

Government Affairs Update

June 2026



Government Affairs

- **Maximize political power of the TWU**
- **Lead advocacy efforts before elected and appointed officials**
 - Lobbying, political activities, COPE conference
- **Translate between government leaders and frontline workers**
 - Work with division directors and reps
- **Advise and consult with locals on local campaigns**



Creating Political Power



Surface Transpo Reauth: 2021

Wins in 2021 reauth (BIL/IIJA)

- PTASP process changes and Safety Committees
- 5% set aside for workforce training on zero emission buses
- Updated assault prevention requirements
- \$39b in federal transit funding



2025 Goals

-  Federal operating funding for transit
-  Federal rules for AVs
-  Limit TNC service in transit
-  Fund FTA emergency relief program
-  Require formal labor consultation at DOT
-  Fix bus blind spots in manufacturing
-  Expand eligibility for bikeshare

- Unlimited funding for some systems
- 3.5% ops funding for safety, security, and workforce training

- Prohibition on non-drug tested workers (TNCs) replacing routes

- Required for almost, but not all, programs

Surface Transportation Reauth



Autonomous Vehicles: Goals

- **Ensure all vehicles meet safety standards BEFORE deployment**
 - Apply existing safety rules to AVs, where possible
 - Create federal framework for AVs through rulemaking/regulations (NOT via exemption) for areas where no rules exist
- **Preserve all operator jobs**
 - Require human oversight and the ability for humans to intervene to keep all vehicles safe
 - Require AV personnel be subject to DOT oversight generally (D&A testing, CDL reqs, hours of service, 13c, etc.)
- **Organize all new jobs created by AVs**
 - Ensure federal rules are not picking winners/losers between technologies
- **Require employers to consult with workers prior to implementing new technology**
 - Encourage the AV industry to grow sustainably, creating jobs in the U.S.



AVs: House bill

- Enforceable federal standards (15+ rulemakings)
- Mandatory human operator onboard school bus, hazmat, and level 3 vehicles
- No preemption of state safety laws – including human operator requirements
- Mandatory certification and DOT oversight for AV personnel
- 3 layered standards for passenger transport that all *could* include human operator requirements
 - General safety standard
 - FTA-specific standard for transit buses
 - Standard addressing non-driving tasks
- No concessions – no lowered safety or labor standard anywhere

