

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Transportation
Sent: Mon 7/17/2017 2:04:18 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by Delta Air Lines: House FAA bill up in the air — House Appropriations to mark up THUD spending bill tonight — Norwegian U.K. gets tentative OK from DOT

By Stephanie Beasley and Brianna Gurciullo | 07/17/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Lauren Gardner and Tanya Snyder

HOUSE FAA BILL UP IN THE AIR: House Majority Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#)'s floor schedule for this week [left out](#) Transportation Chairman [Bill Shuster](#)'s FAA reauthorization bill. The million-dollar question, of course, is why. It's likely some combination of not enough votes - as our friends at POLITICO Playbook [reported](#) : "The whip count was close to a few dozen votes short as of the time lawmakers left town Friday afternoon" - and efforts to accelerate [appropriations](#) adding pressure on floor time.

But wait: The bill, [H.R. 2997 \(115\)](#), could be added quickly to the floor schedule if there's an opening or if the whip count changes.

MARK IT UP NOW, Y'ALL: The full House Appropriations Committee will mark up the fiscal 2018 spending bill for transportation and HUD tonight. The subcommittee held a less than 20-minute markup for the legislation last week, but expect this one to go longer. Remember, the bill [includes](#) \$900 million targeted at projects like Gateway but would scrap the TIGER grant program.

HAPPY MONDAY: Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Lauren will be back at the helm with Steph, so send along your tips, feedback and lyrics: lgardner@politico.com or [@Gardner_LM](https://twitter.com/Gardner_LM) and sbeasley@politico.com or [@Steph_Beasley](https://twitter.com/Steph_Beasley).

"Well, I got one foot on the platform / The other foot on the train / I'm goin' back to New Orleans / To wear that ball and chain." (h/t Zach Montellaro)

GET LISTENING: Follow MT's [playlist](#) on Spotify. What better way to start your day than with tunes (picked by us and readers) that are all about flying, driving, commuting and sailing?

NASAO SAYS NO: The National Association of State Aviation Officials [came out against](#) Shuster's bill on Friday, saying there are "unnecessary, controversial risks" to divorcing air traffic control operations from the FAA. In particular, the group opposes a stipulation to shrink the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, whose source of revenue is mostly excise taxes. "This provision completely dismantles a system of taxes that is nearly self-sufficient in favor of a haphazard tax scheme that cannot even support the authorized [Airport Improvement Program] increases contained in the bill reported out of Committee," said Mark Kimberling, NASAO's president.

WELL THAT'S AN INTERESTING ANALOGY: Rep. [Steve Russell](#) (R-Okla.) held forth on the floor of the House for 40 minutes Friday about what he described as the dangers of spinning air traffic control operations away off from the FAA. "We're all in agreement on modernization," he said. "But privatization? I'm afraid, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of us are like a pack of dogs lapping up antifreeze. It smells good. It might even taste good. But it's not without drastic consequence."

NORWEGIAN U.K. GETS TENTATIVE OK: DOT preliminarily decided that Norwegian U.K. should receive a foreign air carrier permit, according to an order issued Friday. The Norwegian Air Shuttle subsidiary applied for the permit to fly to the United States in late 2015. DOT said arguments against Norwegian U.K.'s bid reiterated those that had been "made by essentially the same opposing parties in the context of their objections" to the application for a foreign air carrier permit by Norwegian Air International, Norwegian Air Shuttle's Irish subsidiary. But DOT "has already thoroughly considered, and rejected, these arguments," Friday's order says. "We tentatively see no persuasive basis on the record of the present proceeding to reach a different conclusion here." Pros can read the full order [here](#).

ICYMI: The Congressional Budget Office took a look at Trump's proposal to spend \$200 billion on infrastructure over the course of a decade. Here's what the CBO had to [say](#) : "When considering the entire set of proposals in the budget, though, overall spending on infrastructure would not increase by \$200 billion. The president's proposals for discretionary spending would reduce appropriations for other accounts that provide funding for infrastructure, such as those for ground transportation and water resources. Those reductions would largely offset the proposed increase in mandatory spending on infrastructure over the 2018-2027 period." Many a Democratic lawmaker has pointed this out. (h/t Jeff Davis at the Eno Center for Transportation, who [spotted](#) the CBO analysis.)

LAPTOP BAN UPDATE: The Department of Homeland Security issued a revised directive late last week clarifying aviation security updates that must be in place at 280 point-of-departure airports beginning Wednesday. Airlines requested the additional language clarifying the directive DHS initially issued on June 28 outlining measures that must be implemented to avoid electronics restrictions on flights to the United States, according to TSA spokesman James Gregory. He said the revised directive includes "technical adjustments that allow for the airlines to implement the measures to the full extent required." Reuters [reported](#) the directive would specifically give airlines more time to obtain explosive trace detection equipment.

