



## TGA ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS, LLC

**TO:** Railway Systems Suppliers, Inc. (“RSSI”)  
**FROM:** TGA Association Management Solutions, LLC (“TGA AMS”)  
**RE:** Monthly Legislative Report for February 2025  
**DATE:** March 4, 2025

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### KEY UPDATES

- On February 27, the Senate Commerce Committee voted 15-13 to advance the nomination of Steven Bradbury, President Donald Trump’s choice to be the second in command at USDOT. Bradbury’s nomination for deputy DOT secretary now heads to the Senate floor.
- On February 21, Senate Republicans passed their \$340 billion budget framework along a mostly party-line vote, 52-48 after a very long night of votes. This occurred after Trump’s surprising public call for the adoption of a [House-drafted budget framework](#). The Senate GOP passed its resolution anyway, with many senators skeptical of the House’s ability to pass its blueprint.
- On February 20, the Trump Administration launched a formal investigation into California’s high-speed rail project, USDOT Secretary Duffy announced during an event at Union Station in Los Angeles. The CA HSR project has been a long-standing punching bag for the GOP.
- On February 10, President Trump announced 25 percent tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports as his long-threatened global trade war heats up.
  - Tariffs of 25% on imports from Canada and Mexico are also due to go into effect on March 4
- On February 4, President Trump nominated former NY Congressman Marc Molinaro to be FTA Administrator
- On February 3, Vice President JD Vance visited East Palestine, OH on the second anniversary of the NS derailment. The Railway Safety Act of 2025 [was reintroduced](#) later that day.
- President Trump continued to issue many Executive Orders. [2025 Donald J. Trump Executive Orders \(E.O.\)](#). This page contains documents that have been published in the Federal Register with their official EO numbers and links to the official legal text and cross-links to all of the previous Orders. Here is a good summary of those aforementioned E.O.s – [here](#).
- Railroad Day on Capitol Hill, the freight rail industry’s annual DC fly-in, has been set for May 7, 2025. Register [here](#).

### FY2025 APPROPRIATIONS

- Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) through March 14, 2025, and must act before this date or the government will be shut down. It appears that a clean CR for the remainder of the FY is gaining some traction.
  - On July 25, Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its FY25 T-HUD appropriations bill
  - On July 10, House Appropriations Committee marked up its FY25 T-HUD approps bill
- See funding levels below:

	IJA Advance Approps FY24	Final FY24 Approps bill	Total FY24 funding	President request FY25	House FY25	Senate FY25
USDOT RAISE	\$1.5b	\$345m	\$1.8b	\$800m	\$0	\$550m
USDOT MEGA	\$1b	\$0	\$1b	\$800m	\$0	\$0
USDOT INFRA	\$1.64b	\$0	\$1.64b	\$0	\$200m	\$0
Amtrak NEC	\$1.2b	\$1.14b	\$2.3b	\$1.2b	\$1b	\$1.02b
Amtrak National Network	\$3.2b	\$1.29b	\$4.5b	\$1.305b	\$1.12b	\$1.6b
FRA CRISI	\$1b	\$199m	\$1.2b	\$250m	\$298.5m	\$375m
FRA Fed-State Partnership	\$7.2b	\$75m	\$7.3b	\$100m	\$0	\$100m
FRA Rail Restoration/Enhancement	\$50m	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FRA Rail Crossing Elimination	\$600m	\$0	\$600m	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTA CIG	\$1.6b	\$2.2b	\$3.8b	\$2.4b	\$755m	\$2.262b
FTA Formula funds	-	\$13.99b	\$13.99b	\$14.28b	\$14.28b	\$14.28b
WMATA Special Appropriation	-	\$150m	\$150m	\$150m	\$150m	\$150m

