



# TIA ON THE HILL

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



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## **DOT Acts On Protection for Air Travelers**

DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg stated in a letter to airline CEO's that DOT would be launching a flight dashboard to help air travelers keep up to date with delays, cancellations, and other things relevant to their flights. That dashboard has officially launched and is available to the public.

According to Oriana Pawlyk of Politico, over 1,400 flights were canceled this past weekend and increased frustration among consumers, the hope is this new dashboard will not only keep passengers up to date on a timelier basis but will also hold airlines more accountable for their own shortcomings.

With increased accountability and nowhere to hide, how are airlines stepping up? United has pledged to create a digital or printed meal voucher program that is designed to provide reasonable funds towards the purchase of airport food vendors, and hotel vouchers for overnight lodging. Delta has looked more at its own organization logistics to improve customer service. CEO Ed Bastain said the airline has reworked its schedules to include more 'buffer time' for crews to make it to their next destination. Similarly, the airline is hoping to help drive greater on-time departures by boarding earlier at busy hubs to decrease chances that a passenger will miss a connecting flight.

DOT is acting on its word to protect the consumer. Whether airlines implement more productive policies – only time will tell. TIA will continue updating its members as news develops.

## DOT to Decide on Passenger Protection Rules

The Senate Commerce Committee announced it will hold a hearing next weekend on the nominations of five candidates for the Amtrak Board of Directors and a current member of the Surface Transportation Board.

The hearing, to be held Sept. 7th, at 10 a.m., will evaluate the nominations for:

- David Capozzi to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors
- Anthony Coscia, currently the chair of the Board, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors
- Christopher Koos to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors
- Sam Lathem to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors
- Robin Wiessmann to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors; and
- Robert Primus, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board. Primus currently serves on the STB.

TIA will track these nominees and keep you updated on the potential impact for the 3PL industry.

## Agreement Made on Contract Terms For Freight - Railroads

Three rail unions have agreed with the freight railroads on terms that would resolve the the ongoing contract disputes between the railroads and the unions that serve the workers. The three unions – the Transportation Communications Union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, who represent about 15,000 rail workers or 10% of union workers working to reach an agreement. There are ten other union that have to reach an agreement with the railroads, and both sides are hopeful that an agreement can be reached before potential strikes as early as September 16th.

The agreement in place with the three unions mentioned above mirror the recommendations made by President Biden's Emergency Board, including a 24-percent compounded wage increase during the five-year period from 2020-2024, with a 14-percent wage increase effective immediately, and five annual \$1,000 bonuses. According, to the unions this would equate to the largest increase in the history achieved through national freight bargaining. Workers will get an additional day of leave, improved medical benefits related to hearing and autism coverage.

Members of the union will receive ballots in the mail soon, and the agreement will not be ratified until members approve it through voting.



## **California "Leads the Way on Emissions Issues Again**

In the wake of the major announcement from the State of California last week, several other states have announced that they will follow suit in their efforts to eliminate the sales of gas-powered vehicles by the year 2035. The Clean Air Act grants California the ability to impose emissions standards that are stricter than those standards at the national level. The Clean Air Act is also the vehicle that California uses to impose regulations on TIA Members throughout the United States that arrange transportation through the State, via their Air Resources Board.

At this time a total of 15 States have announced plans to follow California, with States like Washington, Oregon, and New York taking the necessary steps. The State of Virginia, which now has a Republican Governor in Glenn Youngkin, had a trigger law in place from when Democrat Governor Ralph Northam was office, that took effect and put Virginia in the pool of States. However, VA Attorney General Jason Miyares' office Stated that the AG and Governor are hopeful to repeal the law.

TIA has been working with several Republican California Members office to reign in the State of California as it relates to emissions regulations that hold brokers liable for standards and "non-compliance." TIA advocacy efforts will continue on this matter, and to be clear TIA supports a clean and green industry, but a sensible solution that doesn't impact business and the transportation industry.