

WEEKLY CURRENT

April 13-17, 2020

Issues Making a Splash This Week

- **Politics Trumps Health and Economics:** Ideally, mitigation methods would be lifted within weeks after hitting peak infection as testing, tracing, and isolating capacity is quickly scaled up. And stimulus would be flowing freely to fill the gap for individuals and companies alike. In reality though, politics is getting in the way. Whether you favor lifting the lockdowns quickly to restart the economy or cautiously in line with public health guidance is becoming a partisan litmus test for some. And one of the most popular stimulus programs targeted at small businesses has been suspended while awaiting a resumption of funding caught in a partisan battle on Capitol Hill.
- **China Is a More Convenient Enemy Than an Invisible One:** President Trump has spent the better part of his first term in office engaging in an on-again, off-again trade conflict with China, but he conveniently struck a deal earlier this year to avoid the impact of escalating tariffs being applied as he heads into the home stretch for the 2016 elections. And then along came the “invisible enemy” which Trump has often referred to as the “China flu.”
- **Not Another Housing Crisis:** Although the current economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic is different in many ways from the Great Recession of 2008-2009, there are beginning to be signs of some eerily similar problems. For example, while the housing market was at the center of the storm of the financial crisis 12 years ago, it is starting to show similar strains today. To this end, some bipartisan members of Congress and Trump administration officials are already discussing the contours of a housing relief section to the Phase Four legislative stimulus package.

TRUMP PUNTS TO GOVERNORS AND CONGRESS PUNTS THE PPP: President Trump yesterday [released his guidelines](#) for “Opening Up America Again.” Not to be confused with “Make America Great Again,” the 20-page presentation provides a three-phased approach for governors to use when reopening their states. **The key takeaway from Trump’s guideline was that the president is essentially punting to the states the decision-making process and implementation of testing, contact tracing, and healthcare system readiness.** Unsurprisingly, this is a

reversal from earlier this week when Trump insisted he had "total" authority over states to decide when to reopen their economies. In a call with governors yesterday, Trump told them, "You're going to call your own shots. We'll be standing right along side of you." This latest guideline allows Trump to claim he is providing federal guidance while putting the onus on states to execute their own plan. **[Our Spotlight Report from Wednesday](#) highlights the key issues for the reopening process across the country.** Since Wednesday, a third regional group of bipartisan governors from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin announced they would form a coalition to weigh their next steps in a "fact-based" and "data-driven" approach. Many states are still grappling with adequate testing and contact tracing to confidently move forward in the reopening process.

In addition to his federal guidance punt to the states, a [Politico report yesterday](#) indicated that Trump is "expected to renew his push for more aid to businesses." This will include a continued push for a payroll tax holiday, something he has brought up before. **But all immediate business relief is focused on a Phase 3.5 bill based on further funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which we expect will see action in Congress early next week.** With the PPP reaching its \$349 billion limit yesterday, the call for swift action is rising from both sides of the aisle. There were some cracks in the ranks among Democrats in their position to add funding for hospitals, state and local governments, food stamps, and provisions in the PPP for community banks and underserved businesses. Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) yesterday tweeted, "The PPP program is going to run out of funding soon - the Senate should approve add'l funding by unanimous consent ASAP. Small businesses need our help to survive during this emergency." Additionally, former Obama administration Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Karen Mills said, "Congress has to act as soon as possible. What I'm saying is: Number one, get the money replenished." Mills pushed back on the extra stipulations Democrats are asking for in the PPP, noting, "Complexity is not our friend here. Things that have to be implemented quickly can't have a lot of bells and whistles, or else there will be too many unintended consequences — one of which is delay. And we don't have time to delay."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) yesterday on the Senate floor during a pro forma session took a swipe at Democrats refusing to support a clean Phase 3.5 bill for the PPP, saying, "It is absolutely surreal to see Democratic leaders treat support for workers and small businesses as something they need to be goaded into supporting. This really should be above politics." The House will hold a pro forma session today, but it's unlikely any action will be taken, especially given there is no bipartisan resolution to pass a vote via unanimous consent. **But bipartisan talks on the Hill and between Congress and the Trump administration are currently underway, with the hopes of resolution being reached any day now. While a deal is not yet set in stone, one possible outcome being suggested would be a \$250 billion increase in the PPP, along with additional hospital funding.**