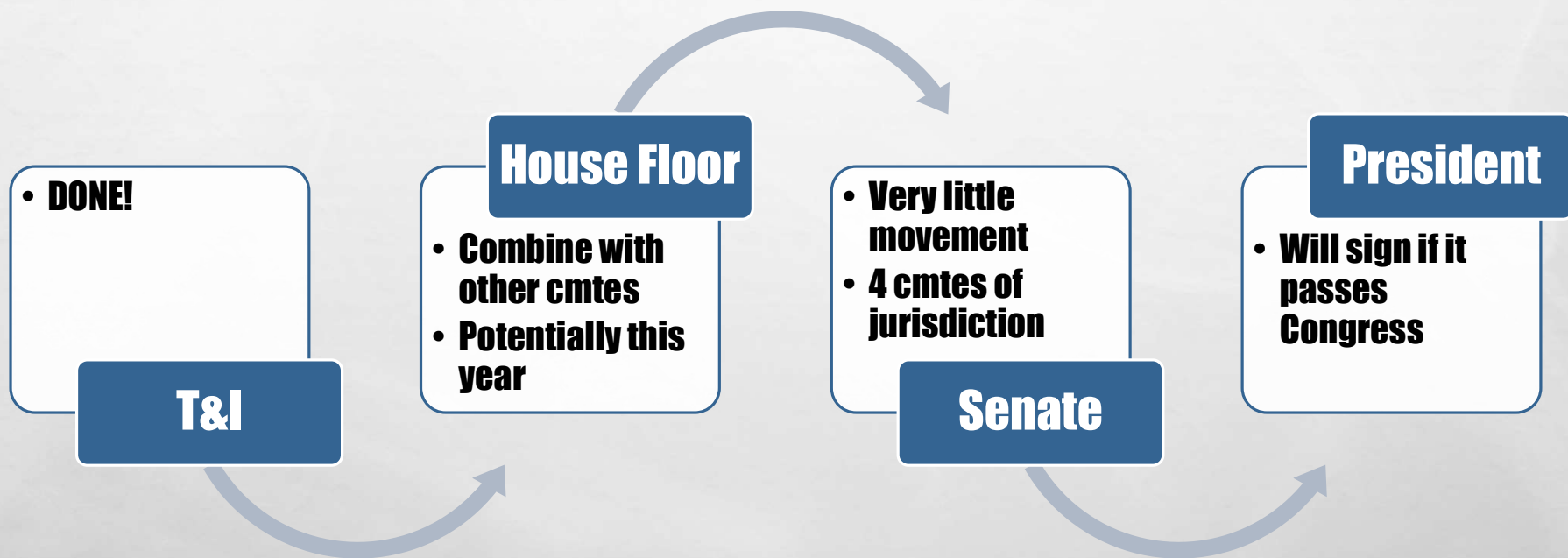
Other issues in reauth

- Assault protection barriers
- Blocked PTASP changes; added passenger safety to safety committee duties
- Codified Transit Workforce Center
- Anti-China provisions (CRRC fightback)
- Price caps for buses
- Performance specifications for buses

\$87.5 billion over 5 years for public transportation (~\$25% increase over current spending)

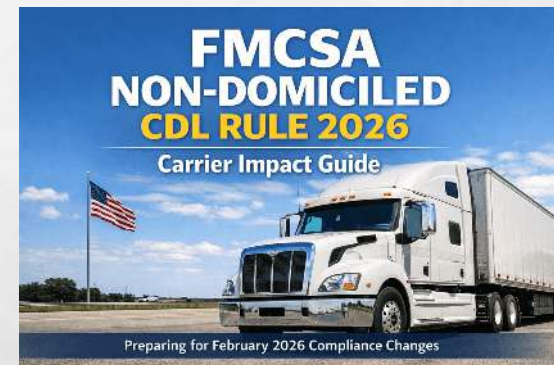


Reauth timeline



Non-Domiciled CDLs

- Trump Administration rule change prevents most non-citizens from holding a CDL
- New rules do not reference employment authorization documents, solely immigration status
- TPS, DACA, refugee, asylum-seeker, and other immigrant statuses no longer eligible to hold a CDL



Non-Domiciled CDLs



- Ongoing lawsuits in DC, WA, and NY
- Delilah's law halted in Congress
- Rule is likely to persist for the foreseeable future
- 200,000 people impacted nationwide
- DOL has updated their rules to align with this change, as well

2026 elections: federal

House

- Net 3 seat shift to Dems will flip the chamber
- 63 competitive seats (35 lean/toss up)
 - Redistricting changing that math
- Dems *very* likely to take over in 2027

Senate

- Net 4 seat shift to Dems will flip the chamber
- 11 competitive (9 lean/toss up)
 - Most of these are currently held by Dems
- Dems have to run the table

Practical effect of chamber flip

Changing Committee leadership

- House T&I: Larsen vs [Graves]
- Senate CST: Cantwell vs Cruz
- House Labor: Bobby Scott vs Walberg
- Senate Labor: Sanders vs [Cassidy]
- Senate Banking: Warren vs Scott

Changing chamber priorities

- Ops funding viability
- Sanctuary cities fights
- OLMS reforms
- Spending fights
- AV reform becomes more difficult

Top TWU House Champions

Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

John Garamendi (D-CA)

Angie Craig (D-MN) – SENATE

Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)

Chirs Pappas (D-NH) – SENATE

Val Hoyle (D-OR)

Adirano Espaiallat (D-NY) - PRIMARY

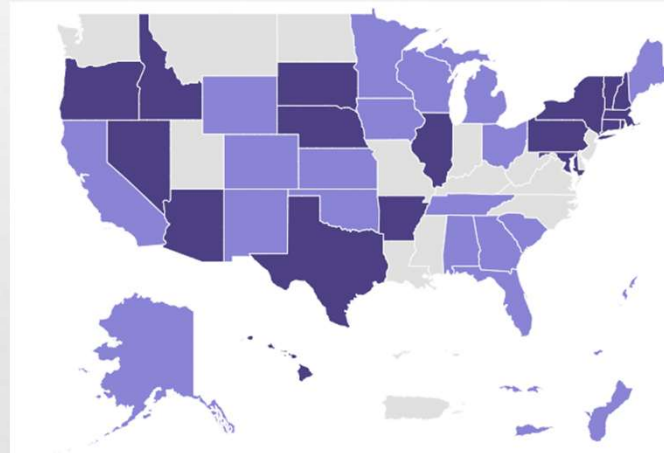
Chris Smith (R-NJ)

Mike Lawler (R-NY)

Nic Lalota (R-NY)



2026 elections: Govs



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