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From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Thur 11/2/2017 2:06:00 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation: V2V mandate in question — TSA checkup coming up — Terrorist-proofing bike paths

By Tanya Snyder and Brianna Gurciullo | 11/02/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Stephanie Beasley and Adrienne Hurst

V2V MANDATE IN QUESTION: The administration has placed an Obama-era connected car rule on "long-term" status and removed it from a list of regulations actively under consideration, raising questions about whether DOT is pulling the proposed rule requiring automakers to install vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology in new cars. DOT denies that it's made any decisions and the item remains on the DOT's monthly regulatory report, but the move seems to signal that it's slipped to a low priority item, or worse.

Tech firms celebrate, autos not so much: Assuming the rule is being put on ice, Silicon Valley, which has long opposed the rule as mandating an outdated technology, has something to celebrate. They say industry is doing fine on its own and the government should just give them space to set their own standards. They also can't wait to be free of the DSRC technology they say has long since been overtaken by wireless technology and will be blown out of the water entirely next year with the arrival of 5G. But it's a blow for automakers, who have been depending on the administration to set standards for the technology that will help roll out increasingly connected cars. They'd also like to see the administration help settle the debate over the 5.9 GHz band of spectrum, which they'd like to see preserved exclusively for connected cars unless it could be definitively proven that sharing it with other wireless uses would have no impact on safety.

Not breaking out the champagne: It's a safety issue, too. A joint statement issued by organizations representing the transportation technology industry, transportation engineers and state DOTs called the issue "a matter of life and death" and asked for "federal leadership to reduce the uncertainty concerning V2V and to help deploy this technology faster."

IT'S THURSDAY: Thanks for docking at POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Tanya will be in the MT driver's seat for the next few months, so be sure to reach out to her: tsnyder@politico.com or [@TSnyderDC](https://twitter.com/TSnyderDC).

"A sinking ship, an awkward kiss / A chance to set things straight."

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?

FOR YOUR RADAR: DOT announced that Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao will formally kick off the Trump administration's drone pilot program today. Attendees will include FAA Administrator Michael Huerta and Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International President and CEO Brian Wynne. Watch the livestream here. A notice in the Federal Register will also go up today "detailing the timeframe, requirements and goals of the new program,"

according to DOT.

HOUSE HEARING ON TSA SCREENINGS: Steph got the scoop on the House Homeland Security Committee's plan to hold a hearing on TSA's efforts to protect transportation systems. The Nov. 8 hearing will follow a classified briefing with TSA Administrator David Pekoske and DHS Inspector General John Roth on findings from the IG's latest audit of TSA airport screenings. Pekoske and Roth are also expected to testify at the hearing regarding the IG findings, which have not yet been publicly been released.

A sprinkle of optimism: New Jersey Democrat Bonnie Watson Coleman, the ranking member of the transportation security subpanel, said she would keep an "open mind" going into next week's briefing but expected to see significant improvements from the failures highlighted in the IG's 2015 audit. "If it reveals that there are similar deficiencies, I need to know what [the IG] is recommending and I need to know from TSA what they're doing about them," she said.

ALSO NOV. 8: Kirstjen Nielsen, Trump's nominee to be DHS secretary, will appear before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Nov. 8. Nielsen is White House chief of staff John Kelly's deputy and was Kelly's chief of staff when he led DHS.

FOR YOUR BOOKMARKING: The House's calendar for 2018, released Wednesday, is here.

N.Y. SEN. CALLS FOR TRAFFIC BARRIERS: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) is pushing DOT to create a grant program to help fund the construction of traffic barriers that could prevent attacks similar to the one that happened in New York City this week when a man intentionally drove into a bike lane. Gillibrand introduced legislation that would provide \$50 million to local governments over the next 10 years for traffic barriers that would keep vehicles separate from bike paths, sidewalks and other public pedestrian areas. It is similar to a House bill, H.R. 4051 (115).

ON THE TRUCK-IT LIST: Neither chamber's self-driving car bill currently covers trucks and buses, but trucks could get special treatment from the House Transportation Committee. Rep. Sam Graves told MT Wednesday that the committee will tackle self-driving trucks in a separate bill - or, "at least that's what the plan is right now," he said.

