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Information Interchange

..PROVIDING A STRONGER MORE UNIFYING AND EFFECTIVE VOICE FOR THE GROWING INTERMODAL CARRIER SECTION

DOT BUILD Grants Awarded

Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced on November 12th the recipients for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grants amounting to \$900 million. The grants are to be used to help fund road, bridge, transit, rail, port and intermodal transportation projects and to be used as a replacement for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program, which many state and local agencies used.

The distribution of the \$900 million will be across 35 state and 55

infrastructure programs. Half of the \$900 million in funding was allocated to rural areas with no individual project receiving more than \$25 million and no state receiving more than \$90 million in funding total.

Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, and North Carolina received the most grants with 3 each. The Massachusetts Port Authority received a \$20 million grant to expand the Conley Container Terminal in Boston. This is expected to help increase volume capacity by 100,000 containers in the terminal as well as help with overall efficiency.

Projects were selected with many factors in mind, including safety, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, innovation and partnerships with industry representatives. “The highly competitive BUILD grant program provides federal funding for major infrastructure projects — including multimodal and multijurisdictional projects — that improve our transportation networks and enhance quality of life,” said Rep. David Price (D-N.C.), chairman of the House appropriations T-HUD subcommittee.



Political Watch-

Biden Announces \$1.3 Trillion Infrastructure Plan

On November 14th the Biden Presidential Campaign announced a \$1.3 trillion infrastructure plan with the dual goals of modernizing U.S. Infrastructure and moving towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. The plan calls for spending over 10 years and would create millions of jobs. It would target deficient transportation networks by starting a “second great railroad revolution” and renovating the nation’s airports as well as focusing on improving public transportation.

Congress Drafting Autonomous Vehicles Bill



On November 20th the chairman of the Senate panel with jurisdiction over freight affairs confirmed that there is a bill being drafted to put in to place federal regulations regarding autonomous vehicles. The Senate Commerce Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee are working together to draft measures to govern this new technology.

“As we continue to develop a regulatory framework, the discussion

should also be driven by the potential benefits of [automated vehicles] to improve the country’s transportation systems,” Chairman Roger Wicker said, stressing that not having a national framework presents an opportunity for other countries to lead in the field. “As technology continues to improve, AVs will be increasingly part of our daily lives. Therefore, it is up to us to ensure that the safety benefits of these vehicles are fully realized.”

No timeline for the bill was specified. There is bipartisan support for the bill, with Senator John Thune and Gary Peters working together on the panel and stressing the potential benefits these measures could have including expanding access to the elderly and persons with disabilities. “It’s clear we’re very closely aligned on all of these issues, and hopefully we’ll be able to get some very important legislation across the line as quickly as possible,” Peters said.

Lowes to Invest \$1.7 Billion in Supply Chain

Lowe’s CEO announced at recently that the company will be investing \$1.7 billion to transform their supply chain over the next 5 years. The company has already started spending with the opening of two new bulk distribution centers and three cross-dock terminals being built this year.

This change should help keep items in stock in their stores. Inventory for the company was increased 15% in the

second quarter and increased 10.9% year-over-year in the third quarter.

“We didn’t make any bones about the fact that this is a company that had great potential but it had under invested in supply chain, IT, and also leadership development,” Ellison said. This move shows that both the company and the CEO are committed to this mission going forward and hope to see rewards from the investment in the future.

New Facility Planned in Oregon

In July, the Oregon Transportation Commission awarded \$24 million to a project for the midvalley intermodal facility that is expected to open in 2021. This facility will be located at the former International Paper mill site in Millersburg, Oregon, approximately an hour outside of Portland. The goal of this project will be to decrease carbon emissions, specifically in the Portland metro area, and to reduce truck traffic on Interstate 5.

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Upcoming Events

December 2019/ January 2020

Dec 4th-5th –

The Machinery Haulers Association
Regulatory, Economic,
& Political Symposium
Rock Island, Ill.

Jan 12th-16th–

Transportation Research Board
Annual Meeting
Washington, DC

Jan 14th-16th–

Midwest Association of
Rail Shippers
Winter Meeting
Lombard, Ill.

Winter 2020

Jan 14th-16th–

Midwest Association of
Rail Shippers
Winter Meeting
Lombard, Ill.

Feb 14th-17th–

ATD Show
National Automobile Dealers Assoc.
Las Vegas, NV

Feb 24th-27th–

ATA Technology & Maintenance
Council Meeting
Atlanta, GA

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MC&E Meeting in
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