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

- Current STB members:
  - **Chairman Patrick Fuchs (Republican):** Former Senate Commerce Committee staffer under Chairman John Thune (R-SD) who is well versed on regulatory issues affecting the railroad industry. He has been very friendly to freight railroads and we know where he stands on the issues
  - **Robert Primus (Democrat):** Career Democratic staffer on Capitol Hill, formerly served as Chief of Staff to Rep. Nanette Barragan (D-CA), Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA), and Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA)
  - **Karen Hedlund (Democrat):** former Obama FRA Deputy Administrator
  - **Open Seat (Republican):** Former Chair Marty Oberman stepped down, awaiting nomination from President Trump
  - **Michelle Schultz (Republican):** Previously spent 14 years in leadership roles with SEPTA and had a career in law before that
- On September 16-17, the STB held a public hearing to gather input on recent trends and growth strategies in the freight rail industry. Attendees included Class I executives, short lines, shippers, suppliers, labor, and other stakeholders
- On April 30, 2024, the STB [announced](#) its final rule on reciprocal switching
- On March 28, 2024, the STB [announced](#) the inaugural membership for its Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC)

**RAIL SAFETY LEGISLATION/ACTION**

- On February 3, 2025, VP Vance was in East Palestine on the two-year anniversary and the [Railway Safety Act of 2025 was introduced](#)

- NTSB held a [meeting on June 25, 2024](#), with findings from its [final report](#)
- Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 2024 [was introduced](#) on July 23, 2024 by Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX) and Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)
  - Rep. Nehls has indicated he plans to work on some version of this bill again this Congress

## TRUCK SIZE & WEIGHTS

- Changes to TSW remains a major threat in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress
  - TSW Parity Bill: Rep. Mike Collins (GA-10) has a proposed state/federal parity bill that would increase federal interstate weights to match states
  - MOVE Act: Recently, a [Shipper's Coalition Press Release](#) touted this bill as a solution to a potential Longshoremen/Maritime Association strike the day before negotiations were reached
- CABT is updating white papers and background info on current legislation [here](#)

## SHORT LINE 45G TAX CREDIT

- On January 25, 2025, H.R. 516, was introduced. The bill modernizes 45G by:
  - Updating the credit cap to \$6,100/mile from \$3,500/mile
  - Index the credit cap per mile to inflation in future years
  - Allow for all short line track to be eligible for the credit

## CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

- [February 27, 2025](#). The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation scheduled a full committee hearing to consider the nomination of Steven Bradbury's nomination as US Deputy Secretary of Transportation.
- [February 26, 2025](#). The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a full committee hearing to discuss and receive testimony pertaining to, "[Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Implementation and Case Studies](#)." [Committee Link and Testimony](#). **Covered by TGA AMS – Summary Available Upon Request**
- [February 19, 2025](#). The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing to discuss and receive testimony pertaining to, "[Improving the Federal Environmental Review and Permitting Process](#)." [Committee Link and Testimony](#).

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION/FRA/FTA

- [February 21, 2025](#). The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a [Notification of Enforcement Discretion](#) (and [here](#)) announcing that the FTA will not take enforcement action against regulated entities for failing to comply with the [State Safety Oversight final rule, published on October 18, 2024](#), until March 20, 2025.
- [February 19, 2025](#). The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [announced](#) that it terminated approval of the pilot for New York's Central Business District Tolling Program (CBDTP). [In a letter to New York Governor Kathy Hochul](#), the FHWA rescinded a November 21, 2024 agreement signed under the Value Pricing Pilot Program (VPPP) that effectively ends tolling authority for New York City's cordon pricing plan, which imposes tolls on drivers entering Manhattan below 60th Street. The aforementioned letter quotes US DOT Secretary Sean Duffy saying, "I have concluded that CBDTP is not an eligible "value pricing pilot program," for two reasons." The letter further expounds on the two reasons for the termination of the VPPP.

