Policy Rundown

For ITS America Advocacy Trust and Innovation Trust

Administration News

White House Meeting on Infrastructure

On October 5th, the White House invited Transportation Stakeholders to discuss the Administration’s Infrastructure Initiatives -- in particular, efforts to implement Presidential Executive Order on Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure. Focus was on efforts to provide “one decision” from the federal government, with a single lead agency to work with others (USDOT, EPA, US Army Corps of Engineers etc.) to advance permitting and environmental review and to shorten timeframes for approval. DJ Gribbin (Special Assistant to the President for Infrastructure Policy) and Deputy Secretary of Transportation Jeffrey Rosen lead the discussion. Both suggested that existing FAST Act programs such as INFRA, TIGER and TIFIA would provide a “down payment” on a separate administration infrastructure legislative proposal designed to leverage federal funding to incentivize states and private sector to invest more in infrastructure. New administration legislative proposal would have separate components for urban and rural to address the lack of leveragable opportunities in rural communities.

US DOT Releases 2016 Fatal Traffic Crash Data

Fatalities increase 5.6%

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently released fatal traffic crash data for calendar year 2016. According to NHTSA data, 37,461 lives were lost on
U.S. roads in 2016, an increase of 5.6 percent from calendar year 2015. NHTSA found that distracted driving and drowsy driving fatalities declined, while deaths related to other reckless behaviors – including speeding, alcohol impairment, and not wearing seat belts – continued to increase. Motorcyclist and pedestrian deaths accounted for more than a third of the year-to-year increase. ITS America released the following statement concerning the increased number of injuries and deaths:

*The 2016 Fatal Traffic Crash Data released last week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) tragically revealed that 37,461 people were killed in crashes on U.S. roadways in 2016—that’s nearly 2,200 more fatalities than in 2015, a 5.6 percent increase. Even more startling is that the motor vehicle fatality percentage increases from 2014 to 2015 (8.4%) and from 2015 to 2016 (5.6%) mark the most significant back-to-back, year-over-year increases since 1963 to 1964 (9.4%) and from 1964 to 1965 (3.2%).*

To read the entire statement [click here](#).

**Legislative News**

*Technology Opportunities - TIGER Grants Open*

*Deadline for Application October 16, 2017*

USDOT last week announced the opportunity for state and local stakeholders to apply for $500 million in discretionary grant funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. Grants may not be less than $5 million and not greater than $25 million, except that for projects located in rural areas. Minimum size grant is $1M. Technology pilots and research projects are eligible—“Research, demonstration, or pilot projects are eligible only if they result in long-term, permanent surface transportation infrastructure that has independent utility.”

As a reminder, [INFRA grants](#) are also available and dynamic signaling or pricing systems and connected vehicle technology are eligible. For a large projects, the
INFRA grant must be at least $25 million. For a small project, the grant must be at least $5 million. Proposals are due November 2, 2017

State and Local Policy Developments

City of Austin Releases Smart Mobility Roadmap

On October 5, 2017, the City of Austin released its Smart Mobility Roadmap (full report and executive summary). According to the press release, the Roadmap encompasses five key areas: 1) Shared-Use Mobility; 2) Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure; 3) Autonomous Vehicles; 4) Data and Technology, and 5) Land Use and Infrastructure. Divided into three sections, the Roadmap: 1) provides insight into each of these areas, offers views on the convergence of technology, and discusses national efforts related to shared, electric and autonomous mobility; 2) looks at how this technology may affect Austin's equity, affordability and safety and workforce; and 3) discusses the current Council and Board resolutions and initiatives and describes how executing a plan like this may impact projects and operational resources.

Beaverton, OR Mayor Doyle Discusses Future of Transportation

On October 5, 2017, Mayor Denny Doyle of Beaverton, OR provided his insights into transportation planning and the impact of new technologies such as ride-sharing and autonomous vehicles. In the interview, he says:

"[The theory is that if] you automate the cars and driving, you don't have to build more roads. You just use what you have more safely, more efficiently. So if we can get that, make the roads safer, our insurance goes down and people can be more productive while they're riding....But I even have friends who bought cars with automatic backup — they're too afraid of it. They won't use it. And you know, in the Tesla, they've had one or two accidents. Well, that doesn't mean it's a failed program. How many accidents do we have people making the wrong decision at an intersection? So we have to be patient and get on with it."
ITS America Public Policy Contacts: Steven H. Bayless, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy, sbayless@itsa.org; Jason Goldman, Vice President of External Affairs & Stakeholder Engagement, jgoldman@itsa.org; Dan Ronan, Vice President, Strategic Communications, dronan@itsa.org; Ron Thaniel, Vice President of Legislative Affairs, rthaniel@itsa.org

Follow us on social media!

Twitter: @ITS_America
IG: @ITSAmerica
Facebook: Intelligent Transportation Society of America