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October 27, 2015

## House Passes Temporary Surface Transportation Bill and PTC Deadline Extension

Dear NEC Transportation Committee Member:

This afternoon, the House of Representatives passed by voice vote legislation to push back the expiration deadline for surface transportation programs until November 20<sup>th</sup>, giving lawmakers an additional 3 weeks to consider a long-term highway bill. The bill also extends the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for American's rail lines to implement Positive Train Control ([PTC](#)) requirements.

Last Thursday (10/22), the Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee marked-up and passed a six-year surface transportation bill, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015 ([H.R. 3763](#)), to replace the current law governing the nation's surface transportation programs, which expires on Friday (10/29). However, Members of Congress recognized that they did not have sufficient time to bring this legislation before the full House, debate and amend it, and – assuming it passed the full House – engage in a Committee of Conference with the U.S. Senate to reconcile whatever differences exist between H.R. 3763 and surface transportation legislation that the Senate passed this past summer.

Thus, T & I Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), Ranking Committee Democrat Peter DeFazio (D-OR), and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) on Monday introduced legislation ([H.R. 3819](#)) to provide a three-week extension to America's surface transportation law. In addition, this bill will provide the nation's railroads at least 3 years of [additional time to implement PTC](#) – a technology-based system designed to help prevent train accidents. According to current law, PTC is required to be in place by the end of 2015. However, most railroads will not meet that deadline, creating uncertainty among rail companies and the businesses that use the nation's rail lines about whether and how they could operate.

The bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration, where it still may be amended. However, if H.R. 3819 is passed without any changes, it will be sent to the President for his signature.

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