



Top Stories

9/28/18 – Congress passed [a seven-day extension](#) of the current authorization for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which had been scheduled to expire on Sept. 30.

Previously, on Sept. 26, the House passed [a five-year, \\$97 billion reauthorization of FAA](#). The Senate is expected to act shortly. Stay tuned [to NCSL](#) for further details.

9/13/18 – Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued [guidelines](#) opposing the use of nationwide injunctions in federal court because "judges have been issuing an increasing number of orders that block the entire United States government from enforcing a law or policy." The guidelines direct attorneys to oppose the orders in court. The memo will help Department of Justice lawyers "present strong and consistent arguments in courts against the issuance of nationwide injunctions."

From Congress

9/12/18 – The House Homeland Security Committee approved [H.R. 6620](#), which lays out steps for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to address errant drone flights over certain types of critical infrastructure. Specifically, the bill would require DHS to assess security risks from drone flights over critical infrastructure and lays out a process for infrastructure operators to voluntarily report any suspicious drone activity.

From the Administration

9/21/18 – President Trump [appointed](#) Alex Herrgott, currently serving as associate director for the infrastructure at the White House Council on Environmental Quality to serve as executive director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC), an interagency panel created to improve

government-wide coordination on infrastructure approvals as part of the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act.

9/12/18 – The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will [award](#) \$586 million in airport infrastructure grants, as part of the total \$3.18 billion in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding for airports across the United States. This fifth increment of funding provides 217 grants to 181 airports in 39 states, and will fund 458 infrastructure projects. These include runways, taxiways, aprons, terminals, aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicles, snow removal equipment, and two firefighting training facilities.

9/12/18 – The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) [announced](#) a new pilot program aimed at expediting delivery of new transit capital projects that utilize public-private partnerships and are planned to be operated and maintained by employees of an existing public transportation provider. Eligible applicants to the program include state or local government authorities. Expression of interest to become one of the participants must be submitted to FTA by Nov. 13, 2018.

9/11/18 – The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [awarded](#) \$8.4 million to nine states for innovative projects to improve the safety and operational efficiency of roads and bridges through the Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration.

9/10/18 – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has announced that Jamie Pfister will serve as the new Associate Administrator for Regional Operations and Program Delivery, effective Oct. 1. In her role at NHTSA, Ms. Pfister will oversee the agency's 10 regions and serve as a

liaison among state governments, local municipalities and stakeholder organizations.

9/5/18 – FHWA [published](#) a Notice of Funding Opportunity requesting applications for the [Competitive Highway Bridge Program](#). This new program received an appropriation for the first time through the FY 2018 budget. Eligible applicants are states that have a population density of less than 100 individuals per square mile. The funds must be used for highway bridge replacement and rehabilitation projects on public roads that demonstrate cost savings by bundling multiple highway bridge projects.

8/29/18 – FTA [announced](#) that Illinois and Tennessee have obtained federal certification of their rail transit [State Safety Oversight \(SSO\) Programs](#) bringing the total to 24 states. Federal law requires states with rail transit systems to obtain FTA certification of their SSO Programs by April 15, 2019. By federal law, the deadline cannot be waived or extended.

8/28/18 – FAA published the second edition of its [Civil Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\) Integration Roadmap](#), a five-year blueprint for the introduction of civil UAS into the National Airspace System. It provides an update on the progress in achieving UAS integration through July 2018, the challenges the agency continues to face, and near-term strategies for addressing these challenges.

NCSL Resources

Registration is open for NCSL's [2018 Capitol Forum](#) taking place in Washington, D.C., Dec. 4-7.