

# TTD NEWS RELEASE

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Oct 28, 2015

CONTACT: Jonna Huseman  
jonnah@ttd.org  
202-974-8065

## TTD, Lawmakers Collaborate on Transportation Policy Concerns *Executive Committee Takes Aim at Pending Bills*

WASHINGTON, DC — Transportation labor leaders — gathered today at the fall Executive Committee meeting of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) — met with key members of Congress to seek solutions to a woefully underfunded transportation system and to boost job creation in what remains a slow recovery that TTD's leader said is "leaving too many working people behind."

"The need for long-term investments in our transportation system and infrastructure will not 'just go away,'" said Edward Wytkind, president of TTD, who added that the dialogue with congressional guests "focused like a laser" on ending the stalemate on crucial investment bills. "With the recent progress on a surface transportation bill and strong bipartisan display of support for the U.S. Merchant Marine, we may be witnessing a brief but important timeout from senseless partisanship."

TTD hosted roundtable discussions with Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), the ranking Democrat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), the ranking Democrat on the Senate Commerce Committee, and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), chairman of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

The high priorities during the discussion with lawmakers included keeping aviation and maritime issues out of the [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#); fighting legislative assaults on [longshore employees'](#) bargaining rights; passing [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\) reauthorization](#); boosting the [Maritime Security Program](#); and rejecting emerging [hair specimen drug testing](#) legislation.

"As Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I value input from my friends in the transportation labor community who bring a critically needed front-line employee perspective to our work," Diaz-Balart said. "By seeking the views of both labor and business, community leaders and other important partners, we can develop real, long-term solutions to our nation's transportation infrastructure challenges."

"We need to increase investments in our infrastructure and focus on the areas that will truly help create jobs and support our economy," Nelson said. "We also need to protect the men and women who are out there every day making our transportation systems work."

"Transportation infrastructure is at the heart of the U.S. economy. Our economic competitiveness, our businesses and millions of American jobs depend on robust investments in our crumbling network of roads, bridges, highways and transit systems," DeFazio said. "We must continue to push for legislation that will modernize our nation's transportation

### Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO

815 16th Street NW / 4th Floor / Washington DC 20006  
Tel:202.628.9262 / Fax:202.628.0391 / [www.ttd.org](http://www.ttd.org)  
Edward Wytkind, President / Larry I. Willis, Secretary-Treasurer



infrastructure, create good jobs and enhance the rights and working conditions of the men and women who keep America moving. I thank TTD for joining in that effort.”

The Executive Committee also held a discussion about plans for member education in the 2016 presidential election.

TTD, which represents some 2 million workers in every sector of transportation, has been working with its affiliates on a flurry of key issues. Just today TTD and its maritime and aviation affiliates [sent a letter](#) to President Obama urging his Administration to keep maritime and aviation out of any TTIP negotiations. TTD has aggressively countered the trucking lobby’s agenda to bring “unscientific” hair specimen drug testing to front line bus and truck drivers. And TTD coordinated efforts with its member unions to [advance](#) a surface transportation bill out of committee last week that awaits House floor consideration.

“When you’re talking about transportation jobs, you’re talking about middle-class jobs — the types of jobs that elude too many Americans,” Wytkind added. “The policies that affect our sector have a real impact on working families, and that’s something Congress can’t forget despite working in the Washington bubble.”

###

*The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, represents 32 member unions in the aviation, rail, transit, motor carrier, highway, longshore, maritime and related industries. For more information, visit us at [www.ttd.org](http://www.ttd.org) or on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*