



Government Affairs Newsletter NSC.org/alerts

Safety and Health on the Hill



Happy new year! On Jan. 20, Donald J. Trump was sworn in as our nation's 45th president.

Deborah Hersman Appointed to DOT Committee

On Jan. 11, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) [announced](#) NSC President and CEO Deborah A.P. Hersman has been appointed to serve on the newly created Advisory Committee on Automation in Transportation (ACAT). ACAT, originally [announced](#) in October 2016, will advise DOT in the framing of federal policy regarding automation across all modes of transportation. Ms. Hersman joins a distinguished and diverse [group of stakeholders](#) representing government, academia, technology and manufacturers. The first Committee meeting was Jan. 16 with a focus on ensuring safety and innovation.

NSC Expert Appointed to OSHA Advisory Committee

[Wes Scott](#), NSC Consulting Services Director, has been [appointed](#) to serve on OSHA's National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health ([NACOSH](#)). NACOSH was established under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to advise the Secretaries of Labor and Health and Human Services on occupational safety and health programs and policies. Members of the 12-person advisory committee are chosen on the basis of their knowledge and experience in occupational safety and health. Members serve two-year terms, which can be renewed.

Road to Zero Scenario Development

The Road to Zero Coalition, led by NSC in partnership with the RAND Corporation, will conduct a two-day scenario development exercise at the end of January. Participants will collaborate in small groups to discuss issues such as infrastructure, EMS response, safe drivers and passengers. For more information on the Coalition and to register for participation, please visit the webpage [here](#) and follow on Twitter [@RoadToZeroUS](#).



NTSB Report

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released its [preliminary report](#) regarding the November crash of a school bus in Chattanooga, TN, that killed six children and injured 31 others. Preliminary toxicology reports on the driver were negative for illicit drugs and alcohol, and that the crash occurred on a section of road with multiple curves and a posted speed limit of 30 mph. We expect the full report to require 12-18 months for completion.

Cabinet Hearings

A number of President Trump's nominees have undergone Senate confirmation hearings in recent weeks. Of note to the safety community:

[Elaine Chao](#) appeared before the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on Jan. 11. Chao voiced support for the incoming administration's infrastructure goals, asserting the need for stronger public-private partnerships. Widely viewed as one of the least controversial cabinet nominees, Chao has been supported by a number of transportation industry stakeholders and easily secured passage on a voice vote on January 24.

[Andy Pudzer](#), nominee for Secretary of Labor, has his confirmation hearing before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on Feb. 2.

Dr. Tom Price, nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services, appeared before the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on Jan. 18. He was questioned regarding a number of prevalent issues, including reforms to Medicaid and Medicare and President Trump's replacement for the Affordable Care Act. Questions also have been raised regarding investments made into a biotech company during passage of the 21st Century Cures Act.

The timing of cabinet level nominations will govern how quickly the second tier of nominees can be nominated and approved in their positions. It could take up to a year for most of the nominations to be filled, which is not unusual. As more nominations are announced for agencies with which NSC works, we will keep you posted.

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