Today is also the deadline for airlines to apply to the Treasury Department for priority consideration of the \$25 billion in loans allocated from the CARES Act. According to a [Reuters report](#) on Wednesday, "Most airlines were expected to apply, partly because they would not be required to draw down the loan before the end of September and because the terms are favorable. Airlines will need to offer collateral like planes, spare parts and routes in exchange for the loans and warrants equal to 10% of the value of the loan." **American Airlines (AAL)** confirmed it would be applying for \$4.75 billion in loans and **Alaska Airlines (ALK)** said it would apply for \$1.1 billion. Per *Reuters*, **Southwest Airlines (LUV)** will likely apply, while **United Airlines (UAL)** and **Delta Air Lines (DAL)** were "still considering" it.

US-CHINA RELATIONS FURTHER STRAINED OVER THE PANDEMIC:

President Trump has been increasing his attacks on China this week, as he is seeking to shift the blame for the coronavirus crisis away from himself. On Tuesday, Trump announced that he would halt payments to the World Health Organization (WHO), saying the international organization defended the Chinese government and took its assurances about the virus at face value, which "likely caused a 20-fold increase in cases worldwide, and it may be much more than that." He went on to call the WHO "very China-centric" and said it had "pushed China's misinformation." Democrats in Congress have pushed back against the move, arguing that Trump does not have the authority to halt payments that have already been appropriated, while Republicans in Congress have carefully noted that halting the payments could give China more power with the WHO rather than less. However, for Trump, as is often the case, it appears that the action is as much about making a statement as making a change, and he has not shown any sign of backing off his pledge to halt the funding.

The administration has also begun to turn its focus to how the virus originated in China and began its spread. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told a Richmond, VA radio station this week that he will investigate the outbreak. "We will have a full chance to look back at what precisely transpired there and to conduct investigations that help us understand how it's the case that this epidemic broke out," he said. The White House focus has gotten back up from allies. A recent article in [Fox News](#) cited unnamed official sources that say they are increasingly confident the coronavirus entered the population after escaping a lab in Wuhan. Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) has also said he will [introduce legislation](#) to hold the Chinese Communist Party responsible for the pandemic and to create a State Department task force focused on Beijing's management of the origins of the virus. Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR), a close White House ally and a China hawk, has also repeatedly called attention to Beijing's mishandling of the virus.

Trump's focus on China as the culprit for the coronavirus outbreak plays closely to his election strategy. A Trump fundraiser sent out this week focused

specifically on the threat from Beijing. “China has been lying and doing everything they can to cover up the spread of covid-19 in their country. It’s absolutely disgraceful and we can’t stand by and do nothing,” the mailer said. **The next step for the campaign is to tie China to Trump’s rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, something they have already begun to do.** Biden “has a history of being soft on China,” a Trump campaign spokesperson told the [Washington Post](#). “He did not support Trump’s travel restrictions and opposed Trump describing it as the Chinese virus. [Trump] is engaged in a war against the coronavirus and Biden has decided to serve as the opposition.” **This plays in neatly to a longstanding effort to tie Biden’s statements on China to his son, Hunter Biden, who has had Chinese clients as part of his advisory practice.**

It is not clear that Trump will be successful at changing the narrative, despite his best efforts. His approval ratings have already dropped back down, after rising on a “rally around the flag” effect at the beginning of the crisis. Biden’s team has also been pushing back, arguing that Trump is not attempting to cover up his mistakes by shifting the blame. “Donald Trump was soft on China when it mattered most to the American people: by failing to press them about the coronavirus outbreak and to insist our experts had access — like Joe Biden and a host of experts urged him to do. That is malpractice of historic proportions, and our country is paying a horrible price for it,” Biden campaign spokesman Andrew Bates told the [Washington Post](#). **Either way, Trump’s relationship with China is about to get a lot more rocky.**

HOUSING FINANCE RELIEF EXPECTED IN PHASE FOUR STIMULUS: As negotiations continue between Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell about when and how to release a liquidity facility designed to help stabilize non-bank mortgage servicers amid the unprecedented forbearance offered by the CARES Act for federally-guaranteed mortgages, **Congress is gearing up to include a housing finance element in its eventual Phase Four stimulus package.**

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson has given multiple interviews with conservative media outlets this week in which he stated that negotiations between the Trump administration and congressional leaders were already occurring. Carson said, “Obviously, we want there to be money to help the servicers of these mortgages because some of them don’t have deep pockets. The housing-finance structure needs to be maintained. It’s not just the people who took out the mortgage.”

