

Political Outlook and Policy Overview for the Tolling Industry

Special Webinar Briefing for IBTTA Membership

February 18, 2025

Presenters:

Mark Muriello, Vice President, Policy and Government Affairs

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Issues for Today's Discussion

- New Political Landscape
- Surface Transportation Reauthorization
- Road Usage Charging
- FSFA Advisory Board
- Proposed Reorganization of Lower 900 MHz Band





New Federal Political Landscape

What lies ahead under the Trump Administration?

New Leadership on Transportation Policy

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary, USDOT



- Confirmed by the U.S. Senate January 28, 2025
- Former Congressman (R-WI)

Steven Bradbury
Deputy Secretary, USDOT(nominee)



- Confirmation Hearing February 20, 2025
- Served in senior roles at DOT in first Trump Administration
- Helped author DOT chapter in Project 2025

Transportation Policy:

Funding Pause and Review

- Pause and potential recission of unspent transportation funds.
- Suspension of EV charging programs announced.
- Other programs under review for compliance with Trump Administration directives.

I come from a long line of lumberjacks. My family has a proud heritage of swinging the ax. I've always been quick to take on a big piece of timber, and I'm just as ready to topple the big spending in Washington.

– *Sean Duffy*

I just believe that government borrowing and spending doesn't lead to economic prosperity, growth, or sustainable jobs. I know that it comes from the private sector: people who invest in their businesses and ideas.

– *Sean Duffy*



**Sean Duffy appearing before the
Senate Commerce Committee
January 15, 2025**

New USDOT Guidance: Undated Memo from Secretary Sean Duffy

Directs that all DOT funding, to the maximum extent permitted in law, prioritize applications that:

- Utilize user-pay models
- Direct funding to local opportunity zones
- Give preference to communities with marriage and birth rates higher than the national average
- Prohibit support or assistance for vaccine or mask mandates
- Require local compliance with immigration enforcement

Excerpts from *Heritage Foundation's Mandate for Leadership*

- Important to note *Project 2025* and the *Mandate for Leadership* are not official Trump administration documents.
- Published by the Heritage Foundation, a prominent conservative D.C. think tank.
- Deputy Secretary nominee Steven Bradbury was a contributor to the Transportation Chapter.
- In these early days of the new administration, may give insights into policy initiatives to come.

Excerpts from Heritage Foundation's *Mandate for Leadership*

Openness to User Fees:

“It is vital to consider the **role of user fees and other pricing innovations** with regard to transportation infrastructure. Airport landing fees for aircraft, **toll charges on roads and bridges**, and per-gallon taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel are all examples of user charges that affect the decisions of transportation system users.”

Support for P3s:

“P3s are an excellent tool for transferring risk from the public sector to the private sector and can create considerable value for the taxpaying public.”

Excerpts from Heritage Foundation's *Mandate for Leadership*

New Technologies:

The department should ensure a **tech-neutral approach** to addressing any emerging transportation technology while keeping safety as the number one priority...

Automated Vehicles:

...[W]ork to facilitate the safe and **full integration of automated vehicles** into the national transportation system.

The 119th Congress



House of Representatives: 32 Republican Freshman

House Balance will be:

- 217 Republicans
- 215 Democrats
- 3 Vacancies



Nick Begich
AK-AL



Abraham Hamadeh
AZ-08



Jeff Hurd
CO-03



Jeff Crank
CO-05



Gabe Evans
CO-08



Mike Haridopolos
FL-08



Brian Jack
GA-03



Marlin Stutzman
IN-03



Jefferson Shreve
IN-06



Mark Messmer
IN-08



Derek Schmidt
KS-02



Tom Barrett
MI-07



Bob Onder
MO-03



Kimberlyn King-Hinds
MP-AL



Troy Downing
MT-02



Addison McDowell
NC-06



Mark Harris
NC-08



Pat Harrigan
NC-10



Brad Knott
NC-13



Tim Moore
NC-14



Julie Fedorchak
ND-AL



David Taylor
OH-02



Ryan Mackenzie
PA-07



Robert Bresnahan
PA-08



Sheri Biggs
SC-03



Craig Goldman
TX-12



Brandon Gill
TX-26



Mike Kennedy
UT-03



John McGuire
VA-05



Michael Baumgartner
WA-05



Riley Moore
WV-02



Tony Wied
WI-08

Non-Tolling State

Joining this list will be successors to Reps. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), Matt Gaetz (R-FL), and Mike Walz (R-FL).

