

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morning Transportation  
**Sent:** Mon 12/4/2017 3:03:58 PM  
**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Transportation: Tax bill passes Senate with nothing for infrastructure — McConnell shuts down shutdown talk — Flying American over the holidays? Enjoy your flight.

By Tanya Snyder | 12/04/2017 10:00 AM EDT

*With help from Stephanie Beasley and Brianna Gurciullo*

**YOU GET NOTHING! YOU LOSE! GOOD DAY, SIR!** The Senate passed its tax overhaul early Saturday morning with no provision to route revenues toward a promised \$1 trillion infrastructure plan or to fix the Highway Trust Fund's insolvency crisis. White House officials have reportedly told lawmakers that the Highway Trust Fund would be addressed later on in an infrastructure bill, but the timeline for such a bill is becoming increasingly slippery.

**One last try (well, two):** Sen. [Ben Cardin](#) (D-Md.) [introduced a motion](#) to amend the tax bill ([S. 1 \(115\)](#)), to use deemed repatriation revenue for infrastructure, but the Senate rejected it, 43-57. The motion would have sent the bill back to the Senate Finance Committee with instructions to "designate the revenue raised by the deemed repatriation provisions of the bill for infrastructure improvements." The motion's (predictable) defeat signals the end of the road for that long-held Democratic priority.

**Last minute:** Sen. [Dan Sullivan](#) (R-Alaska) was able to get a provision stripped out of the bill that would have created a new tax for international cruise ships. However, a provision sponsored by Sen. [Rand Paul](#) was included in the bill that allows auto dealerships to fully deduct the interest paid on a certain type of short-term loans. Both those provisions were on a list of amendments Sen. [Claire McCaskill](#) (D-Mo.) circulated hours before final passage that she said were never shared with Democrats.

**IT'S MONDAY:** Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ships. Tanya is in the MT cockpit. Send tips, feedback and song lyrics to [tsnyder@politico.com](mailto:tsnyder@politico.com) or [@TSnyderDC](https://twitter.com/TSnyderDC).

"On the drive back here, I was worried over nothing / On the drive back there, tears spilling over something."

**GET LISTENING:** Follow MT's [playlist](#) on Spotify. What better way to start your day than with songs (picked by us and readers) about lonely highways and south-bound trains?

**THE PLAYBOOK POWER LIST: 18 TO WATCH IN 2018:** The final Playbook Power List of the year highlights 18 politicians, activists and operatives across the country who are poised to make waves in 2018. From the anti-Trump "Resistance" on the left to the far right Bannomite wing trying to remake the GOP, keep an eye on these people over the next 12 months. [Click HERE](#) to find out who made the list.

**NOPE'N SKIES:** A provision that would have forced Persian Gulf airlines to pay U.S.

corporate taxes during brief layovers in the United States was axed because it was found to violate the Byrd rule, which prohibits extraneous provisions from budget bills that are going through the reconciliation process. U.S. Travel Association Executive Vice President Jonathan Grella called the Senate drama around the provision "the most significant moment in the three-year war on Open Skies."

#### **THIS WEEK:**

**Tuesday** - The American Association of Airport Executives, TSA and DHS hold a joint summit on aviation security.

**Wednesday** - The Atlantic hosts a summit on infrastructure and transportation. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee holds a hearing on the nomination of R.D. James to be assistant secretary of the Army for civil works. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee holds a hearing on evolving international terrorist threats.

**Thursday** - The Airports Council International-North America hosts the two-day 2017 International Aviation Issues Seminar. The House Transportation Highways and Transit Subcommittee holds a hearing on "Emerging Technologies in the Trucking Industry."

**FOR YOUR RADAR:** The Senate plans to vote Monday to invoke cloture on Kirstjen Nielsen's nomination to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

**DON'T PANIC:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) Sunday promised "there's not going to be a government shutdown," on ABC's "This Week." It appears that a continuing resolution will run through Dec. 22, after which members will have to return to Washington during their holiday recess. Current appropriations run out Friday.

**AV START BILL GETS A HARD STOP:** The Republican senator objecting to the Senate driverless car bill is still a mystery, but at least two Democrats are now known to have put in a hold on the bill: Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.) want more time to discuss safety, privacy and cybersecurity issues, report The Hill and Bloomberg.

**LIGHT MONDAY READING:** The Congressional Research Service has a new breakdown of the "topics likely to arise as the 115th Congress continues to debate FAA reauthorization." Give it a read here.

**CHRISTMAS IS SAVED:** American Airlines has struck a deal with the Allied Pilots Association, resulting in an assurance from the union that the airline will be able to "maintain a full December schedule as planned." A technical glitch had let all of American's pilots take vacation time around Christmas, raising the possibility of cancellations. Leaders on both sides hashed it out Friday and over the weekend, discussing "APA's grievance concerning restrictions on premium pay and trip trading for December flying," the union told its members, and they reached an agreement to pay pilots up to double their normal pay rate during that time. More from Brianna here.

**BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED:** American Airlines passengers will stop permitting travelers to carry "smart bags" for recharging devices that don't have removable battery packs, starting Jan. 15, Stephanie [writes](#). The air carrier announced the change Friday, saying it was taking the precautionary step in anticipation of smart bags being a popular gift this holiday season. The bags contain lithium-ion batteries which can explode when stored in aircraft cargo holds.

**THE \$84,000 QUESTION:** POLITICO [revealed](#) Friday that Rep. [Blake Farenthold](#) (R-Texas) paid an \$84,000 settlement to a former aide who had accused the congressman and another staffer of sexual harassment. As John Bresnahan and Rachael Bade [report](#), Republicans are split on the question of whether to call on the House Transportation Committee member to resign.

**NEW LEASE ON LIFE:** Arlington Memorial Bridge is getting a \$227 million facelift, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced Friday. "Over the past six years, the National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have made emergency temporary repairs while planning the larger rehabilitation," DOI said in a news release. "Without a complete rehabilitation, the continued and accelerated deterioration of the bridge's concrete deck would have required it be closed by 2021." Construction will begin next year.

**TITLE AND REGISTRATION:** Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates [registered](#) to lobby for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on issues related to the U.S. Navy, Air Force and FAA.

#### **THE AUTOBAHN:**

- "Report: U.K. to seek to stay inside EU's aviation safety agency post-Brexit." [POLITICO Europe](#).
- "Chinese drone maker denies giving data to government." [The Associated Press](#).
- "Congress faces frantic week with possible shutdown, taxes, Russia." [POLITICO](#).
- Michigan task force recommends including drones in driverless car test site. [The Associated Press](#).
- "California DMV ditches rule to limit liability for self-driving car manufacturers." [The Verge](#).
- Are Uber and Lyft cutting into transit ridership? [The Washington Post](#).
- In Senate race, Rokita blames opponent for voting for a gas tax hike, just like he himself did. [The Associated Press](#).
- "Hours after Senate GOP passes tax bill, Trump says he'll consider raising corporate rate." [The Washington Post](#).
- "The boss made me do it: 43 percent admit using smartphone because of work while driving, survey says." [The Washington Post](#).

**THE COUNTDOWN:** DOT appropriations run out in 5 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 118 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,032 days.

*To view online:*

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-transportation/2017/12/04/tax-bill-passes-senate-with-nothing-for-infrastructure-038753>

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