



Top Stories

4/21/17 - The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [published](#) a notice of funding opportunity for "Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment" and another for "Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives." Both programs are authorized under the 2017 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The advanced transportation category can issue \$60 million in grants per year through 2020, while the funding alternatives program awarded \$15 million in 2016 but now can issue \$20 million in grants each year through 2020. A [webinar](#) was held on April 25 regarding funding availability.

4/7/17 - The White House [issued](#) additional guidance to help federal agencies implement the [president's January executive order](#) requiring agencies to identify two rules to eliminate for every new one promulgated, to achieve zero additional cost for 2017. The guidance applies to FY 2017 and beyond, and supplements previously issued interim guidance.

4/5/17 - The Senate Commerce Committee [approved](#) Jeffrey Rosen as nominee for DOT's Deputy Secretary. Rosen previously served as the DOT's chief legal officer from 2003-2006, and had responsibility for the agency's regulatory program, enforcement and litigation activities.

3/29/17 - Preliminary data from the [Governors Highway Safety Association](#) indicates that pedestrian deaths are rising faster than motorist fatalities, reaching nearly 6,000 deaths in 2016 – the highest total in more than two decades. Increased driving due to an improved economy, lower gas prices and an increase in walking for exercise and environmental concerns are among likely reasons for the surge.

From Congress

4/17/17 - Representative Sam Graves and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton [sent](#) a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee indicating their support for a permanent fix to the Highway Trust Fund in any tax code overhaul in order to support the \$1 trillion infrastructure investment the president envisions.

3/28/17 - The administration [presented](#) a detailed list of \$18 billion in reductions it wants Congress to make in FY 2017 to House and Senate appropriations committees. Proposed FY 2017 reductions include \$447 million for New Starts transit grants, which would reduce funding from \$2.1 billion to \$1.7 billion. In keeping with that, no new Full Funding Grant Agreements could move forward. Additionally, the administration requested that Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants be eliminated for FY 2017, which would represent a reduction of nearly \$500 million.

From the Administration

4/18/17 - The Department of Transportation's (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) [announced](#) that it is increasing penalties for improperly transporting hazardous materials to account for inflation. PHMSA can now seek a maximum of \$182,877 for violations that result in death, serious illness or injury, or severe destruction of property, and can charge a maximum of \$78,376 for knowing or less serious violations. Last year 18,240

incidents of hazmat accidents were reported, the highest number since 2007.

4/12/17 - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Michael Huerta [wrote](#), in a letter to Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.), that pilots whose state-issued IDs do not meet Real ID standards can still receive an extended medical certification, as the agency would be willing to exempt pilots who do not have a compliant ID because there is no legal mandate for the “BasicMed” program. The program beginning May 1, requires pilots to have a federal government ID, and will allow pilots to stay certified for 10 years without having to take another FAA medical exam.

4/7/17 - FAA [instituted](#) airspace restrictions on unmanned aerial system (UAS), or drone, flights over military facilities. FAA and the Department of Defense have agreed to restrict drone flights up to 400 feet within the lateral boundaries of these 133 facilities. The restrictions are effective April 14, 2017.

4/4/17 - FHWA is [seeking](#) public comment on state [Highway Safety Improvement Program \(HSIP\)](#) implementation and effectiveness reports, required by the FAST Act. HSIP’s purpose is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.

3/28/17 - FAA Administrator Michael Huerta [announced](#) the formation of a new Aviation Rulemaking Committee to guide the agency through the security issues related to UAS flights over people. The committee will be comprised of aviation, law enforcement, technology and safety stakeholders that will create standards for remotely identifying and tracking UAS during operations.