

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morning Transportation  
**Sent:** Fri 10/20/2017 2:03:18 PM  
**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Transportation, presented by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates: Build America Bureau chief signs off — Trump to talk GOP agenda with senators — DHS faces more complex aviation threats

By Brianna Gurciullo | 10/20/2017 10:00 AM EDT

*With help from Stephanie Beasley and Tanya Snyder*

**SIGNING OFF:** The Build America Bureau's first executive director has stepped down. Marty Klepper was named to the job less than a month before the Obama administration ended. As Tanya [reports](#), the DOT unit "had been created less than six months earlier as a 'one-stop shop' for credit and grant opportunities," bringing together the TIFIA and RRIF programs. No word yet on why Klepper left. The bureau focused on public-private partnerships, but President Donald Trump has been less than enthused about those agreements lately - despite the fact that his officials have said for months that P3s will be a major part of his infrastructure proposal.

**TO BE A FLY ON THE WALL:** Trump will speak to Senate Republicans during their weekly policy lunch on Tuesday - his first trip to the Hill to talk to senators since entering office, POLITICO's Burgess Everett [reports](#). Sen. [John Barrasso](#) (R-Wyo.), the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee as well as the Republican Policy Committee, invited Trump. In a statement, Barrasso said the president is coming "to press our common agenda and speed a great American recovery." Will infrastructure be a part of the conversation? Stay tuned.

**YAY FRIDAY:** Thanks for tuning in to POLITICO's Morning Transportation - your daily tipsheet on all things trains, planes, automobiles and ports - where your host is looking forward to a lazy weekend. Send along tips, feedback and lyrics to [bgurciullo@politico.com](mailto:bgurciullo@politico.com) or [@brigurciullo](https://twitter.com/brigurciullo).

"Mustang Sally, guess you better slow your Mustang down / Oh Lord, what I say now / Mustang Sally, now baby / Oh Lord, guess you better slow your Mustang down."

**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?

**DHS FACES MORE COMPLEX AVIATION THREATS:** DHS spokesman David Lapan made a few clarifications about the nature of terrorist threats against the U.S. aviation system at a pen and pad Thursday. Acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke [reportedly](#) told U.K. officials Wednesday that groups like ISIS and Al Qaeda continue to hatch plots to down aircraft on the scale of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. "What she is communicating is that the nature of the threat environment today is much more complex and diverse than it was before 9/11," he said, noting the emergence of new technology and communication tools. Steph has more for Pros [here](#).

**ICYMI:** Lapan isn't staying at DHS for much longer. He's heading to the Bipartisan Policy Center later this month, as CNN first [reported](#).

**MORE REAL ID EXTENSIONS POSSIBLE:** DHS spokeswoman Justine Whelan also told reporters at Thursday's pen and pad that the department continues to review states' applications for REAL ID extensions. DHS has granted one-year extensions to 17 states so far, but half a dozen others, including Missouri and New York, remain under review. "There are many packages still at DHS," she said. "Currently there is a grace period in effect." Whelan said states whose requests are still pending will be exempt from enforcement action until Jan. 22, 2018, which is when the department is slated to start rejecting ID cards that don't meet federal standards at airports and other federal facilities. States that received the extensions now have until Oct. 10, 2018, to comply.

**NO-FILTER DEFAZIO:** Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) wrote to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao on Thursday slamming her for giving PHMSA the status of lead U.S. agency on ICAO's dangerous goods committee instead of the FAA. "I find your decision inexplicable, and I strongly believe it has the potential to put the lives of airline passengers and crews at serious risk," the top Transportation Committee Democrat wrote, adding that he plans to introduce a bill to permanently assign the top role to the FAA.

**What mission?** "FAA's mission is, in fact, to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world," DeFazio wrote. "I have no idea what PHMSA's mission is, or whether its leaders do, because the agency is so dysfunctional that it cannot even finalize crucial safety rulemakings that Congress mandated more than five years ago." DeFazio also accused PHMSA of showing "coziness" toward "industry representatives that strongly oppose the regulation of lithium cells and batteries and other dangerous goods." DOT didn't return a request for comment on the letter.