In another interview he was quoted saying, “What we have to think about, though, are the services and the people providing those mortgages, they have obligations as well. Particularly the non-banks, who really do a lot of the mortgage lending these days, who don’t have, you know, enormous amounts of cash, we have to

make sure in the stimulus package that we provide them a mechanism or we're going to destroy the mortgage industry. So those are the things that we're obviously thinking about." When asked about conversations that he or Mnuchin were having with Congress, Carson said, "Yes, those are ongoing conversations right now."

Although Carson and most media stories about strains in the housing finance market have focused on the liquidity problems of non-bank mortgage servicers, we believe there is a high likelihood that when forbearance uptake data comes in, then Treasury will grant approval to the Federal Reserve to establish a non-bank mortgage servicer advance facility in order to prevent servicer bankruptcies based on federally-provided forbearance.

We also expect that new strains in the market will begin to be discussed in Congress and that any eventual legislation is more likely to try to resolve the issue of the two government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, refusing to purchase mortgages that have requested forbearance as allowed by Congress, but otherwise meet GSE standards. This refusal is at the direction of Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Director Mark Calabria, who we believe is more focused on ensuring that the GSEs do not deplete their already low levels of capital and that they can still be considered candidates for recapitalization and release.

The statutory mission of the GSEs is to "enhance the liquidity and stability of the U.S. secondary mortgage market and thereby promote access to mortgage credit, particularly among low- and moderate-income households." At the same time, the protections for borrowers in the CARES Act are only available to homeowners with a federal guarantee. **Thus, the refusal of Calabria to allow the GSEs to purchase otherwise satisfactory mortgages means that he is in effect preventing borrowers from accessing those protections, violating the spirit of the GSEs' respective charters, as well as working at cross purposes with the Federal Reserve that is buying agency mortgage backed securities in order to lower mortgage rates and promote access to credit.**

We believe that the fear of requests for forbearance are causing lenders that ordinarily work with the GSEs to pull back and increase their credit standards and that this issue will only increase in the weeks ahead. If this retrenchment were to continue, it could shut out all but the most creditworthy borrowers and hinder the restarting of the housing market when the economy is reopened, and it also hinders refinancing which is a key way to provide financial relief for homeowners during this time of economic stress.

When this potential contraction in the market is better understood and garners as much publicity as that of non-bank mortgage servicers' liquidity, we expect that members of Congress will ramp up their own scrutiny of Calabria's choices and this could be one of the key elements in the phase four bill that we expect to be considered and passed in late May or early June.

A Quick Look Back

Congress

The House and Senate were not in full session this week, with only pro forma sessions taking place.

White House

On Monday, President Trump had lunch with Vice President Pence. He later participated in the White House Coronavirus Task Force's daily press briefing.

On Tuesday, President Trump participated in a meeting with recovered Covid-19 patients. He then received his daily intelligence briefing. Later Trump participated in a meeting with healthcare executives. The president also participated in the White House Coronavirus Task Force's daily press briefing.

On Wednesday, President Trump hosted a phone call with banking, financial services, food and beverage, hospitality, and retail industry groups, followed by a phone call with healthcare, tech, telecommunications, and transportation industry groups, then a phone call with agriculture, construction/labor/workforce, defense, energy, and manufacturing industry groups and thought leaders, and finally a phone call with sports industry groups. He later participated in the White House Coronavirus Task Force's daily press briefing.

On Thursday, President Trump participated in a G-7 leaders' video teleconference on coordinated action in response to Covid-19. Then, the president hosted a phone call with members of the House of Representatives. He later hosted a phone call with members of the Senate. Trump also delivered remarks "celebrating America's truckers." The president next participated in a video teleconference with governors on the Covid-19 response and economic recovery. Finally, Trump participated in the White House Coronavirus Task Force's daily press briefing.

