

# Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Member Day

## House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

January 14, 2026

<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=409254>

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## Members in Attendance

- Rep. Taylor (OH)
- Rep. Larsen (WA)
- Rep. Salinas (OR)
- Rep. Budzinski (IL)
- Rep. Ramirez (IL)
- Rep. Kiggans (VA)
- Rep. Costa (CA)
- Rep. Moore (NC)
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- Rep. Kaptur (OH)
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- Rep. Jayapal (WA)
- Rep. Garcia (TX)
- Rep. Hagerman (WY)
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- Rep Case (HI)
- Rep Cline (VA)
- Rep Randall (WA)

## Summary

A hearing to review and discuss non-committee House member concerns surrounding transportation issues.

## Key Statements

### Representative Dave Taylor (R-OH)

- Remembering Representative Doug LaMalfa
- Members will be sharing their Transportation and Infrastructure Priorities
- Plan to mark-up surface bill early this year. Portal for member WRTA priorities will be open until the end of the month.

### Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA), Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Work of this committee transcends 'red team vs blue team' mentality
- Over 30 members signed up to testify
- BIL has raised nation's infrastructure grade from a C- to a C. First time that no sector has been issued a D-.
  - Committee is committed to passing a bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization law.

### Representative Salinas (D-OR)

- I-5 Corridor is critical
- Finishing connector project will create new jobs and strengthen critical rural freight network in OR
- Many fatal or serious injury crashes have occurred, the bridge and highway need upgrades.
- Increased flexibility in BUILD and MEGA will allow DOT to tailor funding to specific needs.
- RURAL grants are key.

### Representative Budzinski (D-IL)

- Water resources bill has critical impact for Illinois
- 2023 WRTA had key impacts, including for wastewater and sewer.
- Crisis in Cahokia Heights continues, funding needed for continued sewer upgrades.

### Representative Ramirez (D-IL)

- Infrastructure shapes the lived experiences of the working class
- Public transportation is critical in the district, connecting residents to jobs, recreation, and resources.
- Rail and road security concerns need additional funding
- We need to do the bipartisan work

### **Representative Kiggans (R-VA)**

- US Army Corps of Engineers and WOTUS rule
- Delayed housing and stalled infrastructure costs
- Aviation safety and air traffic control operations. Air traffic control tower upgrade funding was cut in Working Families Tax Cut.

### **Representative Costa (D-CA)**

- Investments in transportation and infrastructure are key forward-looking investments
- Improve highway and reservoir in district
- Fund intercity rail projects that are shovel-ready
- Air traffic control towers support commercial aviation and military- has not been upgraded since the 1950s. Non-FAA towers need investment too.
- WRTA: increasing water storage capacity, critical for agriculture

### **Representative Moore (R-NC)**

- 34.7 million to DOT for bridge repair after Hurricane Helene
- State has invested billions to provide infrastructure to keep up with growth in population
- US-74 designate as future interstate for economic development purposes

### **Representative Tlaib (D-MI)**

- No safe level of lead exposure
- Low Income household water assistance program was a lifeline during the pandemic, now out of funding. No permanent program for water assistance.
- Ambassador Bridge in Detroit is privately owned. State of Michigan loosened Hazmat rules on the bridge. Federal agencies could enforce hazardous materials regulations.
- Detroit Metro Airport: Airport noise capability planning

### **Delegate Moylan (R- Guam)**

- Costs to travel to the mainland are high.
- Guam used to host multiple American airlines, competition kept prices low. Foreign carriers should be allowed to keep prices low.
- Energy prices very high in Guam
- Not a single US vessel is certified to carry LNG. Non-continuous shipping competition act will lower shipping cost and improve supply chain resiliency.

### **Representative Kaptur (D-OH)**

- Represents largest watershed in Ohio, port communities and agricultural communities
- Discretionary grant programs like RAISE are designed to allow for small and midsize communities to compete.
- Delayed RAISE funding is negatively impacting projects around Ohio, including awarded programs.
- Committee should continue exercising oversight of RAISE and ensure that awarded grants are executed/obligated.
- Upgrading passenger and freight rail services safety are critical

### **Representative Mannion (D-NY)**

- Importance of cutting red tape to reduce project timelines.
- Lack of reliability in federal infrastructure investment, Trump Administration clawed back \$30 million in federal funds to Syracuse. This project had received bipartisan support in previous Congress.
- Sets dangerous precedent that projects can be unilaterally terminated if they are signed by a previous administration.

### **Representative Davis (D-NC)**

- Rural Eastern NC has significant infrastructure needs, including broadband.

- US Coast Guard base in district, but has aging infrastructure.
- Rebuilding after Hurricane Helene showed us the critical role of FEMA. Cosponsoring FEMA Act

### **Representative Jayapal (D-WA)**

- Supporting air traffic controllers workforce development
- Reauthorization for rail and ferry funding programs
  - Investing in robust rail and transit especially critical ahead of world cup in 2026
  - Federal bridge investment critical in this district
  - Electric or low-emitting ferry pilot program should be funded
- Fight dissolution of resilient Columbia Basin agreement

### **Representative Garcia (D-TX)**

- Rail lines are key infrastructure in Houston, TX-29 leads the nation for blocked railroad crossing incidents
  - 3134 blocked crossing incidents in 2020-2025, 5 deaths
- 45% of schools in Houston are located next to rail crossings
- De-block communities Act- allows FRA to investigate blocked railroad incidents. Limits blocked crossings to 10 min except in emergencies

### **Representative Hagedorn (R-WY)**

- Truck traffic is critical in WY
- Truck crashes are big safety concern, especially considering weather
- Limit CDL issuance to properly vetted, including proficiency in English as a safety concern.
- Prioritize flexibility for state and local government

### **Representative Mullin (D-CA)**

- Housing crisis, more housing could be built on government-owned land, but regulatory issues prevent this from happening.
- Empty Lots to Housing Act would extend FHWA authority to allow local agencies to convert empty lots to housing
- Railroad crossing safety, including full grade separation. Technology driven approaches can provide safety benefits more quickly and cheaply.
- Ports rely on dredging projects and are facing supply chain issues.

### **Representative Wittman (R-VA)**

- Sediment accumulating in an inlet in the district, disrupting business and creating safety concerns. Maintenance dredging required soon.

### **Representative Ruiz (D-CA)**

- Protecting Outdoor Concerts Act. FAA issues temporary flight restrictions around major sporting events, but this does not apply to outdoor concerts.

### **Representative Gonzales (R-TX)**

- Wastewater infrastructure improvements needed.
- Flood infrastructure needed to improve
- Water shortage in Corpus Christi

### **Representative Moskowitz (D-FL)**

- Emergency management should not be partisan
- FEMA needs reform, was too bureaucratic, too slow.
- FEMA secret memo to fold into Homeland without congressional approval
- Owed 600 million on Alligator Alcatraz, reimbursement approved but has seen \$0
- Owed \$2 billion in disaster relief funds for FL
- States need to hire specific lobbying firms to unfreeze funds, FEMA employees are making money off of these agreements.

**Representative Case (D-HI)**

- Coast Guard Funding

**Representative Rose (R-TN)**

- Coast Guard Funding

**Representative Cline (R-VA)**

- Aging I-81 needs to be improved
- Virginia state government is allocating funding, but more needed.

**Representative Randall (D-WA)**

- BIL was critical for Washington state
- Bil Investments should be strengthened and preserved
- Ferry caucus (roundtable yesterday)
- FERRIES Act will be introduced tomorrow