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**From:** Morning Transportation  
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**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Delta Air Lines: Will this be the week of the laptop ban? — Trump's infrastructure push is personal — World Bank advises Trump on infrastructure

By Brianna Gurciullo and Tanya Snyder | 05/30/2017 10:00 AM EDT

*With help from Lauren Gardner*

**WILL THIS BE THE WEEK?** Laptop ban watch enters its third week, with rising expectations that an announcement is close at hand. The Department of Homeland Security is still keeping things close to the chest - on Sunday DHS Secretary John Kelly reiterated the standard line, that he "might" expand the ban to all international flights and has yet to make a decision. As our Kathryn A. Wolfe [reports](#) for Pros, Kelly asserts "there's a real threat" to aviation but that he wants to see where it's going before he makes a decision.

**Bottles, cans, paper:** Kelly also noted that people are carrying more onto planes now to avoid checked-bag fees, and it's creating problems for TSA. "They can't tell what's in the bags anymore," he said. He hinted that a system TSA is currently testing - in which passengers have to unpack their carry-on luggage and separate food, electronics, and paper into separate bins - would "likely" be expanded nationwide and that DHS is "working out the tactics, techniques and procedures" in the test airports "to find out exactly how to do that with the least amount of inconvenience."

**INTRODUCE A LITTLE ANARCHY:** Here are just a few of the issues airlines and European airports will have to tackle if the United States expands its electronics ban: The process of informing passengers. Possible liability for broken electronics. The need to check for tablets and laptops in carry-on baggage and stow them properly in the cargo hold. The likely delays that would follow - an estimated hour or two per flight. POLITICO Europe's Cathy Buyck [breaks it down](#).

**Fire fears:** The European Aviation Safety Agency recommends that travelers bring electronics powered by lithium batteries into flight cabins with them so crew members can respond immediately if there's a problem, like a fire. Emirates, an airline already affected by the original ban, now wraps personal electronics "in bubble wrap, labels and boxes them. They are then put in a special container and placed in a dedicated section of the cargo hold equipped with sprinklers," Cathy reports.

**The scope:** As is, the ban affects 350 flights a week. If DHS started to apply its ban to airports in Europe, it would affect 390 flights a day, the International Air Transport Association estimates.

**IT'S TUESDAY:** Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. We are your MT hosts today, so please send tips, feedback and lyrics to [tsnyder@politico.com](mailto:tsnyder@politico.com) or [@TSnyderDC](https://twitter.com/TSnyderDC) and [bgurciullo@politico.com](mailto:bgurciullo@politico.com) or [@brigurciullo](https://twitter.com/brigurciullo).

"I got a pink guitar, a Lincoln Town Car / From ol' what's his name I met at a bar."

Want to keep up with MT's song picks? Follow our [Spotify playlist](#).

**\*\* A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to make your travel smoother. We tapped RFID technology to keep your bags in check at all times. Giving you more peace of mind from check-in to baggage claim. Learn more: [delta.com/dca](http://delta.com/dca) \*\*

**THIS MEANS WAR:** The Trump administration seems headed toward overhauling the project approval process in an infrastructure package - which, as POLITICO's Andrew Restuccia and Nancy Cook report, is "getting personal attention from Trump, whose desire to streamline regulations and speed up permits originated with his decades-long career as a real estate developer, according to people who have spoken to the president and his top advisers." Pros get the [full download](#).

**Dispatch from DOT:** MT's favorite department is in the process right now of examining its rules to fulfill Trump's orders related to reviewing federal regulations. DOT's task force on the issue aims to find "appropriate approaches to deliver cost-neutral regulations," FRA chief safety officer Bob Lauby said at a Railroad Safety Advisory Committee meeting last week. "We have a good start, but I must say there's a lot more work to do, and there's more questions that need to be answered before we will have a firm way forward."

**One major question, though:** How will agencies handle regulations mandated by Congress versus those they wrote at their own discretion? "We acknowledge the ones that are congressionally mandated, those have always been our most important, but we have different challenges that we're looking at," Lauby told our Lauren Gardner, adding: "Does that mean two little ones for one big one? I don't know." He noted that some of the rules under discussion among RSAC working group members are intended to simplify existing requirements, "so they're right along the lines of what we should be doing, but I think they're all in play at a different level."

#### **THIS WEEK:**

**Wednesday** - The Association for Commuter Transportation holds a [webinar](#) on Mobility-as-a-Service, the idea of "integrating various forms of transportation services (public transit, ridesharing, carsharing, bicycling, and walking) into a single system accessible on demand."