Graves on infrastructure: Graves also told a conference of drone industry professionals Wednesday that the infrastructure bill will be released next year, though they had hoped to do it this year. He also said the bill could seek to standardize lane markings and signage to pave the way for driverless cars. (h/t Eno's Greg Rogers)

COLGAN FAMILIES CRY FOUL: Families of the victims of the 2009 Colgan Air crash Tuesday called the recent release of Aviation Rulemaking Committee recommendations on pilot training "just another attempt by the regionals and their lobbyists to sneak a Trojan horse right under the noses of DOT and FAA." The recommendations, whose release was requested by Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) in support of a similar provision he included in the Senate FAA bill, S. 1405 (115), suggested allowing some airline-provided training programs to count as flight hours for pilot certification for people with certain military or academic backgrounds. The Colgan

families said "it is patently unfair to the flying public to sacrifice actual flying experience in exchange for these enhancements."

'A HUGE MISTAKE': Rep. [John Delaney](#) (D-Md.) wants overhauling the tax code to get bipartisan - and is arguing that pulling infrastructure into tax legislation is the best route. "The GOP is making a huge mistake in leaving infrastructure out of their plan, because that's something that we all agree on and it's a way to start having a real bipartisan negotiation," Delaney said in a statement Wednesday. "If they do jam through tax reform without any new funding for infrastructure, then they might as well put up a flashing billboard on the mall that says 'There Won't Be Any Infrastructure Bill' because there won't be any money left to pay for one."

TWEET DU JOUR: For National Native American Heritage Month, the FAA [tweeted](#) on Wednesday that it was recognizing Mary Riddle, "who became the first #NativeAmerican woman to obtain a pilot's license 87 years ago."

MT INFLUENCE: The Hill on Wednesday unveiled its 2017 [list](#) of top lobbyists for associations, featuring: Mitch Bainwol for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers; John Bozzella for Global Automakers; Mark Baker for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Nicholas Calio for Airlines for America; Kevin Burke for Airports Council International-North America; Roger Dow and Jonathan Grella for the U.S. Travel Association; Ed Hamberger for the Association of American Railroads; David Melcher for the Aerospace Industries Association; and Stephen Sandherr for the Associated General Contractors of America.

CONSOLIDATION CONSOLATION: A new [report](#) from the Eno Center for Transportation says the average consumer has benefited from airline consolidation, even with just four airlines - America, Delta, United and Southwest - dominating the domestic market. Having fewer carriers to choose from has boosted the availability of seat miles and nonstop flights, according to the report, but it's also concentrated traffic at the biggest airports and could "negatively affect passengers if it forces more connecting flights for customers not flying out of large hubs."

FLY-IN: Employees of Delta Air Lines are in Washington this week to talk Open Skies with lawmakers and aides. It's the fifth D.C. trip by Delta employees this year, airline spokeswoman Elizabeth Wolf told MT in a statement. "Taken together with earlier meetings, Delta people have visited hundreds of congressional offices" in 2017, Wolf said.

On one side: Meanwhile, the Partnership for Open and Fair Skies, of which Delta is a member, paid for a full-page print advertisement in Wednesday's New York Times and New York Post. The [ad](#) is a letter to Trump boasting that 300 lawmakers have signed letters taking the side of Delta, United Airlines and American Airlines in their fight against Etihad Airways, Emirates Airline and Qatar Airways.

And the other: U.S. Airlines For Open Skies, which includes JetBlue Airways and Hawaiian Airlines, is responding with an [infographic](#) and [video](#) aimed at Trump.

SHIFTING GEARS: Amtrak is promoting Christian Zacariassen from associate vice president

for product, portfolio and customer management to chief information officer. ... John Degnan, the former Port Authority of New York and New Jersey chairman, will be president and CEO of the American Insurance Association starting next week. (h/t [POLITICO Influence](#))

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "As London cracks down on Uber, Baltics embrace ride-sharing." [POLITICO Europe](#).
- "Maglev developers ink deal to use union workers for project construction." [The Baltimore Business Journal](#).
- "Trump's NASA pick faces blistering criticism on Capitol Hill." [POLITICO](#).
- "Garrett emerges from Senate grilling with Ex-Im job in jeopardy." [POLITICO Pro Financial Services](#).
- "Most states are unlikely to copy California's gas tax hike." [Marketplace](#).
- "Shuster holds roundtable to lay foundation for next Water Resources Development Act." [The Ripon Advance](#).
- "Baltimore's double-stack rail project collapses." [The Journal of Commerce](#).
- "Auto sales continued hot streak in October." [The Wall Street Journal](#).

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 37 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 150 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,064 days.

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