

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Tue 8/15/2017 2:07:03 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation: Sleep apnea's long road? — Trump talks infrastructure (again) — TSA on the come up

By Stephanie Beasley | 08/15/2017 10:00 AM EDT

DAYSLEEPER: Both current and former federal safety officials say they were disappointed when President Donald Trump last week halted an early-stage rulemaking dealing with sleep apnea among transportation workers, our Lauren Gardner [writes](#). The NTSB is among the critics, noting that its investigators have found clear and repeated links between obstructive sleep apnea and fatal highway and rail accidents.

There's the rub: In withdrawing the notice, the administration argued that the issue could be appropriately handled through existing programs and a pending rule from the Federal Railroad Administration. And there will certainly be some labor unions and industry groups that won't object to its withdrawal. Many have for years opposed the idea of federal requirements for sleep apnea testing and treatment, citing cost concerns and the possibility of missed work hours. A DOT spokeswoman said that FRA and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration simply did not have sufficient data to support future rulemaking at this time.

Worth noting: Whether and how to deal with sleep apnea among transportation workers isn't a new issue, and though the Obama administration issued an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking, which is the farthest any administration has gotten to addressing the issue, these kinds of early-stage rulemakings can drag on for years with no real progress.

HAPPY TUESDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Don't forget to send tips, feedback, and lyrics to sbeasley@politico.com or [@Steph_Beasley](https://twitter.com/Steph_Beasley) and bgurciullo@politico.com or [@brigurciullo](https://twitter.com/brigurciullo).

"Out on the road today I saw a Deadhead sticker on a Cadillac. / A little voice inside my head said: "Don't look back, you can never look back." / I thought I knew what love was. / What did I know?" (h/t to Kara Macek at Governors Highway Safety Association)

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?

TODAY'S THE DAY: President Donald Trump will host a meeting to discuss his plans for developing an infrastructure package that he wants added to the congressional agenda this fall. And, MT readers, we're just as curious as you are to hear more details. Rumor is it will include another executive order related to environmental reviews and permitting. Stay tuned!

WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT: A Boeing spokesman said CEO Dennis Muilenburg will remain on the White House's manufacturing advisory council, quashing speculation that he could be among the growing numbers of executives to resign from boards over Trump's politics.

Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier announced Monday that he'd resigned from the manufacturing council because he felt the president failed to reject "hatred, bigotry and group supremacy" in response to violence in Charlottesville, Virginia last Saturday. Intel CEO Brian Krzanich followed suit later in the evening. And AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka hinted that he might resign over the issue, POLITICO's Ian Kullgren [reports](#). Tesla CEO Elon Musk also very publicly departed the manufacturing council in June after Trump backed out of the Paris Climate agreement.

ON THE COME UP: TSA said it screened more than 70 million people in July, breaking its previous record high of 69.9 million passengers set in June. At least 2 million of those passengers were screened at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport, TSA said. The agency's record-breaking summer is a marked contrast from this time last year when airports nationwide were beset by long security screening lines. The tide change also comes as TSA continues to add steps to its screening procedures to thwart emerging threats domestically and internationally. The agency announced last month that it would require passengers on domestic flights to remove any electronic larger than a cell phone from carry-on bags and place them in separate bins.

BUT THERE'S MORE: While TSA seems to be getting a good handle on aviation security, the agency is also keeping an eye on terrorist threats to the surface transportation system, particularly railways. As MT reported on Monday, the latest version of Al Qaeda's Inspire Magazine is essentially a "how-to" guide for terrorists seeking to attack passenger and freight trains in the United States. A TSA spokeswoman [told](#) your MT host that the agency warned rail operators last Friday about the then upcoming Aug. 13 release of Al Qaeda's propaganda magazine as well as that of a related instructional video. TSA is not aware of any current, credible threats but continues to work closely with law enforcement and intelligence agencies to review the magazine and monitor terrorist groups that could be plotting such attacks, she said.

NTSB UPDATE ON CHARLOTTESVILLE CRASH: The NTSB expects to publish a preliminary factual report on the Virginia State Police helicopter that crashed near Charlottesville, Virginia on Saturday within the next two to three weeks. But the agency believes it will take a year to 18 months to complete the investigation, NTSB spokesman Peter Knudson said. Two policeman died in the crash. NTSB said that a fire occurred after the helicopter went down in a wooded area, but there was no distress call.

I'LL BE WATCHING YOU: NTSB launched a new blog series highlighting its general aviation investigative process. The posts will be written by NTSA staff and "will explore how medical, mechanical, and general safety issues are examined," the agency said. NTSB member Earl Weener wrote the first [post](#) published Monday.

TRUCKING STUDENTS LEFT HOLDING THE BAG: Some people are going to trucking schools with "blue-collar dreams" but leaving with a load of debt and poor job prospects, Bloomberg [reports](#). The outlet said it interviewed dozens of truck drivers, instructors and industry insiders that say some companies are offering accredited truck driver training but are instead taking advantage of enrollees with promises that they could make as much as \$500 per week, when their chances of getting a steady job in the industry are actually slim.

What's going on?: Don Lefevé, president of the Commercial Vehicle Training Association, told Bloomberg that the organization is trying to make sure that its members are educating people "early and often" about the costs associated with training programs. The problem is perplexing given the American Trucking Association has noted that there is currently a shortage of drivers. The industry was short 48,000 drivers in 2015, according to an [ATA report](#).

DON'T HOLD MY BEER: Ryanair is trying to pull the plug on pre-flight alcohol sales at airports in the United Kingdom. The Dublin-based airline on Monday urged airports to ban alcohol sales at bars and restaurants before 10 a.m. and to also limit sales otherwise in an effort to reduce drunken shenanigans on flights. The airline said the announcement was spurred by a U.K. Civil Aviation Authority report that found a sevenfold increase in drunken, disruptive passenger incidents between 2012 and 2016. Other airlines operating in the U.K. have also called for alcohol limits. (h/t [POLITICO Europe](#)).

SHIFTING GEARS: Cynthia Earhart becomes executive vice president and chief financial officer for Norfolk Southern today. She previously served as the company's executive vice president and chief information officer. Jason Levine is the new executive director of the Center for Auto Safety. Levine is a consumer protection attorney and formerly chief of staff at the Consumer Product Safety Commission and director of the Office of Congressional, Legislative, and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Office of Personnel Management.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Suited for danger: what it's like to be high behind the wheel." [NBC Boston](#).
- "SpaceX lands another one of its Falcon 9 rockets on solid ground." [The Verge](#).
- "NJ transit delays mount after agency stalls projects to pay bills." [Bloomberg](#).
- "The plan to put a 3-D printer with robot arms into orbit." [Wired](#).
- "Uber service is being suspended in yet another country." [Fortune](#).
- "Target is buying a company that facilitates quick local deliveries." [Los Angeles Times](#).

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 46 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 46 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,142 days.

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