



Top Stories

12/13/16 – The Department of Transportation's (DOT) National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) [proposed](#) a rule that would advance the deployment of connected vehicle technologies throughout the U.S. light vehicle fleet. The proposed rule would enable vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication within the fleet.

11/30/16 – EPA [proposed](#) that the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) standards currently in place for model year 2022-2025 light-duty vehicles remain appropriate under the Clean Air Act (CAA) and do not need to be amended to be more or less stringent. The rulemaking [establishing](#) the National Program for federal GHG emissions and corporate average fuel economy (CAFÉ) standards for MY2017-2025 light duty vehicles included a regulatory requirement for EPA to conduct a Midterm Evaluation of the GHG standards established for MY2022-2025.

11/29/16 – President-elect Donald Trump [announced](#) the nomination of Elaine Chao to serve as the Secretary of DOT. Chao formerly served as the Deputy Secretary for the agency as well as the Secretary of the Department of Labor.

11/29/16 – EPA [finalized](#) the 2017 volume requirements for the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program. EPA set the volume requirements and percentage standards for all categories of biofuels, including cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, renewable fuel and biomass-based diesel. The final volume rule requires 15 billion gallons of conventional biofuels, to be added into the nation's fuel supply, a 0.2 increase from the proposed 14.8 gallons EPA [proposed](#). For more information, see [NCSL's Info Alert](#).

11/23/16 – NHTSA [proposed](#) guidelines to address driver distraction caused by mobile devices in vehicles. The announcement covered the [second phase](#) of voluntary guidelines to address driver distraction, the [first](#), focused on systems built into the vehicle at the time of manufacture.

From Congress

11/21/16 – Both the [House](#) and the [Senate](#) announced their tentative schedule for the 115th Congress, 1st Session. The Senate will be in session for 37 weeks in 2017 compared to 26 weeks in 2016, and the House will be in session for 13 more days compared to 2016.

From the Administration

12/15/16 – DOT's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) [announced](#) a \$499 million grant agreement with the Fort Worth Transit Authority to build a commuter rail line between downtown Fort Worth and the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport.

12/14/16 – DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) [issued](#) an interim final rule revising safety regulations for underground natural gas storage facilities, satisfying a requirement of the [Protecting Our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety \(PIPES\) Act](#). The rule addresses safety issues related to downhole facilities, including, well integrity, wellbore tubing, and casing.

12/12/16 – DOT's Federal Transit Administration [announced](#) that several communities would receive support in planning development near transit systems as part of its [Transit Oriented Development Technical Assistance Initiative](#). The selected

communities include Birmingham, Ala., Charlotte, N.C., Tacoma, Wash., Omaha, Neb. and Albuquerque, N.M.

12/2/16 – DOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [issued](#) a final regulation that will allow state transportation agencies to use the "Construction Manager/General Contractor" (CM-GC) method for federal-aid highway projects nationwide.

12/8/16 – DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) [issued](#) a final rule setting new training standards for people who apply for their commercial driver's license (CDL) for the first time; an upgrade of their CDL; or a hazardous material, passenger, or school bus endorsement for the first time.

12/5/16 – FMCSA [issued](#) a final rule to amend the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to establish requirements for the CDL Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, as mandated by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, passed in 2012.

12/2/16 – The Federal Railroad Authority (FRA) [issued](#) interim guidance encouraging intercity and commuter railroads to install inward-and-outward-facing cameras on trains to monitor crewmember actions.

12/2/16 – NHTSA [released](#) a study showing daytime seatbelt use by drivers and front-right passengers of passenger vehicles reached 90.1 percent, a 1.6 percent increase from 2015.

12/1/16 – DOT'S Office of Inspector General (OIG) [found](#) that the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) lacks a risk-based oversight process for civil unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). The OIG concluded that the FAA does not verify that UAS operators meet or understand the conditions and limitations of their exemptions either before or after their application is approved.

Other

12/5/16 – FHWA [announced](#) that U.S. driving reached 2.4 trillion miles in the first nine months of 2016, continuing a series of consecutive monthly increases that began in April 2014.