

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704405704575596651069950976.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

The Florida Republican in line to take over the House Transportation Committee said his first priority next year will be to pass a long-delayed bill to finance an overhaul of the nation's aging air-traffic navigation system. Rep. John Mica (R., Fla.), said in an interview that to get the aviation bill passed, he will remove union-backed measures pushed by outgoing Chairman James Oberstar (D., Minn.), who lost his bid for re-election.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/high-speed-rail-project-sidetracked-gop-wave/story?id=12069591>

In the wake of Tuesday's election results, yet another one of the administration's flagship programs may now be in jeopardy. At least two newly elected Republican governors are taking aim at high speed rail projects in their states.

In Wisconsin, the state department of transportation has now stopped all work on a high-speed rail line between Madison and Milwaukee. In a memo to project contractors and consultants, the Wisconsin Transportation Secretary told them to stop work for a "few days." The memo indicated the temporary halt was "in light of the election results."

http://www.seattlepi.com/sound/429707_sound106796698.html

Three teams have been selected to compete to design and build the new SR 520 floating bridge, estimated to cost \$700 million to \$900 million. The new bridge will replace the existing vulnerable floating bridge with a six-lane facility that will open to traffic in 2014 and help improve travel between Seattle and Redmond.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6A749F20101108>

John Mica, who is expected to chair the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, told Reuters in a post-election interview that he would conduct a close review of how money was spent from the 2009 economic stimulus package approved by the Democratic-controlled Congress. He also plans to reevaluate grant programs that bypassed congressional review.

"We had unelected officials sitting behind closed doors making decisions without any hearings or without any elected officials being consulted. There was no rational explanation," Mica said. "I'm going to have a full review of that."

TIGER grants have been oversubscribed and state capitals want them extended, but there is no commitment from Congress to do that. Mica also said he hopes to craft a six-year transportation spending blueprint by spring, relying less on new federal outlays and featuring plans to attract private investment for road, rail, waterway and other infrastructure improvements.

<http://www.edenprairienews.com/news/top-stories/494-169-interchange-redesign-contract-awarded-111>

The contract to rebuild the Highway 169/Interstate Highway 494 interchange in Eden Prairie, Bloomington and Edina has been awarded to the design-build team C.S. McCrossan/Edward Kraemer and Sons, the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced today.

Initial construction items such as bridge pier, retaining wall and temporary bypass work are scheduled to begin this winter, with major construction to begin in spring 2011.

The project is scheduled to be substantially completed by Nov. 15, 2012.

http://www.startribune.com/politics/blogs/106973198.html?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Outgoing Senate Transportation Chair Steve Murphy, who said he had wanted to be named Mark Dayton's new transportation commissioner, said Tuesday he had withdrawn from consideration.

Murphy said he had withdrawn because he did not have engineering expertise – and had harshly criticized former MnDOT Commissioner Carol Molnau for being unqualified for the job because she did not have engineering expertise.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703957804575602930038132758.html?mod=WSJ_WSJ_US_News_5

Lawmakers aligned with the tea party are moving quickly to show their strength by trying to ban budget earmarking in the Senate, where support is still strong for the practice critics deride as pork-barrel spending. South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint on Monday was collecting signatures on a letter calling for a vote by his fellow Senate Republicans to ban earmarks, in which spending is channeled to projects favored by individual lawmakers, outside the competitive federal funding system. House Republicans and President Barack Obama have endorsed such a ban, and a wave of Republicans who oppose earmarks were elected to the Senate last week. But Mr. DeMint's move puts him at odds with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican who has defended earmarking as a legitimate exercise of Congress's power of the purse.