

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morning Transportation  
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**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Transportation: Adios Bannon — Final lap for new self-driving car guidance — Regulators: Mind the eclipse

By Stephanie Beasley and Brianna Gurciullo | 08/21/2017 10:02 AM EDT

**BANNON OUT, INFRASTRUCTURE ... ?:** Steve Bannon is exiting the White House, leaving some to wonder if he'll take with him his big-spending dream for infrastructure. Here's a refresher of just what Bannon told [Hollywood Reporter](#) last year: "I'm the guy pushing a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan. With negative interest rates throughout the world, it's the greatest opportunity to rebuild everything. Shipyards, ironworks, get them all jacked up. We're just going to throw it up against the wall and see if it sticks."

**"To be sure":** The reality is even having Bannon as a White House insider, the administration still has yet to produce more than a six-page outline of principles meant to inform its infrastructure package. More is promised in fall.

**FINAL LAP FOR NEW SELF-DRIVING CAR GUIDANCE:** NHTSA's updated guidance on self-driving cars is nearing public release, with the agency recently [turning over](#) the voluntary recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao has said that the reworked guidelines would be coming as soon as September, a year after President Barack Obama's DOT rolled out the federal government's first-ever [guidance](#) on the technology. While under interagency review, those who could be affected by the guidance will be able to weigh in before NHTSA officially publishes them, Pro Technology's Steven Overly [reports](#).

**Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill ...** A bill ([H.R. 3388 \(115\)](#)) dealing with self-driving vehicles won committee [approval](#) in the House last month, and a Senate bill is [expected](#) to be unveiled in the fall.

**HAPPY MONDAY:** Thanks 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, lyrics and your "Game of Thrones" reactions to [sbeasley@politico.com](mailto:sbeasley@politico.com) or [@Steph\\_Beasley](https://twitter.com/Steph_Beasley).

["Drivin' faster in my car / Falling farther from just what we are / Smoke a cigarette and lie some more / These conversations kill / Falling faster in my car."](#)

**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?

**TWEET DU JOUR:** "The [@USDOTFHWA](#) predicts that on Monday, [#Eclipse2017](#) could be one of the largest driver distractions in years. Please [#JustDrive](#)." - [@NHTSA.gov](#)

**THIS IS IT!** State transportation officials have spent months preparing for the ginormous traffic jams that could result from folks rubbernecking today's solar eclipse. Will all their planning pay

off? With an estimated 200 million people within a day's drive of the path of the eclipse, state highway officials from 14 states say they are ready for "what could be the largest traffic jam in U.S. history," The Washington Post's Terena Bell [reports](#).

**Be prepared:** State officials have been keeping in touch with each other and also with FHWA, which has asked the states to suspend all road construction today. Honoring that request might be easier for some than others. Missouri, for example, will need to allow wide-load trucks on the road to help move rollercoasters and other rides from its state fair, which ended Sunday.

**Turn around bright eyes:** The American Trucking Associations also has a few words of advice for truck drivers planning to watch the solar eclipse while moving "the nation's goods" - mainly that they find a safe place to view it. "Since the last time we saw a solar eclipse from U.S. soil, the amount of cars on our roads has multiplied by 50 times, the demand for goods has grown, and highway users are more distracted than ever with new technology," said ATA Chairman Kevin Burch, president of Jet Express Inc. "It is important that we all work together and practice safety during moments like this and remember that even the smallest unsafe decision can ruin what could be a treasured memory."

**UNVEILING BARCELONA'S JIHADIST TIES:** Last week's deadly van-ramming incidents in Spain were not surprising to many security experts who have been tracking the growing influence of Salafism, a radical form of Islam, in the Catalonia region where the attacks occurred. POLITICO Europe's Giulia Paravicini [reports](#) that Catalonia, home to more than a quarter of the country's Muslim population, has been Spain's main hub for jihadist recruitment for the past decade. And Rita Katz of the SITE Intelligence Group said a pro-ISIS Twitter account had promised an "imminent attack" on Spain two weeks ago.

**FAA DONS THE WHITE HAT AT SFO:** The FAA is changing the landing rules at San Francisco International Airport after an Canada Airbus mistook a runway for a taxiway and nearly collided with planes queued up for departure, according to a [report](#) from The Mercury News. The FAA is longer allowing visual approaches to SFO at night with an adjacent parallel runway closed and will instead have controllers give pilots instrument or satellite-based approaches, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor told The Mercury News. The agency also plans to begin testing modified radar systems in the coming months.

