



## End of Week Summary: October 26, 2018

### Federal Update

#### **Funding**

USDOT Secretary Chao said this week that the administration is open to all options, particularly exploring a gas tax, to fund an infrastructure bill. She indicated Democrats are looking at a carbon tax, but Democrat staff said that idea has not been discussed. [More](#)

Politico expressed skepticism about the possibilities of an infrastructure package in the new Congress due to the required revenue increase to support the needed infrastructure spending. Republicans and Democrats in Congress and President Trump have talked about the importance of investing in infrastructure, but Politico points out there has been little political will to raise taxes in the recent past. [More](#)

#### **WRDA**

President Trump signed a new Water Resources authorization bill this week, though the projects are subject to appropriations. The bill represented a compromise between House and Senate versions and passed Congress with

sweeping bipartisan support. In the past, not all WRDA authorized projects have received appropriations due to the expense of water projects and limited funds.

[More](#)

## **State Update**

### **MPC Transit Study**

The Metropolitan Planning Council issued a report this week highlighting the importance of public transit to workers and employers. You can see the media coverage in the Sun Times [here](#).

### **Chicago Transportation Task Force**

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel's Transportation Task Force led by former Congressman Ray LaHood met this week for the first time. The task force's directive is to look at how to change Chicago's infrastructure to serve changing needs in the future. [More](#)

### **Infrastructure Reports**

TRIP issued a new report showing American urban drivers spend \$1,049 every years driving on roads in poor condition. Chicago was not one of the most expensive urban areas and was not profiled. [More](#)

The Brookings Institution reports that nearly every Governor's race they are watching is highlighting the need to fix infrastructure and the candidates' plans for addressing the need. Illinois was not highlighted in the news story, but it is an indication of growing public awareness about the need to fix deteriorating infrastructure. [More](#)

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## **News**

### [Why Michigan's Infrastructure Plan May be the Pace Car for the Country](#)

Forbes

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