



Top Stories

11/22/16 – President-elect Donald Trump [announced Nancy Butler](#) to the transition team for the Department of Transportation (DOT). Butler is a former lobbyist for AECOM, a Los Angeles-based engineering company, and was formerly a director of external affairs at DOT from 1985-1993.

11/18/16 – Amtrak [reported](#) an all-time high unaudited ticket revenue record of \$2.14 billion in FY 2016, a \$12 million increase over FY 2015. FY 2016 marked the sixth consecutive year Amtrak has carried more than 30 million customers, carrying a record 31.3 million passengers.

11/3/16 – The White House [announced](#) plans to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicles and charging infrastructures through a network of [48 charging corridors](#) on the nation's highways. The network will cover 25,000 miles, including 55 interstate highways spanning 35 states. A combination of 28 states, utilities, vehicle manufacturers and change organizations are committing to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure on DOT corridors. Additionally, 24 state and local governments have committed to partner with the administration and will aim to increase the procurement of electric vehicles in their fleets.

10/28/16 – DOT Secretary Foxx [announced](#) that the DOT's Build America Bureau is soliciting applications for up to \$850

million in Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grants. The FASTLANE program was established in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to fund freight and highway projects across the country. The program is authorized at \$4.5 billion for FY2016 – FY2020.

From Congress

11/17/16 – House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (Calif.), was [joined](#) by all Republican committee chairmen in a letter to leaders of federal agencies, cautioning them against finalizing pending rules or regulations in the administrations last days. This follows a Congressional Research Service [report](#) which notes that the 116th Congress and the new administration may be able to undo agency final rules the current administration issued after late-May 2016

as part of the Congressional Review Act.

11/20/16 – A bipartisan group of lawmakers [urged](#) DOT to take a leadership role in the implementation of a first-ever regional strategy for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime transportation systems (MTS). The lawmakers requested DOT begin a system-wide analysis to identify maritime transportation bottlenecks and barriers across the Great Lakes.

From the Administration

11/16/16 – DOT's Air Travel Consumer Report [found](#) that reporting carriers canceled just 0.3 percent of their scheduled



domestic flights in September 2016, the lowest for any of the 261 months with comparable records since January 1995, and below the previous low of 0.4 percent in September 2015.

11/15/16 – DOT's Inspector General [found](#) that the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) "transformational" NextGen program will not, at least until 2020, transform how air traffic is managed in the National Airspace System.

11/14/16 - DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) [announced](#) it is adding a sound requirement to all newly manufactured hybrid and electric light-duty vehicles to help pedestrians. The new federal safety standard is anticipated to prevent 2,400 pedestrian injuries each year, once all hybrids in the fleet are properly equipped.

11/4/16 – Secretary Foxx [announced](#) more than \$90 million in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants to six airports in Alabama, Missouri, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, and Wyoming for airport runway, taxiway and apron projects.

11/4/16 – The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [found](#) that American vehicles used 71.8 billion gallons of gasoline in the first half of 2016, an all-time high and an increase of 3 percent from 2015. This marks the sixth consecutive increase in national gasoline consumption for the first six months.

11/2/16 – The Environmental Protection Agency [released](#) two reports concluding that model year 2015 vehicles hit their highest fuel economy levels ever and outperformed greenhouse gas emissions standards, for the fourth consecutive year, by an average of 7 grams of carbon dioxide per mile. In addition, the reports found that the cars boosted fuel economy .5 mpg, to a record 24.8 mpg.

10/31/16 – The Federal Transit Administration [announced](#) FY 2015 and FY 2016 project selections for the Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning. The program, authorized by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) with additional funding provided through the FAST Act supports comprehensive planning efforts associated with new fixed guideway and core capacity improvement projects that are seeking or have recently

received funding through FTA's Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants Program.

10/28/16 – FHWA [finalized](#) a regulation requiring state departments of transportation to submit initial "asset management plans" by April 30, 2018. The regulation is required under MAP-21 and spells out what state DOTs are to include in their formal plans to operate, maintain, and improve roads and bridges in the National Highway System that receive federal funding.

10/27/16 – NHTSA [released](#) its five-year strategic plan, The Road Ahead, which highlights five strategic goals, including proactive vehicle safety, automated vehicles, human choices, organizational excellence, and driver error.

Other

11/18/16 – The Government Accountability Office [found](#) that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration "have not taken steps to understand whether the shipment information railroads are required to share with states is consistently disseminated to local emergency planners."

NCSL Resources

Register now for the NCSL Capitol Forum, Dec. 6-9, in Washington, D.C., to tackle critical state-federal issues, gain insight from national experts, and work with committees to craft the States' Agenda. [Registration and housing are now open, registration closes Dec. 2.](#)