- February 8, 2025. [Bloomberg reported](#) that Amtrak will halt investing in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs and policies, and will enforce an in-office work mandate starting next month. The national intercity passenger railroad, a federally chartered corporation, sent an email to employees notifying them it will no longer dedicate funding to DEI initiatives, and is revising its policy to require four days a week of in-office work starting March 3, 2025.
- February 3, 2025. A coalition of rail labor unions sent a [letter](#), on the second anniversary of the Norfolk Southern Railway train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, asking all Class Is to fully join the Federal Railroad Administration's Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS). The letter stated, "The FRA's C3RS is a long-standing program which allows workers to confidentially report "close call" safety incidents that provide valuable information which can be used to prevent future catastrophic incidents, without fear of discipline or retaliation." The letter further states, "We call on you to live up to your commitment from March 2023 and sign a permanent C3RS agreement based on the FRA's existing MOU with us immediately."

## **POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT**

- Current split for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Senate: **53 Republicans** – **47 Democrats**  
House: **218 Republicans** – **215 Democrats**

HOUSE/SENATE Leadership of Transportation-Related Committees of the 119 <sup>th</sup> Congress (1st Session)							
(Selected Committee Assignments)							
As of 2/22/2025							
House Committees (Republican Majority)		Chairman/Chairwoman		Ranking Member			
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>		Tom Cole	R-OK (Σ)	Rosa DeLauro	D-CT	<b>Selected House Republican (Majority) Leadership</b>	
Sub. on Commerce, Justice and Science	Hal Rogers	R-KY	Grace Meng	D-NY	Mike Johnson	House Speaker	R-LA
Sub. on Energy & Water Development	Chuck Fleischmann	R-TN	Marcy Kaptur	D-OH	Steve Scalise	Majority Leader	R-LA
Sub. on Homeland Security	Mark Amodei	R-NV	Lauren Underwood	D-IL	Tom Emmer	Majority Whip	R-MN
Sub. on Transportation/HUD	Steve Womack	R-AR	James Clyburn	D-SC	Lisa McClain	Conference Chairman	R-MI
Sub. on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies	Mike Simpson	R-ID	Chellie Pingree	D-ME	Kevin Hern	Policy Committee Chairman	R-OK
					Richard Hudson	Nat'l. Rep. Cong. Comm. Chair	R-NC
<b>BUDGET</b>	Jodey Arrington	R-TX	Brendan Boyle	D-PA	Blake Moore	Conference Vice-Chairman	R-UT
<b>ENERGY AND COMMERCE</b>		Brett Guthrie	R-KY	Frank Pallone	D-NJ		
Sub. on Energy	Bob Latta	R-OH	Kathy Castor	D-FL			
Sub. on Environment	Morgan Griffith	R-VA	Paul Tonko	D-NY			
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>		French Hill	R-AR	Maxine Waters	D-CA		
<b>HOMELAND SECURITY</b>		Mark Green	R-TN	Bennie Thompson	D-MS		
Sub. on Emergency Management and Technology	Dale Strong	R-AL	Tim Kennedy	D-NY			
Sub. on Transportation and Maritime Security	Carlos Gimenez	R-FL	LaMonica McIver	D-NJ			
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		Bruce Westerman	R-AR	Jared Huffman	D-CA		
Sub. on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries	Harriet Hageman	R-WY	Val Hoyle	D-OR			
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>		Sam Graves	R-MO (Ω)	Rick Larsen	D-WA	<b>Selected House Democratic (Minority) Leadership</b>	
