

# POLITICO

## **POLITICO's Morning Transportation: Transit dominates Tuesday agenda — JFK sees no ebola fevers — GM death toll rises — Jones act in the hot seat**

October 14, 2014  
By Heather Caygle

With help from Adam Snider

**TALK TRANSIT TO ME:** Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will be in Houston this afternoon to talk about federal transit priorities at APTA's annual meeting. Foxx is expected to take the stage at about 3:45 p.m. and "will share the administration's vision for the public transportation industry and priorities for the future." Earlier in the day, two other transit-related events are happening. In the morning, a new report from the U.S. PIRG shows why the trend of millennials moving away from driving might be around to stay (report available here at 9 a.m.: <http://bit.ly/1wulmnv>). **And at lunchtime, the libertarian Cato Institute will host a forum on what the future of self-driving cars means for transit. (You can watch here: <http://bit.ly/1bvIMwr>)**

**The rest of the week:** Ebola screenings are set to begin at four airports Thursday - Newark, Chicago O'Hare, Washington Dulles and Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson - after starting at JFK in New York this weekend (more on that below). Also on Thursday, CDC Director Tom Frieden is expected to be on the Hill to testify at a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on the U.S. Ebola response.

**Also happening Thursday:** Vice President Joe Biden will be in Philadelphia to talk infrastructure; Foxx will join Sen. Jim Inhofe and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin for a transportation roundtable; and FAA Administrator Michael Huerta will speak at the monthly Aero Club luncheon in Washington. Huerta could be asked about a range of topics including Ebola screenings at airports, drones, NextGen and next year's FAA reauthorization. The FAA chief will travel to California on Friday to talk about the future of aviation during a speech at UC-Riverside.

**NEARLY 100 PEOPLE CHECKED SO FAR:** Since Ebola-related screenings started at JFK Airport this weekend, 91 people have been checked but none have had a fever, Frieden said

during a briefing on Monday. "Five of them were referred for additional evaluation by CDC. None were determined to have exposure to Ebola," he said. About 150 people fly into the U.S. each day from Ebola-stricken countries, with about 40 percent of those entering the country through JFK.

**Related:** Five people were taken to a hospital in Boston after they exhibited flu-like symptoms on a flight from Dubai on Monday. No one in the group had traveled to West Africa but "out of an abundance of caution," officials isolated the group for evaluation, according to The Boston Globe. Read the story: <http://bit.ly/1sIRqFy>

**GM DEATH TOLL NOW AT 27:** At least 27 people have died as a result of faulty GM ignition switches, according to an updated report from the compensation fund released Monday. In addition to the payments for 27 deaths, the fund has approved payments for 4 serious injuries and 21 other injuries. The fund's latest report showed 178 death claims received and nearly 1,200 claims of injury. Of those injury claims, 85 are for major trauma that includes quadriplegia, amputation, brain damage or severe burns. The Kenneth Feinberg-led fund will accept claims through the end of the year. Full report: <http://bit.ly/1vHhGyj>

**THANKS FOR READING ON THIS TUESDAY.** Good morning and thanks for reading POLITICO's Morning Transportation, your daily tipsheet on trains, planes, automobiles and ports. Programming note: Your host will be off on Wednesday to celebrate my birthday (I won't tell you the year!) but MT alum and fan favorite Adam will be taking over for the one-day switcheroo.

Let's chat! Shoot an email to [hcaygle@politico.com](mailto:hcaygle@politico.com) or send a tweet my way: [@Heatherscope](https://twitter.com/Heatherscope). And don't forget to follow [@Morning\\_Transpo](https://twitter.com/Morning_Transpo) and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

"We sat on the tailgate and watched the planes take off..." <http://bit.ly/1jBOJkW>

**LAME DUCK MEANS LET'S GET STUFF DONE:** The FAA reauthorization may not officially get rolling until next year, but the airline industry is optimistic there will be some aviation-related action in Congress during the lame duck. A4A President Nick Calio recently said there are two bills he'll be watching after the November midterms: a bill capping the TSA security fee levied on passengers and a separate bill that would change advertising rules for airlines. Both bills overwhelmingly passed in the House but have seen no action in the Senate. "We think that we have a shot at getting them through the Senate this year," Calio said. "You know, when things are that bipartisan, ... it speaks to a noncontroversial item that might be able to move forward, and we are making every effort to try and make sure that happens. A difficult time period once they get back, obviously."

**COME SAIL AWAY WITH ME:** The Jones Act, the nearly 100-year-old law that restricts cargo movement between U.S. ports, is back in the spotlight as the Dutch hope to use transatlantic trade talks as a way to get the United States to ease some of the current restrictions. Trade reporter Adam Behsudi has more: "The Netherlands wants the United States to open its notoriously closed shipping sector through transatlantic trade talks, but getting the White House to negotiate on an issue that's subject to entrenched political interests and a 94-year-old law is

going to require some smooth tactics. 'Let me be very upfront about this,' the country's trade minister, Lilianne Ploumen, told POLITICO. 'The strategy would be to kind of seduce the United States and its own maritime sector to also talk about this issue because it's also in their best interests.' Easing the restrictions would open an untapped market for the Netherlands' expansive shipping industry, and gaining access is a major priority for the country in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership talks." Read the full story: <http://politico.pro/1v4vFAp>

**BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER:** The air traffic control facility in Aurora, Ill., is fully up and running after a major fire was deliberately set several weeks ago, the FAA said Monday. Air traffic controllers resumed working from the Aurora location between midnight and 1 a.m. Monday morning - less than three weeks after a contract worker allegedly set fire to the facility after posting anti-government messages online. The FAA is working on a monthlong review of "contingency plans and security protocols for its major facilities" following the incident, the agency said. "The men and women of the FAA turned an attack on our air traffic system into an unparalleled display of team work, creativity and resolve," Foxx said in a statement this morning.

### **THE AUTOBAHN (SPEED READ)**

- Proposed merger between Canadian Pacific and CSX still alive. The Wall Street Journal: <http://on.wsj.com/1ERHdv7> (h/t Bob King)

- Humorist Patricia Marx puts transportation to the test with a variety of "emotional service animals" including a turkey and a pig. The New Yorker: <http://nyr.kr/11d3jsy>

- The future of transportation doesn't just mean flying cars. City Lab: <http://bit.ly/1s4Ueed>

- Aviation safety experts call for major changes to prevent battery fires on planes. The Wall Street Journal: <http://on.wsj.com/ZXrevU>

- Why in-flight entertainment dramatically differs from airline to airline. The Los Angeles Times: <http://lat.ms/1yvduJ>

- Norwegian Air International releases new survey showing international travel as the most popular "lifetime bucket list item." <http://bit.ly/1CdYt9L>

**THE COUNTDOWN:** DOT appropriations run out in 58 days and highway and transit policy expires in 230 days. FAA policy is up in 352 days. The midterm elections are in 21 days and the 2016 presidential election is in 756 days.

**THANKS AGAIN FOR READING.**