**Thursday** - Waterways Council, Inc. holds an event at the National Press Club on Trump's fiscal 2018 budget proposal, the Army Corps of Engineers fiscal 2017 work plan, the fiscal 2017 omnibus and the Trump administration's proposals for upgrading U.S. infrastructure.

**Friday** - The Alliance for Transportation Innovation holds a [forum](#) on "leveraging innovation to solve the data sharing challenge" with self-driving vehicles.

**TRUMP'S COMMENT WASN'T SO BAD/EVIL:** The uproar surrounding Trump's reported complaint that Germans were "evil" or even "bad" (depending on the translation) for selling too

many cars to the United States has died down. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker insisted Friday that Trump's complaints about the trade imbalance were not "aggressive," reports Tom McTague at POLITICO Europe. Juncker also said he explained to Trump that he should look not at the U.S. economy's trade balance with Germany but with the European Union as a whole.

**Neither are German imports:** German auto execs responded that their companies had created 110,000 jobs in the U.S. "For German manufacturers, the U.S. is not just an important market, but more than ever a significant production location," said Association of the Automotive Industry President Matthias Wissmann. U.S. auto industry representatives say they have not asked Trump to restrict German imports. In the past, Trump has threatened Germany with a 35 percent tax on auto imports.

**U.S. GETS WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE:** In a move some experts see as a quid pro quo for first daughter Ivanka Trump's new \$1 billion international women's entrepreneurship fund, World Bank experts are providing technical expertise to the White House team designing an infrastructure package. The Financial Times reports that it's highly unlikely the Bank would finance any projects, and even the provision of expertise to a first world nation is unusual. Some observers worry that Bank President Jim Yong Kim is trying to curry favor with the administration to prevent Trump from cutting U.S. funding to the Bank.

**YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CHECK THAT:** TSA discovered a record 82 firearms nationwide last week in passengers' carry-on bags. "Of the 82 firearms discovered, 66 were loaded and 18 had a round chambered," reported the TSA blog. The agency also discovered many knives and a cane sword.

### **BILLS, BILLS, BILLS:**

- Sens. Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski (both R-Alaska) and Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz (both D-Hawaii) have rolled out a bill (S. 1244) to reauthorize \$175 million a year for the Essential Air Service program through fiscal 2022, no doubt playing defense against Trump's budget request to stop appropriating funds for EAS.

- Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) has put forward a bill (H.R. 2715) to force bus and passenger rail companies as well as cruise lines to refund luggage fees to customers whose bags are delayed or lost.

- Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.) plans to introduce legislation with provisions related to airline customer issues like delays, fees and tech meltdowns. The bill would mandate a GAO report on air carrier computer systems, among other provisions.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** The entire Pro Transportation team congratulates Heather Caygle, a former MT scribe who now steers the POLITICO Huddle ship, on her marriage to Pro Tax's Aaron Lorenzo. POLITICO Playbook has the full pool report from the wedding.

**SHIFTING GEARS:** Former Obama administration spokesman Frank Benenati is starting a

new gig as United Airlines' director of corporate communications in Chicago. Transportation was in Benenati's portfolio in the White House. He later served as director of public affairs for the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **THE AUTOBAHN:**

- "GOP's proposed tax changes are no match for status quo." [The Wall Street Journal](#).
- "How Uber's Vestager play fell flat." [POLITICO Europe](#).
- "As Iran and U.S. leaders trade barbs, big deals proceed." [The New York Times](#).
- "British Airways CEO will not resign despite 'catastrophic' IT failure." [The Guardian](#).
- "CEOs urge Donald Trump to limit scope of NAFTA changes to an 'update.'" [The Wall Street Journal](#).
- "How an airplane laptop ban would expose company data to espionage." [Harvard Business Review](#).
- "In official alerts to its customers, NJ Transit knows whom to blame: Amtrak." [POLITICO New York/New Jersey](#).
- "Trump's budget plan lands with a thud in Middle America." [POLITICO Pro](#).

**THE COUNTDOWN:** DOT appropriations run out in 124 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 124 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,220 days.

**\*\* A message from Delta Air Lines:** Our daily briefing: At Delta we're constantly innovating to make your travel smoother. We tapped into RFID technology to keep your bags in check at all times. Giving you more peace of mind from check-in to baggage claim.

Our pursuit of constantly solving problems doesn't stop there. Turbulence is notoriously difficult to predict. That's why we developed our industry-leading Flight Weather Viewer app. It helps our pilots better spot and avoid unexpected turbulence with real-time graphics of observations and forecasts on the flight deck. Making your journey smoother while also reducing our carbon footprint.

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