Sub. on Aviation	Troy Nehls	R-TX	Steve Cohen	D-TN	Hakeem Jeffries	Minority Leader	D-NY
Sub. on Coast Guard/Maritime Transportation	Mike Ezell	R-MS	Salud Carbajal	D-CA	Katherine Clark	Minority Whip	D-MA
Sub. on Highway/Transit	David Rouzer	R-NC	Elanor Holmes Norton	D-DC	Pete Aguilar	Caucus Chairman	D-CA
Sub. on Railroads/Pipelines/Hazardous Materials	Daniel Webster	R-FL	Dina Titus	D-NV	Ted Lieu	Caucus Vice-Chairman	D-CA
Sub. on Water Resources/Environment	Mike Collins	R-GA	Frederica Wilson	D-FL	Joe Neguse	Assistant Leader	D-CO
<b>WAYS AND MEANS</b>	Jason Smith	R-MO	Richard Neal	R-MA	Debbie Dingell	Policy/Comm. Chair	D-MI
(Σ) Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) will serve as the Committee's Vice Chairman for the 119th Congress. (Ω) Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR) will serve as the Committee's Vice Chairman for the 119th Congress.							
Senate Committees (Republican Majority)		Chairman/Chairwoman		Ranking Member			
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>		Susan Collins	R-ME	Patty Murray	D-WA	<b>Selected Senate Republican (Majority) Leadership</b>	
Sub. on Transportation/HUD	Cindy Hyde-Smith	R-MS	Kirsten Gillibrand	D-NY	John Thune	Majority	R-SD
Sub. on Homeland Security	Katie Britt	R-AL	Chris Murphy	D-CT	John Barrasso	Majority Whip	R-WY
Sub. on Energy & Water Development	John Kennedy	R-LA	Patty Murray	D-WA	Tom Cotton	GOP Conference Chair	R-AR
Sub. on Commerce, Justice, Science	Jerry Moran	R-KS	Chris Van Hollen	D-MD	Shelley Moore	GOP Policy Committee Chair	R-WV
Sub. on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies	Lisa Murkowski	R-AK	Jeff Merkley	D-OR	James Lankford	Vice Chair, GOP Policy Comm.	R-OK
					Tim Scott	GOP Senatorial Comm. Chair	R-SC
<b>BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS</b>		Tim Scott	R-SC	Elizabeth Warren	D-MA	<b>Senate Presiding Officials</b>	
Sub. on Housing, Transportation & Community Development	Katie Britt	R-AK	Tina Smith	D-MN	J.D. Vance	President of the Senate	Vice-Pres.
					Chuck Grassley	Senate Pres. Pro Tempore	R-IA
<b>BUDGET</b>	Lindsey Graham	R-SC	Jeff Merkley	D-OR			
<b>COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION</b>		Ted Cruz	R-TX	Maria Cantwell	D-WA		
Sub. on Aviation Safety, Operations and Innovation	Jerry Moran	R-KS	Tammy Duckworth	D-IL			
Sub. on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, & Safety	Todd Young	R-IN	Gary Peters	D-MI			
Sub. on Coast Guard, Maritime & Fisheries	Dan Sullivan	R-AK	Lisa Rochester	D-DE			
<b>ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		Mike Lee	R-UT	Martin Heinrich	D-NM		
Sub. on Energy	Dave McCormick	R-PA	Ruben Gallego	D-AZ			
Sub. on Water and Power	John Hoeven	R-ND	Ron Wyden	D-OR			
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS</b>		Shelley Moore Capito	R-WV	Sheldon Whitehouse	D-RI	<b>Selected Senate Democratic (Minority) Leadership</b>	
Sub. on Transportation and Infrastructure	Kevin Cramer	R-ND	Angela Alsobrooks	D-MD	Chuck Schumer	Minority Leader/Conf. Chair	D-NY
Sub. on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water	Pete Ricketts	R-NB	Adam Schiff	D-CA	Dick Durbin	Minority Whip	D-IL
					Amy Klobuchar	Chair of Steering/Policy	D-MN
					Cory Booker	Chair Strategic	D-NJ
					Elizabeth Warren	Vice-Chair of Conference	D-MA
					Mark Warner	Vice-Chair of Conference	D-VA
					Bernie Sanders	Chair of Outreach	I-VT
<b>FINANCE</b>	Michael Crapo	R-ID	Ron Wyden	D-OR			
<b>HOMELAND SECURITY &amp; GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS</b>	Rand Paul	R-KY	Gary Peters	D-MI			