

Surety & Fidelity WEEKLY



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Biden Administration Announces USDOT Leadership Positions

The Biden-Harris administration has announced several key positions at the U.S. Department of Transportation. The USDOT noted in a [statement](#) that Lana Hurdle, the current Deputy Assistant for the Budget and Programs, will serve as the acting Secretary of Transportation until nominee Pete Buttigieg is confirmed. Last Thursday, the Senate Committee on Science, Commerce & Transportation held Buttigieg's confirmation hearing for Transportation Secretary. The Biden-Harris administration has released an initial list of USDOT appointees. Many appointees include members from the state DOT level - such as Stephanie Pollack, who is currently serving as secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and has been nominated as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. The complete list of appointees and the official statement from USDOT is available [here](#).

Recap: Contract Bonds Advisory Committee Meeting

The Contract Bonds Advisory Committee held a meeting yesterday to discuss committee goals and other important industry news. The meeting provided key updates on the Committee's top two goals: Promoting the Value of Bonding and Increasing Private Construction Bonding. Julie Alleyne, SFAA Vice President of Policy & General Counsel, provided an update on the 3rd Committee goal: a policy guidance on 15 key bond provisions and issues to be worked on jointly with the Surety Claims Advisory Committee as well as the CBAC. Adam Brackemyre and Dalton DeFendis shared top federal and state legislative issues, as well as a recap of SFAA's activity throughout 2020. Julie Alleyne summarized the recent increased Amicus brief activity during the fourth quarter of 2020 – which resulted in filing Amicus briefs in five cases related to construction projects. The mission of the [Contract Bonds Advisory Committee](#) is to identify and prioritize issues and make action plans in accord with the strategic priorities of the Board



**Contract Bonds
Advisory
Committee**



Apply for the 2020 Surety Industry Awards

SFAA and NASBP invite all local surety associations to submit nominations for the 2020 Surety Industry Awards for Excellence in Surety Bond Promotion and Advocacy. These awards honor local surety associations for their

achievements in promoting the value of contract surety bonds in construction and for advocating on behalf of the surety industry to owners and legislatures.

Award categories are:

Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards
Advocacy Award
Tiger Trust Award

The deadline for awards submissions is **Friday, March 5, 2021**. Visit the [Surety Awards website](#) for criteria information, details on how to enter, and advice on making your award submission as successful as possible.

Please contact Jenn Coolidge at jcoolidge@surety.org with any questions.

Register for the Virtual Legislative Fly-In with SFAA & NASBP

Please register for the first-ever joint SFAA & NASBP Virtual Legislative Fly-In on March 25, 2021. The SFAA & NASBP Virtual Legislative Fly-In will enable members to engage in policy discussions with U.S. Congressional offices. Your participation as a surety advocate is critically important to ensure policymakers on Capitol Hill understand the significant role bonds play in advancing public works infrastructure projects. The new Congress will include a large freshman class, so it is imperative for SFAA and NASBP to become acquainted with the newly elected officials. All meetings will be scheduled virtually, and no travel is required to participate.



Complete the [registration form](#) now.

Updated Resources Available to Members



The **Law Library (Case Summary Database)** can be found [here](#).



The **2020 Fidelity Loss Cost Review** can be found [here](#).



The **AIA Document** A313-2020 has been updated and is available to download from the [Surety Bond Form Index](#).

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The Surety & Fidelity Association of America
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