Let's work together: A DHS spokesman told reporters last week that the department was offering technical assistance to airlines and airports and would be willing to provide interim alternative measures. "As we have said since the beginning of this process, DHS and TSA are committed to working alongside our aviation partners to ensure the enhanced security measures are implemented effectively and efficiently," Gregory said in a statement to MT.

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VISA REQUIREMENTS THEY ARE A-CHANGIN': The Trump administration is preparing new visa procedures that will include "extreme vetting" measures that would require applicants to "demonstrate the paperwork and background information that we need to appropriately demonstrate that they have or don't have a security past that would concern us," White House Homeland Security Adviser Tom Bossert said during a gaggle with reporters Friday. Homeland Security chief John Kelly has also said DHS could require visa applicants to share their social media passwords. "I would say that Secretary Kelly owns and is responsible for that portion of the policy, and for implementing it," Bossert said. The new visa procedures, which are expected to replace the administration's current ban on travel from six Muslim-majority countries, could be applied worldwide.

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday - The House Transportation Highways and Transit Subcommittee holds a hearing on implementing the FAST Act and road safety. The House Appropriations Committee marks up the fiscal 2018 spending bill for DHS.

Wednesday - The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee marks up David Pekoske's nomination to be TSA administrator. The House Agriculture Committee holds a hearing on infrastructure in rural areas. The House Transportation Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee holds a hearing on implementing WRDA. The Air Line Pilots Association begins its public "Air Safety Forum."

Friday - The Drone Advisory Committee holds a virtual meeting.

GO SLOW: The NTSB will release a study on speeding-related car crashes later this month. NTSB said that speeding is responsible for as many highway crashes as alcohol. Despite speeding being one of the most common factors in vehicle crashes, contributing to about 10,000 highway deaths each year, it remains an "underappreciated problem," the agency said. NTSB officials will discuss findings from the new study on passenger vehicle speeding on July 25.

NOT NOW, NOT EVER: Paul Wiedefeld, the general manager and CEO for the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, announced Friday that he had fired a track department supervisor after discovering the supervisor had misused overtime and claimed earnings for times when he wasn't working. Wiedefeld called the incident "disturbing and disappointing." Metro employees "must hold ourselves to a standard of conduct that is above suspicion and reproach," he said in a statement.

BY THE NUMBERS: U.S. airlines disclosed that they had 27 domestic flight delays on tarmacs that lasted over three hours in May, the overwhelming majority of which happened at Philadelphia International Airport amid a thunderstorm, DOT said Friday. Another figure worth noting: DOT fielded 1,262 complaints related to U.S. air carrier service in May, a 54 percent increase from the same month of last year.

AMTRAK UPDATE ON 'SUMMER OF HELL' REPAIRS: Amtrak said its repair work at New York's Penn Station is running on schedule. In its most recent progress report, Amtrak said

it has even accelerated some of its scheduled work on tracks and switches for Penn Station and along the Northeast Corridor. Amtrak is expected to complete the project by Sept. 1, ahead of the Labor Day weekend.

GET YOUR MOTOR RUNNING: Washington state has launched its first self-driving car pilot. Gov. Jay Inslee's office announced the state would partner with Torc Robotics to pilot a vehicle in Seattle. Inslee issued an executive order last month allowing for the testing and operation of autonomous cars as well as pilot programs.

MT MAILBAG: Safety advocates fired off a letter Friday to House Appropriations Committee leaders asking them to fight anything in the fiscal 2018 DOT spending bill (or amendments to the bill) that would loosen federal restrictions on truck weight and size, preempt state rules for trucker rest breaks or create exemptions for electronic logging device regulations. The Truckload Carriers Association also wrote in last week, asking appropriators to reject any amendments that would allow twin-33 trailers across the country.

LOBBYING UPDATE: Jim Burnley, who was DOT secretary in the late 1980s and now is a partner at Venable, is lobbying for Mobile Barriers, a Colorado-based company that makes movable barriers for highway construction areas.

THE AUTOBAHN:

- "Here's what you need to know now about U.S. Customs searches of your phone." Quartz.
- "New jets threaten Airbus and Boeing duopoly." The Wall Street Journal.
- "Fiat Chrysler recalls 1.33 million vehicles over fire, air bag risks." Reuters.
- "Qatar Airways offers a glimpse of the new laptop security regime." USA Today.
- "Cities look to business (not Washington) to build sustainability." POLITICO Magazine.
- "No more napping on the railroad, says new CSX boss." The Wall Street Journal.
- "Trump badly lagging Obama, Bush, Clinton in political appointees." POLITICO.

THE COUNTDOWN: DOT appropriations run out in 76 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 76 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,172 days.

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