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End of Week Summary: December 13, 2019

State Update

TFIC is working to finalize a location for a late January or early February reception in celebration of the most significant transportation infrastructure investment program in decades. The celebration will include TFIC organizations and their members, spouses, legislators, and, we hope, the Governor and members of his administration. We hope to have the details finalized before year end and will keep

you posted.

Federal Update

At a joint committee hearing last week of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit and the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials, industry groups advocated for quick passage of the transportation reauthorization, while highlighting specific priorities. At the hearing, AASHTO emphasized the importance of keeping safety in mind and prioritizing formula funding.

The railroad industry testified to the economic impact of their industry and the need for the reauthorization to fund grade separations and Amtrak needs, and to incentivize railroads to adopt new technologies.

ARTBA's Chief Economist Alison Premo Black emphasized the need for action on the reauthorization in order to fuel market growth in the transportation sector in 2020.

More on all of this testimony is provided in the first several articles below.

In the News

[AASHTO highlights Safety, Formula funding at Freight System Hearing](#)

(AASHTO Journal)

[AAR, ASLRRRA outline freight rail priorities for reauthorization](#)

(Progressive Railroading)

[Lack of Reauthorization could Imperil Transportation Spending](#)

(AASHTO Journal)

[E-Commerce An Influence on next Surface Transportation Bill](#)

(FreightWaves)

[Kentucky Chamber: 'We need to raise the gas tax'](#)

(Lane Report)

[MoDOT Gearing Up for Major I-270 Project](#)

(KMOX Radio)

[Illinois study looks for way to reduce bird strikes near airports](#)

(The Center Square)

[Self-Driving Truck Delivers Butter from California to Pennsylvania in 3 Days](#)

(Mercury News)

[Amtrak honored for Chicago Union Station restoration project](#)

(Progressive Railroading)

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