Today, President Trump will receive his daily intelligence briefing at 2:00 p.m. At 4:00 p.m., the president will host a phone call with faith leaders on the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. At 5:00 p.m., he is expected to participate in the White House Coronavirus Task Force's press briefing.

Spotlight Review

Tuesday: [The Biden-Trump Matchup Is Set](#)

Wednesday: [America's Grand Reopening Looks More Like a Soft Launch: Where and How Public Health, Economics, and Politics Intersect](#)

Thursday: [Trump's Inadvertent Great Society: Healthcare Policy Post-Pandemic](#)

On the Horizon

Macroeconomic

Today, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group will conclude their 2020 Spring Meetings. [More information here.](#)

Today at 9:00 a.m., St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank President James Bullard will participate in a panel discussion of the health, monetary and fiscal policy responses to COVID-19 and their implications for the post-virus global financial system in a Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee Webinar.

On Monday at 3:30 p.m., the Woodrow Wilson Center's Asia Program will hold a webcast titled "International Financial Cooperation in a Post-Pandemic World." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Heritage Foundation will hold a webinar titled "COVID-19 and the U.S. Economy: What's Next?" [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a webinar titled "Coronavirus and the Bursting of the Everything Bubble," focusing on the world economy and prospects for an early global economic recovery. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Tobias Adrian, director, Monetary and Capital Markets Department, International Monetary Fund
- Alex Pollock, principal deputy director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury

Agriculture

Today at 10:00 a.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a webcast titled "Are We Heading Toward Another Global Food Price Crisis?" focusing on COVID-19 implications for global food security and agricultural trade. [More information here.](#)

Antitrust and Data Privacy

On Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will

hold a conference call briefing titled "Data Privacy and the COVID Pandemic." To call-in, dial 888-752-3232. Expected participants include:

- Noah Phillips, commissioner, Federal Trade Commission

On Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., the American Bar Association will hold a webinar titled "The Evolving Landscape of Privacy and Cybersecurity." [More information here.](#)

Coronavirus

Today at 10:00 a.m., the Economic Club of Washington, DC will hold interviews via webcast on the regional and national impact of COVID-19, as well as how leaders are managing and implementing changes in the current pandemic environment. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Ted Leonsis, founder, chairman, principal partner and CEO, Monumental Sports and Entertainment
- Governor Larry Hogan (D-MD)

Today at 11:00 a.m., *Politico* will host a webcast briefing on the latest COVID-19 developments. [More information here.](#)

Today at 11:00 a.m., Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) will hold a virtual town hall with municipal and business leaders on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For call-in information, contact Chris_Collibee@blumenthal.senate.gov or Sam_Taylor@blumenthal.senate.gov.

Today at 1:00 p.m., *Politico* will host a webcast briefing on the "the latest global trends and developments on the coronavirus pandemic." [More information here.](#)

Today at 2:00 p.m., the New Democrat Network will hold a webcast on the latest updates and analysis on COVID-19, as part of a weekly Friday series. [More information here.](#)

Today at 2:45 p.m., the USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy will hold a webinar discussion titled "A short- and long-term approach to COVID-19," about research on treatments for the sick as well as preventive measures to stop the spread of infection. [More information here.](#)

Today at 5:00 p.m., the White House Coronavirus Task Force will hold its daily press briefing.

On Monday at 1:00 p.m., the American Bar Association will hold a webinar discussion titled "Coronavirus: Protecting Safety-Net Public Benefits During the Pandemic." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the Hoover Institution will hold a webinar titled "COVID-19 and the Government Response." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., the American Bar Association will hold a webinar titled "Fines, Fees and COVID-19," focusing on how "the most economically vulnerable have suffered the brunt of skyrocketing unemployment." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 4:00 p.m., New America will hold a webcast titled "How Will COVID-19 Alter our Relationship with China?" [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a conference call briefing titled "The North Carolina Governor's Power to Respond to COVID-19."

