Policy Rundown

For ITS America Advocacy Trust and Innovation Trust

Special Edition - 10/13/17

ITS World Congress

Video: Canadian Minister of Transport

Please spend a few moments and watch the following video from Canadian Transport Minister, the Honourable Marc Garneau, welcoming you to Montreal and the upcoming World Congress: https://youtu.be/oxDeyB_uye0

ITS World Congress 2017 to Showcase Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) Technology to Demonstrate Importance of Connected Vehicles to Infrastructure

ITS World Congress 2017, held in Montréal October 29 – November 2, 2017, will feature autonomous and connected vehicles integrated with Dedicated Short Range Communications systems (DSRC). This cutting-edge technology is expected to reduce the number of road and highway accidents involving other vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

ITS World Congress 2017 is the premier ITS industry event, gathering global leaders in intelligent and transformative transportation to showcase and evaluate the latest innovative concepts, active prototypes, and live systems. “DSRC is a major research priority for transportation agencies around the global and only natural that it would be a key focus for the event,” said ITSA President and CEO David St. Amant. We’ll have DSRC
technology highlighted both inside and outside of the Palais des Congrès de Montréal as a feature of the ITS World Congress’ Demonstrations of ITS Technology.”

The DSRC Demonstrations include Controlled Spectrum Sharing of a deployed DSRC network that is fully compliant with FCC Rules and IEEE/SAE specifications for WAVE. These demo activations are being done in partnership with Lear and supported by the City of Montréal. Controlled Spectrum Sharing allows infrastructure authorities and associated network operators the ability to dynamically control access to service channels for the delivery of mobile, internet-based services subject to prioritization of safety and mobility applications – all in a secure manner.

The sessions are offered within the ITS World Congress program, presented by intelligent transportation experts from all over the world and covers technical subjects as well as the institutional, business, and economic aspects of intelligent transportation and supporting systems.

**About ITS World Congress**

Held in Montréal October 29 – November 2, 2017, the ITS World Congress 2017 brings together global leaders in intelligent and transformative transportation to showcase and evaluate the latest innovative concepts, active prototypes, and live systems. The event is produced by ITS America in conjunction with ITS Canada and co-organized by ITS Europe and ITS Asia-Pacific.

For more information about ITS World Congress and Procurement Day, and to register visit: www.itsworldcongress2017.org

**Legislative Affairs**

*ITS America's St. Amant Continues to Raise Awareness of ITS on the Hill*

Following a meeting in late September with Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), ITS America’s Interim President and CEO David St. Amant continued to bring greater awareness of the benefits of intelligent transportation technologies to
the Hill in a meeting with Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) on October 11, 2017. DeSaulnier is a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where he sits on the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit and the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. He is also a member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

St. Amant noted that “the most critical function of intelligent transportation is increasing safety.” He spoke with urgency to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s 2016 fatal traffic crash data, which states that 37,461 lives were lost on roads in 2016, an increase of 5.6 percent from calendar year 2015. St. Amant asked the Congressman to support increased federal funding for deployment of intelligent transportation systems.

He also discussed ITS America’s initiative with the USDOT’s Professional Capacity Building program that is bringing together community colleges, technical, and trade schools around the country, along with practicing professionals, to strategize on how to improve Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) education to better fit the needs of ITS employers.

**Top Aide to the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Highways & Transit Briefs**

**ITS America**

ITS America’s Advocacy and Innovation Trust received a briefing on Friday, October 6, 2017 from Jack Ruddy, Legislative Director to Congressman Sam Graves (R-MO). Mr. Graves is the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. Ruddy discussed efforts to find a solution to the Highway Trust Fund’s pending insolvency and provided an update on current infrastructure discussions. Ruddy urged ITS America members to reach out to their contacts on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee and ask them to include the Highway Trust Fund’s revenue deficit in the upcoming tax overhaul.

**Bipartisan Effort to Fix the Highway Trust Fund as Part of Tax Reform**
On September 28, 2017, House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit leadership urged “a long-term solution to the Highway Trust Fund’s (HTF) structural revenue deficit” in the effort to update the Nation’s tax code. Subcommittee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) and Ranking Member Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) wrote that “The HTF is estimated to become insolvent October 2020. If the balances in the HTF are depleted and the Department of Transportation cannot fully reimburse States, it will stifle long-term investment in our nation’s infrastructure.”

Earlier this year, over 250 members of the House, and a majority of both parties, signed a letter asking the House Ways and Means Committee to include provisions to strengthen the HTF in tax reform.

**Highlights from House Hearing on 21st Century Highway and Transit Needs**

On Wednesday, October 11, 2017, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Highways and Transit Stakeholders’ Perspectives.” The purpose of the hearing was to receive views of highways and transit stakeholders regarding infrastructure needs in the 21st Century.

Here are the highlights:

“Since passage of the FAST Act, building consensus on a solution to fund surface transportation programs has been a central priority of mine and of this Committee.” – Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO), Chairman, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

“I think we all agree on is finding a long-term fix to the Highway Trust Fund. All solutions should be on the table.” – Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

“The Republicans took a very substantive step last week on transportation and infrastructure—they cut it $25 billion [per year] in their budget. So why are we even pretending...It’s time for somebody to take the lead, and
this Committee should take the lead.” – Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

“Framing the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) “cliff” in terms of federal highway obligations, AASHTO estimates that states may see a 40 percent drop from FY 2020 to the following years—from $46.2 billion to $27.7 billion in FY 2021. New federal transit obligations are expected to be zeroed out between FY 2021 and FY 2023.” – Patrick K. McKenna, Director, Missouri Department of Transportation.

