciullo).

"Show stoppin' at the latest bar / The ride shinin' with the open top / Hydraulics make our heads go nod / Hair blowin' in the breeze / Yo, we superstars." (h/t Madison Forker)

**GET LISTENING:** Follow MT's [playlist](#) on Spotify. What better way to start your day than with songs (picked by us and readers) that are all about flying, driving, commuting and sailing?

**WAYMO LIKE IT:** Waymo CEO John Krafcik [lauded](#) lawmakers and the Trump administration Thursday recent moves on self-driving vehicles. Krafcik said many unresolved issues make him lose sleep, but that "we're off to a good start" when it comes to policy. "The approach seems to be sensible, and I think folks understand that this is something very important," Krafcik said at Thursday's POLITICO Pro Policy Summit.

**Who's buying it?** A recent POLITICO/Morning Consult poll showed 51 percent of registered voters aren't in riding in a self-driving car much less buying one. Still, Krafcik said consumer adoption is a "solvable" problem. "Roughly speaking, about half of Americans are OK with the idea of a self-driving car and about half are in some fashion skeptical," Krafcik said. "From our point of view, that's pretty good because most folks haven't tried a car yet."

**Let's share:** Krafcik also said he expected self-driving cars to be used in shared-mobility fleets - not just as a stepping stone toward full private ownership, but perhaps as a replacement for it. "We have our cars sitting, parked idly, about 95 percent of the time," he said. "It's sort of an astonishing level of capital inefficiency." More efficient use of cars could open up a tremendous amount of space in cities, he said, since there are four parking spaces reserved for every car in the U.S. "Imagine giving that back ... turning parking spaces into parks, more affordable housing," he said.

**ON THE TABLE:** House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady is "open" to incorporating funding for infrastructure investment into a tax overhaul, he told reporters following his talk at the POLITICO Pro Summit on Thursday. "We'll continue the discussion with the White House and other members that would like to see that as part of it," Brady said. But the Texas Republican also made clear that infrastructure isn't his priority at the moment. Tanya has more for Pros.

**COME TOGETHER?** ICYMI, Trump met Wednesday with moderate House Dems to chat about a tax overhaul and other issues. "When Democrats asked him to use hundreds of billions of dollars generated from tax reform to rebuild the nation's bridges and roads, Trump did not rule it out," POLITICO's Rachael Bade and Josh Dawsey report. "Nodding to his top economic adviser, Gary Cohn, he said his advisers believe a standalone tax bill is the best way to get something done - but if that gets stuck, maybe they could reconsider." Check out the story.

**HERE'S WHAT I'M THINKING:** The chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee laid out his priorities for an infrastructure package in a Washington Times op-ed this week. Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) wrote that lawmakers must "make sure we are listening to rural communities and giving them an equal seat at the table as we address infrastructure." While private financing may work well for cities, rural and less populated areas "may need to rely more on public financing," Barrasso wrote. He added that any package "must also address commonsense ways to speed up Washington's bureaucracy."

**Weighing in:** Rural and agriculture interests sent a letter this week to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue calling for "significant investment ... in transportation infrastructure, specifically in U.S. inland waterways and rural roads and bridges." The group, called the Rebuild Rural Coalition, argued for more public-private partnerships.

**LET'S GET MOVING:** The Council on Environmental Quality unveiled a plan Thursday for accelerating environmental approvals for infrastructure projects. As Pro Energy's Emily Holden reports, CEQ promised to recommend ways to quicken the NEPA process and to collaborate with OMB, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, DOT and the Army Corps of

Engineers.

**DONE AND DUSTED:** The House approved a package of fiscal 2018 spending bills Thursday that "stands no chance of making it through the Senate in its current form," Jen Scholtes [reports](#). That package includes the bills that fund DHS and DOT.

**OPEN TO NEGOTIATION:** Meanwhile, in the upper chamber, Sen. [Susan Collins](#) (R-Maine) told [reporters](#) Thursday that she is "certainly willing to take a look" again at how much the Senate's fiscal 2018 DOT spending bill would hike the cap on PFCs. The bill ([S. 1655 \(115\)](#)) would push up the cap from \$4.50 to \$8.50 for originating airports. "It may be that it's too high," Collins said. "But there has been very strong support from airports citing their infrastructure needs. And there was no objection in committee."

**TWEET DU JOUR:** "[Tesla Semi truck unveil & test ride tentatively scheduled for Oct 26th in Hawthorne. Worth seeing this beast in person. It's unreal.](#)" - Elon Musk ([@elonmusk](#))

**TRUMP WANTS A SCOTT VS. NELSON SHOWDOWN:** Trump on Thursday pressed Florida Gov. Rick Scott to take on Sen. [Bill Nelson](#) (D-Fla.) in next year's election. "I don't know what he's gonna do, but I know that at a certain point it ends for you, and we can't let it end," Trump said about Scott while in Fort Myers, Fla., which was hit by Hurricane Irma. "So I hope he runs for Senate." It's not the first time Trump has said that Scott should run against the Commerce Committee's top Democrat. POLITICO's Nolan D. McCaskill has [more](#).

**OUT-OF-HAND OTAs:** DOT and the FAA wield the power to use "other transaction agreements," but they "lack clear, comprehensive policies to adequately manage" them, DOT's Office of Inspector General found. The FAA uses OTAs, for example, to staff airports not owned by the federal government with air traffic controllers. But according to the IG, poor oversight has resulted in over-payment of recipients, unnecessary spending and even unaddressed wasp infestations at some of those airports. The IG's report, which includes 17 recommendations, is [here](#).

**BY THE NUMBERS:** DOT is out with airline cancellation and arrival [stats](#) for July. Hawaiian Airlines, Alaska Airlines and Delta Air Lines had the best rates of on-time arrivals that month. JetBlue Airways, American Airlines and Spirit Airlines had the worst. Meanwhile, ExpressJet Airlines, Spirit and JetBlue had the highest cancellation rates in July. Delta, Hawaiian and Virgin America had the lowest.

**MT MAILBAG:** General aviation groups sent letters to [Senate Commerce](#) and [House Transportation](#) leaders this week calling for an FAA extension that lasts at least six months. They also ask lawmakers to eliminate Shuster's air traffic control plan from the House's FAA bill ([H.R. 2997 \(115\)](#)) "to allow completion of comprehensive, bipartisan, long-term FAA reauthorization."

**SHIFTING GEARS:** Paul Dorsey, a former legislative aide to Rep. [Dan Lipinski](#) (D-Ill.), is the National Automobile Dealers Association new manager of legislative affairs, our friends at POLITICO Influence [report](#).

**THE AUTOBAHN:**

- "Amtrak debuts new marketing campaign amid years of flat ridership levels." [CNBC](#).
- "Alphabet considers Lyft investment of about \$1 billion." [Bloomberg](#).
- "Cruise ships steer clear of Irma's wake." [Wall Street Journal](#).
- "Menendez trial: Prosecutors question timing of flight reimbursements." [POLITICO New Jersey](#).
- "Samsung makes a \$300 million push into self-driving cars." [The Verge](#).
- "Portland probe finds Uber used software to evade 16 government officials." [Reuters](#).
- "Hurricane Irma: 1,000 more Florida flights canceled through Saturday." [USA Today](#).

**THE COUNTDOWN:** DOT appropriations run out in 85 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 16 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,112 days.

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