



The Latest News and Updates from TIA's Government Affairs Department



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Rail Unions and Carriers Compromise

13 rail unions and the country’s largest freight rail carriers reached an agreement Thursday morning. Doing so cleared the country of enduring further supply chain issues due to a strike by the rail unions. With less than 24 hours to go in the negotiation period, government officials and consumers alike are relieved to see there will be no more disruptions to the supply chain for now.

After 20 hours of proposals at the Department of Labor, both parties were able to work out an agreement that tends to workers’ needs while also boding well for the economy. It’s worth noting that this agreement is only tentative; the labor organizations will still need to ratify the compromise.

In the agreement, rail workers will get a 24% pay increase through 2024 and an immediate \$11k (on average) payout when the agreement is officially ratified. President Biden called this a win for rail workers as they will get increased pay, safer working conditions, and ‘peace of mind around healthcare costs’.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD AT TIA'S 2022 3PL POLICY FORUM

**SEPTEMBER 19-21
A TIA EVENT FOR MEMBERS ONLY**

TIA released the following statement in response to a deal being struck, “The Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA) applauds the rail labor unions, the rail carriers, and the Administration for their work on reaching a deal that averted a strike. Our rail carriers and rail workers play an integral role in the movement of freight and the overall supply chain throughout this great nation. TIA members continue to deal with the residual effects of the supply chain disruptions from the global pandemic; a shutdown of the rails would have further disrupted the transportation marketplace. TIA members look forward to continuing the important work of facilitating freight throughout the U.S. with the railroads, and all the modes that our members touch.”

Iranians Attempt Infrastructure Hack

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has charged three Iranian individuals for allegedly attempting to launch cyberattacks against U.S. and global infrastructure.

A DOJ spokesperson said the individuals are alleged to attempt attacks on hundreds of computers residing in the United States, Russia, Israel, and the United Kingdom. Professions targeted include health care, transportation, and utility companies, along with a domestic violence safe spaces and various county governments. Among the victims are an accounting firm in New Jersey, power companies in Mississippi and Indiana, a county government in Wyoming, a construction company in Washington, and the Bar Association in an unspecified state.

The perpetrators are believed to be in Iran and are still at-large. It is not believed that these attacks were on behalf of the Iranian government, but the Iranian government allowed the attacks to happen. Two of the charges are intentionally damaging protected computers and transmitting ransom demands.

The FBI continues to search for the hackers before they wreak anymore havoc on critical infrastructure. The FBI recently offered a \$10 million reward as well as added all the suspects to the FBI’s most wanted list. TIA will keep you updated with this situation.

Biden Signs Off On EV Infrastructure Project

The Department of Transportation (DOT) signed off on plans for 33 states along with DC and Puerto Rico , to start spending hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for electric vehicle infrastructure.

The funding totaled \$5 billion over five years (was included in the bipartisan infrastructure bill) but could not be accessed until spending plans were approved by DOT’s Federal Highway Administration and Energy Department.

The money is not only meant to help build electric cars, but also start building the infrastructure necessary to maintain them. Keep your eye out for an increase of EV chargers off highway exits around the country.