“I would ask the Committee to consider reversing a decision that was made in SAFETEA-LU to fund the entire Capital Investment Grants program out of the General Fund while funding transit formula grants entirely out of the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund.” – Peter M. Rogoff, Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit.

“Autonomous cars and trucks will create significant opportunities for manufacturers and their workforce in the future, but as highly autonomous vehicles are deployed on today’s roads they will need basic pavement markings and clear signage on our highways to operate.” – Ray McCarty, President and CEO, Associated Industries of Missouri, and Executive Director of the Missouri Transportation and Development Council.

“The trust fund currently supports $50 billion per year in transportation infrastructure spending. To put the importance of the HTF in context, maintaining that level of investment for 10 years would produce a level of investment that is 250 percent more in direct federal spending than the Trump Administration has called for as part of its $1 trillion infrastructure package.” – James Roberts, President and CEO, Granite Construction Incorporated.

“In our infrastructure policy, which was crafted in collaboration with our 14 affiliated unions, we advocate for increasing the highway user fee and indexing the fee to inflation. We also advocate for the transition to a vehicle miles traveled based system. We also advocate for using repatriated tax dollars from overseas corporate profits to fund infrastructure investment.” – Brent Booker,
Secretary-Treasurer, North America’s Building Trades Unions.

Click here to read the testimony in its entirety:

**Safety Spectrum Coalition Urges House Panel to Support DSRC**

The Safety Spectrum Coalition, of which ITS America is a founding member, urged the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit on October 11, 2017, to support greater investment in Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) as the Subcommittee considers an infrastructure bill, appropriations, award programs, and federal designations of connected cities and corridors. The coalition also urged the Subcommittee to oversee the Federal Communications Commission and Department of Transportation during spectrum sharing testing.

The letter states that “DSRC is a proven technology that is ready now for mass deployment, and the need for advanced vehicle safety technology has perhaps never been higher. 2016 data from the National Safety Council estimates that as many as 40,000 people died as a result of motor vehicle crashes last year. That marks a 14% increase over 2014, the most dramatic two-year escalation since 1964.”

The Safety Spectrum Coalition represents a broad group of industries, highway users, transportation technology, consumer, and safety advocates that support and promote the need to deploy vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V), vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) and vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technologies through DSRC.

The letter was sent to the Subcommittee prior to the hearing on “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Highways and Transit Stakeholder’s Perspective.”

**ITS America Participates in a House Roundtable on AVs**
ITS America’s Vice President for Legislative Affairs Ron Thaniel participated in a Roundtable on the Federal Government’s Role in Regulating Autonomous Vehicles on October 5, 2017, held by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR).

Thaniel’s remarks focused on ITS America’s concern with H.R. 3388, Safely Ensuring Lives Future Deployment and Research in Vehicle Evolution (SELF DRIVE) Act’s “unreasonable restriction” term in the bill’s preemption section and ITS America’s support for expanding the number and duration of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard exemptions for highly automated vehicles that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) can grant under the Safety Act.

Thaniel also spoke to Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC). He said, “While automated driving systems continue to advance, it is the combination of connected and automated driving that promises the greatest opportunity to dramatically reduce traffic fatalities and injuries and improve mobility.”

**Save the Date: ITS America’s Conversation with the American Trucking Association and National Safety Council on the Senate AV Bill and Trucks, October 19, 2017, 12:00 P.M. EDT**

ITS America’s AV Task Force co-chairs Darran Anderson, Director of Strategy and Innovation, Texas Department of Transportation and Lauren Isaac, Director of Business Initiatives for North America, Easymile, will host a timely discussion on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 12:00 p.m. (EDT) with the American Trucking Association and the National Safety Council on the Senate self driving vehicle legislation and trucks.

ITS America’s AV Task Force will be scheduling follow up discussions shortly on preemption and data sharing.

Contact Steven Bayless, Vice President of Regulatory/Public Policy with ITSA at sbayless@itsa.org for more information on the the AV Task Force. Contact Ron Thaniel, Vice President of Legislative Affairs with ITS
America for more information on this conference call and the House and Senate AV bills.

**Bipartisan Bill to Promote Innovation in Transportation Systems Introduced in the House**

On October 2, 2017, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Congressman Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) introduced HR 3901, the “Moving and Fostering Innovation to Revolutionize Smarter Transportation (Moving FIRST) Act,” a bill that will enhance the transportation systems of American communities through the use of innovative technology. This is a companion bill to the Senate legislation introduced on September 14, 2017, by Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Richard Burr (R-NC).

This legislation will build on the successes of the 2015 Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Cities Challenge administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation by expanding the opportunity for more communities – both urban and rural – to compete for resources that will fund efficient, creative and innovative transportation projects.

Eligible applicants include large cities (populations ranging from 400,000 to 1 million) and mid-sized cities (populations ranging from 75,000 to 400,000) to rural communities and regional partnerships (populations ranging from 10,000 to 75,000).

**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

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