**TELL ME MORE, TELL ME MORE:** Canadian auto workers are more open to the idea of tougher NAFTA rules of origin on automobile parts than their trade representatives or U.S. automakers, Pro Trade's Adam Behsudi and Megan Cassella [write](#). U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer wants to renegotiate the rules in a way that would make it more difficult for U.S. and foreign automakers to shift production to Mexico, a proposal that drew ire from his Canadian and Mexican counterparts during talks last week.

**But Canadian labor unions are all ears:** "I can see putting a wall around Canada and the United States and then the two of us figuring out exactly what we are going to do with Mexico that we can both live with," said Jerry Dias, the president of Unifor, Canada's largest industrial labor union.

**SPEED IT UP:** The first day of NAFTA rounds concluded Sunday with the United States, Canada and Mexico agreeing that they want to wrap up negotiating ASAP, Doug Palmer writes.

**LIGHT AT THE END OF THE 'SUMMER OF HELL' TUNNEL:** Repairs to Penn Station in New York City should wrap up by Labor Day, according to Amtrak. "From a timing perspective, I'd say there's absolutely no reason we would not be at full service by Tuesday morning, Sept. 5," Amtrak COO Scot Naparstek told reporters on a call Friday. Ryan Hutchins has more for POLITICO New York Pro.

**SLIGHTLY DETAILED:** Let's just say House Transportation Committee member Todd Rokita likes things a certain way when he's traveling throughout his Indiana district. Drivers for the Republican lawmaker are supposed to adhere to an eight-page instruction manual, POLITICO's John Bresnahan and Rachael Bade report. Would you remember to follow all these steps?

**MORE FROM NTSB ON EL FARO:** NTSB on Friday added a human performance factual report and wreckage trajectory study to the docket for its ongoing investigation into the El Faro accident. A week earlier, the agency posted an updated transcript from the audio recording retrieved from the cargo ship, which sank during Hurricane Joaquin in 2015. NTSB has said it will add two more factual reports for nautical operations and naval architecture in the coming weeks.

**WOULD YOU CUT IT OUT?!** TSA agents continue to add to their bounty of weaponry. In its latest "Week in Review" blog post, TSA said it discovered 77 firearms in carry-on bags during the week of Aug. 7 to 13. Of the 77 firearms, 65 were loaded and 12 had "a round chambered." TSA said its officers also retrieved an inert grenade from a passenger's bag in Austin, Texas. Other items that TSA officers find regularly include realistic replica firearms, BB and pellet guns, airsoft guns, brass knuckles, batons, stun guns "and many other prohibited items too numerous to note," TSA wrote. The agency hit a record earlier this month when it discovered 96 firearms in one week.

**#OWNED:** After two European airlines Etihad Airways owned a stake went bankrupt this year, some experts are laying part of the blame on European Union airline ownership rules, POLITICO Europe's Cathy Buyck reports. Etihad wasn't able to own a majority stake in Air Berlin or Alitalia because of nationality rules. Efforts to change ownership regulations are heating up with Brexit on the horizon. For example, Ryanair, which is based in Ireland, has a host of U.K. shareholders. After Brexit, those shareholders won't be EU citizens anymore, and Ryanair may need to sell their shares so it doesn't lose its EU ownership status.

**LUNCH READ:** The Washington Post's Lori Aratani chronicles the lifelong friendship between former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and former Wyoming Senator Alan K. Simpson, who met when Mineta and his family were detained at the Heart Mountain Japanese internment camp in Wyoming during WWII. The two Boy Scouts "forged a bond" when they first met in 1942. That friendship endured during their tenures as members of Congress despite political differences. Simpson is a Republican. Mineta is a Democrat.

**THE AUTOBAHN:**

- "Wal-Mart applies for patent for blimp-style floating warehouse." [Bloomberg](#).
- "From anti-Reagan art to Milo Yiannopoulos: 35 years of controversial ads on Metro." The Washington Post.
- "Colorado Debuts Driverless Truck To Protect Road Crews." [The Associated Press](#).
- "Some gas with that sandwich? Convenience dominates fuel market." [Bloomberg](#).
- Researchers say they've discovered the wreck of the USS Indianapolis. [POLITICO](#).

**THE COUNTDOWN:** DOT appropriations run out in 40 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 40 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,136 days.

*To view online:*

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-transportation/2017/08/21/final-lap-for-new-self-driving-car-guidance-221980>

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