**\*\* A message from the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates:** It was the largest commercial aviation order in history - UAE airlines bought \$120 billion in US-made Boeing aircraft. That's hundreds of thousands of jobs for Americans. The UAE-US commercial aviation relationship is a win-win deal. <http://politi.co/2yFCemS> \*\*

**SENATE OK's BUDGET:** The Senate passed a budget resolution Thursday that'll open the way for a Republican tax overhaul. The vote was 51-49, with only Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul defecting. The House passed its budget earlier this month. "Key House and Senate lawmakers privately hammered out a compromise Thursday that would likely eliminate the need for a conference committee - buying Republicans at least a week to do more tax work," POLITICO's Sarah Ferris and Seung Min Kim report.

**I'M OUT:** JetBlue Airways is ditching a dozen online travel websites as it looks to slash \$20 million in spending on ticket sales, Bloomberg reports. The airline will, however, keep its flights on Priceline and Expedia sites. One expert told Bloomberg that when a person books a flight on an online travel website, it costs an airline five times more than when someone books on the carrier's website. "Distributing really low fares through these channels is very, very expensive for us," a JetBlue executive told Bloomberg, explaining that "distribution costs" stay constant regardless of the price of a ticket. (Airlines pay fees for so-called global distribution systems to give schedule and airfare data to online travel websites.)

**300 MPH TORRENTIAL OUTPOUR BLUES:** About 70 percent of a maglev line between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore would need to be underground so it wouldn't affect the homes along the route, according to private company Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail, which has teamed up with the state of Maryland. But that kind of construction would push the cost past the \$10 billion originally projected. As WAMU's Martin Di Caro reports, three potential routes are being evaluated, and each one will probably change as an environmental impact study moves forward. And since we know you're wondering: A stop at Union Station isn't an option because the turns would be too narrow and Amtrak already expects to construct a facility under the station in the future.

**MT MAILBAG:** Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas) sent a letter Thursday to FAA Administrator Michael Huerta pushing the agency to mandate that commercial hot air balloon pilots receive medical certification, as NTSB recommended earlier this week. The board concluded that the current exemption for balloon pilots contributed to a 2016 crash in Doggett's district and also recommended that the FAA review its oversight policies for balloon operations. "Continued rejection of NTSB's recommendations risks condemning more unsuspecting families to death," Doggett's letter reads.

**MT INFLUENCE:** K&L Gates is lobbying for the American Bus Association on appropriations for DHS, according to a disclosure form. The lobbyists are Sean McGlynn, previously a staffer for former Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), and Dennis Potter, previously a staffer for former Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas).

**Plus, a fly-in:** Nonprofit PeopleForBikes had a fly-in this week with women who serve as leaders at companies like REI and Trek Bicycle Corporation. They met with lawmakers to promote TIGER and other programs.

**SHIFTING GEARS:** Michael McLaughlin is now the chief of rail transportation for the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. McLaughlin most recently worked at the Chicago Transit Authority and previously worked for Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.) and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.).

#### **THE AUTOBAHN:**

- "Mayor will fight 'vigorously' against Cuomo-approved autonomous vehicle tests." POLITICO New York.

- "Alphabet unit leads \$1 billion investment in Lyft." Bloomberg.

- "U.S.: Laptops in checked bags pose fire, explosion risk." The Associated Press.

- "Elon Musk's East Coast Hyperloop will launch digging in Maryland, state and company say." The Washington Post.

- "Where will Blackstone spend its infrastructure billions?" Bloomberg.

- "Australian car making to end soon with GM plant closing." [The Associated Press](#).
- "To survive the streets, robocars must learn to think like humans." [Wired](#).
- "Federal loan secured for I-66 public-private partnership project." [The Washington Post](#).
- "Oroville Dam repair costs will top \$500 million." [The Associated Press](#).

**THE COUNTDOWN:** DOT appropriations run out in 50 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 163 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 1,077 days.

**\*\* A message from the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates:** UAE international airlines Emirates Airline and Etihad Airways are major Boeing customers. Emirates is the world's largest operator of Boeing 777s. And Etihad is responsible for nearly 20 percent of all Boeing 787-10s that are currently on order. Emirates and Etihad now serve 11 US gateway cities from Dubai and Abu Dhabi respectively with more than 260 weekly flights.

The growth of the UAE's aviation industry is the most visible sign of the UAE's overall economic success - a model of stability, growth and diversity in the Middle East. No country has benefitted more from this success than the US. Since 2009, the UAE has been the US's largest export market in the Middle East and North Africa. In 2016, the US had a \$19 billion trade surplus with the UAE, America's third largest trade surplus globally. <http://politi.co/2yFCemS> \*\*

*To view online:*

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-transportation/2017/10/20/build-america-bureau-chief-signs-off-222920>

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