On Thursday at 12:30 p.m., the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation and the Bayh-Dole 40 Coalition will hold a webcast titled "Bayh-Dole and the Coronavirus Crisis," focusing on "the critical role that partnerships between industry, academia, and federal labs will play in combating COVID-19." [More information here.](#)

Energy and Environment

On Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., the US Energy Association will hold a webinar discussion titled "Update on DOE (Energy Department) Office of Fossil Energy's New Advanced Energy Storage Program." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., the American Council on Renewable Energy will hold a webinar titled "How Will Sustainable Investment Weather COVID-19?" as part of the "State of the Industry" series. [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 11:00 a.m., the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a meeting by teleconference of the Science Advisory Board to receive a briefing from the agency, discuss charge questions, and hear public comments on the EPA's revised document titled "Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses."

Geopolitical

Today at 9:00 a.m., the Center for a New American Security will hold a webinar discussion titled "US Sanctions Policy and COVID-19." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Andrea Gacki, director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury

Today at 10:00 a.m., the Middle East Policy Council will hold a webcast titled "The Middle East in 2020." [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 2:00 p.m., the Cato Institute will hold a webcast titled "Economic Sanctions During a Pandemic." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 8:00 a.m., the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab will hold a webinar discussion titled "Italy, Spain, France: Foreign influence operations amidst the COVID-19 crisis," focusing on disinformation campaigns surrounding COVID-19 in Europe. [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Woodrow Wilson Center's Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies will hold a webcast titled "US-Russian Relations in the Time of COVID-19." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies will hold a webcast titled "The Geo-Political and Geo-Economic Impacts of the Coronavirus on Asia." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 9:00 a.m., the Stimson Center will hold a discussion titled "The Road Ahead: The Post-COVID-19 International Order." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 2:00 p.m., the Hoover Institution will hold a webcast titled "COVID-19: Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Implications." [More information here.](#)

Government Information Technology

On Thursday at 2:00 p.m., Government Executive Media Group will hold a webcast titled "Network Modernization for Government Agencies." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Chad Mitchell, technical solutions architect, Cisco

Healthcare

Today at 8:30 a.m., the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention will hold a meeting of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC) to give updates on CLIAC recommendations, the Genetic Testing Reference Materials Coordination Program (GeT-RM), and the December 2019 CDC's Board of Scientific Counselors, Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases meeting. The two-day meeting will also focus on a report from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) Health Information Technology Advisory Committee, the laboratory response to the COVID-19 coronavirus disease outbreak, and technological advances in digital imaging. [More information here.](#)

Today at 9:30 a.m., the US District Court for the DC Circuit will hear oral arguments in the case *American Hospital Association v. Alex Azar, II* (docket no. 19-5352).

Today at 12:00 p.m., the Alliance for Health Policy, the National Institute of Health Care Management, and the Commonwealth Fund will hold a webinar titled "The Science and Policy of Vaccine Development," part of the COVID-19 Webinar Series. [More information here.](#)

Today at 12:45 p.m., the Commonwealth Fund and the Alliance for Health Policy will hold a teleconference call titled "Coronavirus Science, Technology, and Policy: Vaccine Development." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Bipartisan Policy Center will hold a webinar titled "COVID-19 Exposes Threat to America's Broken Rural Health Care System." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition and Kellogg and Sovereign Consulting will hold a webinar titled "COVID-19 Telehealth Program Emergency Relief Funding." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a webcast titled "Synthetic Biology and National Security: Risks and Opportunities," (Part 2 of 2), the second event in the CSIS series on "Synthetic Biology: The Ongoing Technology Revolution." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the Heritage Foundation will hold a webinar discussion titled "More Government Control in Health Care is Not the Answer," focusing on "how deregulation can provide quick and flexible access to needed care and services." [More information here.](#)

On Friday at 2:00 p.m., Justice in Aging, Consumer Voice, the Center for Medicare Advisory, and the Long-Term Care Community Coalition will hold a webinar titled "Advocating for Nursing Home Residents," focusing on coronavirus issues affecting residents and state-level advocacy underway to influence state action and protect residents. [More information here.](#)

Housing

On Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., the Urban Institute will hold a webinar titled "Housing Supply Challenges and Solutions." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Sam Khater, VP and chief economist for economic and housing research, Freddie Mac
- Mark Fleming, chief economist, First American Financial Corporation
- Brian Asquith, economist, Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
- Laurie Goodman, VP, Housing Finance Policy Center, Urban Institute

Immigration

On Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy will hold a conference call briefing titled "Immigrants and COVID-19: Adding Pandemic to a System Already in Crisis." [More information here.](#)