House of Representatives: 34 Democratic Freshman



Shomari Figures
AL-02



Yassamin Ansari
AZ-03



Lateefah Simon
CA-12



Adam Gray
CA-13



Sam Liccardo
CA-16



George Whitesides
CA-27



Luz Rivas
CA-29



Laura Friedman
CA-30



Gil Cisneros
CA-31



Derek Tran
CA-45



Dave Min
CA-47



Sarah McBride
DE-AL



Cleo Fields
LA-06



John Olszewski, Jr.
MD-02



Sarah Elfreth
MD-03



April McClain
Delaney MD-06



Kristen McDonald
Rivet MI-08



Kelly Morrison
MN-03



Wesley Bell
MO-01



Maggie Goodlander
NH-02



Herb Conaway, Jr.
NJ-03



Nellie Pou
NJ-09



Laura Gillen
NY-04



George Latimer
NY-16



Josh Riley
NY-19



John Mannion
NY-22



Maxine Dexter
OR-03



Janelle Bynum
OR-05



Pablo José Hernández
Rivera PR-AL



Sylvester Turner
TX-18



Julie Johnson
TX-32



Eugene Vindman
VA-07



Suhas Subramanyam
VA-10



Emily Randall
WA-06

Non-Tolling State

The 119th Congress – Senate Freshman Class

- Senate Balance: 53 Republicans; 45 Democrats; 2 Independents
- Joining this original list of Senate freshmen are the successors to Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and JD Vance (R-OH).

Seven Republican Freshman Senators



Jim Banks
Indiana



Tim Sheehy
Montana



Bernie Moreno
Ohio



Dave McCormick
Pennsylvania



John Curtis
Utah

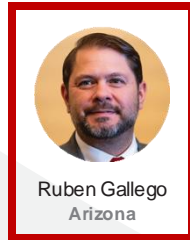


Jim Justice
West Virginia



Ashley Moody
Florida

Seven Democratic Freshman Senators



Ruben Gallego
Arizona



Adam Schiff
California



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Delaware



Angela Alsobrooks
Maryland



Elissa Slotkin
Michigan



Andy Kim
New Jersey



Jon Husted
Ohio

Non-Tolling State



Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- Current law expires September 30, 2026.
- Initial Congressional hearings have been announced.
- Many transportation groups have begun process of developing priorities.
- In light of attempts to reduce current funding levels, what will authorization look like?



Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Previous IBTTA Federal Program Interests

- Tolling on the Interstate Highway System
- Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)
- Enhanced Access to Federal Funding
- Consumer Privacy to Facilitate Toll Data Exchange across State Borders
- Support Transit Flex Lane Highway Concepts

Potential Federal Legislative Amendments

- Congestion Relief Program Maximum Toll and State-of-Residency Policies
- Federal Requirements for HOV/Transit Toll Discounts/Waivers on new toll facilities
- Tolling Provisions for Over-the-Road Buses



Surface Transportation Reauthorization

New IBTTA Federal Program Interests

- **Resiliency: Critical Infrastructure Risk and Threat Management**
- **Workforce Capacity, Training, and Development**
- **Data Information Exchange Standards for Mobile Transactions**
- **Safety Programs: Leveraging Technology**
- **Lower Barriers to Commercial Activity on Interstate Highways**
- **Infrastructure Banks - Establishment and Improvements**
- **Toll Credit Marketplace Program**
- **Highway Cost Allocation Study**
- **National Vehicle Database for Interstate Tolling, RUC, Safety, Security**

Federal System Funding Alternatives (FSFA)

Status of Advisory Board

Federal System Funding Alternatives (FSFA) Advisory Board

- Established to assist in designing a national motor vehicle per-mile user fee pilot
- Members announced in early January 2025.

Responsibilities:

- Recommend structure, scope, and methodology;
- Assist with public awareness and communications;
- Support national pilot analyses;
- Participate in recommendations and a report to Congress.