Marijuana Regulations

On Friday at 1:00 p.m., the American Bar Association will hold a webinar discussion titled "Cannabis and COVID-19: How a Federally Illegal Drug Continues to Exist as an 'Essential Business' at the State Level." [More information here.](#)

Political

On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., the Election Assistance Commission will hold a hearing by teleconference to discuss issues facing state and local election officials regarding elections and the COVID-19 pandemic, including considerations regarding the expansion of voting by mail and absentee voting. [More information here.](#)

Tax

Today at 3:00 p.m., the American Bar Association will hold a webinar discussion titled "COVID-19 and Tax Relief for Individuals and Tax-Exempts Under the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act." [More information here.](#)

Tech-Media-Telecom

On Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation will hold a webinar titled "How to Close the Homework Gap and Boost Online Education." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the Brookings Institution's Center for Technology Innovation will hold a webinar titled "Public Health Surveillance, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Bias, and Risks to Privacy in the Fight Against COVID-19." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the US Chamber of Commerce will hold a webinar titled "COVID-19: The Power of Data and Predictive Analytics in Pandemics." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., the Federal Communications Bar Association will hold a forum via webinar titled "Dealing with Robocalls: The Continued Battle Against Robocalls and

Unfinished Business with the TCPA (Telephone Consumer Protection Act)." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Kris Monteith, chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- Mark Stone, deputy chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, FCC

On Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition and Broadband Breakfast will hold a webinar titled "Broadband and the Coronavirus." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 3:30 p.m., the Bipartisan Policy Center will hold a webinar titled "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Pandemics." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., the Center for Rural Strategies' Rural Assembly will hold a webcast about how recent actions from policymakers have helped, and what needs to improve to adequately address broadband access in rural and native communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:30 a.m., the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will hold its monthly open meeting to consider a report and order and further notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to promote innovation and the use of mid-band spectrum in the 5.925-7.125 GHz band and a NPRM to establish the 5G Fund for Rural America, which would award up to \$9 billion in support over 10 years for the deployment of 5G mobile broadband services in rural areas. The FCC will also consider an order and declaratory ruling in regards to ViaSat's request for US market access to offer broadband services using a proposed constellation of non-geostationary orbit satellites and a report and order and further NPRM that would comprehensively update the FCC's orbital debris rules for all FCC-authorized satellites. [More information here.](#)

Trade

Today at 10:00 a.m., the Meridian International Center will hold a webcast discussion "EU-US trade relations and the long-term effects of COVID-19 on the transatlantic relationship." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Tomas Baert, head of trade and agriculture, Delegation to the European Union to the United States

On Monday at 1:00 p.m., the National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America will hold a webinar titled "USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement): Changes You Need to Know," about issues including customs, origin concerns, Section 301 tariffs and the availability of different forms of relief to keep small businesses afloat during the COVID-19 crisis. [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 5:00 p.m., the American Bar Association will hold a webinar discussion titled "The Impact of COVID-19 on International Trade." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., the American Bar Association will hold a webcast titled "Pandemics and Logistics - Meeting the Supply Chain Challenges of the COVID-19 Crisis," focusing on international supply chains. [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., the Meridian International Center will hold a webcast discussion titled "US-Mexico bilateral relationship in the era of COVID-19, with a focus on USMCA (US-Mexico-Canada Agreement) implementation, migration and response to the global health crisis." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Martha Barcena, Mexican ambassador to the US

On Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., the Hudson Institute will hold a webcast titled "How Will the COVID-19 Pandemic Change Manufacturing and Technology Supply Chains?" [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Peter Anderson, VP, global supply chain, Cummins Inc.

Transportation

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., the Surface Transportation Board will hold a meeting of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee to discuss issues related to rail service, infrastructure planning and development, and effective coordination among suppliers, rail carriers, and users of energy resources.

Afterthoughts

Gray Hair, Don't Care: ICYMI, President Trump's iconic hair turned gray last month. The [theories around why](#) the image-conscious president chose to reveal his true colors are endless. However, his hair looked particularly flaxen yesterday.

The Cookie Monster Approves: For the first time ever, DoubleTree is making its [chocolate chip cookie recipe](#) available to the public.