FSFA Advisory Board Members

Member	Nominating Organization
Carlos Braceras (Chair)	AASHTO / Utah DOT/RUC America
Patricia Hendren (Vice Chair)	The Eastern Transportation Coalition (TETC)
Maureen Bock	Oregon DOT
Nate Bryer	WSP Consulting
Marcy Coleman	AAMVA
Steve Finnegan	American Automobile Association (AAA)
Andrew Fremier	International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Assn. (IBTTA)
Reema Griffith	Washington State Transportation Commission
Eleanor Joseph	Via Mobility
Michael Lynn	Cherokee Nation
Geraldo Maldonado	Warren Transport / US Mexican Fleet Assn.
Craig Marris	EROAD USA
Carmen Martorana	International Fuel Tax Association (IFTA)
William Pugh	OOIDA
Asha Weinstein Agrawal	Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State Univ.

Responding to a question on revenue gaps in the Highway Trust Fund:

“I think there's been three scenarios talked about. You can increase the gas tax. I am not going to join you in that effort, but there's the gas tax.

“We could increase tolling or there's a mile driven formula that could be used as well. My concern with that though is the privacy around the American citizens.”



**Sean Duffy appearing before the
Senate Commerce Committee
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Road Usage Charging (RUC)

RUC Priorities

Areas Requiring More Attention

- Enforcement and compliance
- Administrative costs and cost of collection
- Interstate reciprocity
- Unlocking available vehicle data
- Business requirements, technical standards, certification processes
- Clearinghouse functions and account management options

Policy Issues to be Addressed

- Net Revenue: The North Star
- Participation incentives vs. a true value proposition
- What should be considered in the national rate setting process?
- What is needed in the next round of federal reauthorization?



Proposed Reorganization of Lower 900 MHz Band

Tolling Industry Opposition to NextNav Petition

NextNav Petition to FCC to Reorganize the Lower 900 MHz Band

Significant Actions:

April 16, 2024: NextNav petitioned FCC to reconfigure the 902-928 MHz band to enable its Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) network.

August 6, 2024: The FCC opens public comment on NextNav's petition.

September 2024: IBTTA formally opposes NextNav's proposal due to likely significant disruptions to tolling systems. A U.S. Chamber coalition commented that the proposal would disrupt Part 15 devices.

February 12, 2025: The Resilient Navigation and Timing Foundation (RNTF) filed with the FCC suggesting alternative methods to enhance the nation's PNT capabilities without reallocating the 900 MHz spectrum.

New Leadership on Spectrum Policy

Brendon Carr, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)



- Former FCC General Counsel
- Nominated by both Trump and Biden
- Priorities include telehealth and skilled workforce development

Arielle Roth, Head of National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)



- Former advisor, Senator Ted Cruz
- Former staffer, FCC
- Priorities include reforming BEAD (IIJA Broadband expansion program)

Excerpts from Heritage Foundation's *Mandate for Leadership*

“...[M]any of these new and innovative technologies rely on wireless communications that depend on the availability and purchase of radio frequency spectrum...”

“There is a role for DOT in ensuring that in the fight over spectrum, transportation gets its fair share.”

Excerpts from Heritage Foundation's *Mandate for Leadership*

Protecting Spectrum for Transportation Uses

“This is why in 1999, in response to a request from Congress, the Federal Communications Commission allocated the 5.9 GHz band of spectrum to traffic safety and intelligent transportation systems (ITS).”

“In 2020, the FCC took away 45 MHz of the 75 MHz it had added, leaving only 30 MHz for transportation safety and ITS.”

“DOT needs to represent the transportation community and make the case for needed spectrum to the public and Congress.”

Organizing the Opposition: The Toll Coalition

Oversight Group: Representatives from IBTTA, toll operators, toll system and technology firms, legal and regulatory counsel, & liaisons to each working group. Biweekly meetings to align efforts, share updates, and assign tasks.

- Economic Impact Analysis and Rebuttal of Brattle Report

Technical/Engineering Working Group: Counter technical claims in NextNav's petition and influence campaign. Aim to provide evidence of interference and inability for coexistence.

- Technical Analysis and Testing Plans

Legal/Policy/Advocacy Working Group: Develop regulatory/legal arguments to counter the petition proposal and business approach and outreach with federal and state officials, regulators, and public policymakers.

- Information exchange and outreach to the FCC, USDOT, and key Congressional committees

Media and Public Relations Group: Drive media and communication efforts and products to communicate consistently and influentially.

Representation in Broader Coalitions – Ensure that the Tolling Coalition's interests are represented in larger coalitions opposing NextNav, leveraging collective influence.



Questions?

Thank you for participating.