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# Are these infrastructure talks going anywhere?

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**SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT:** The airline industry says it is getting serious about sustainable transportation. But passenger and cargo airlines' latest effort to work with the Biden administration on climate change is being met with a generous dash of skepticism from environmentalists who say that it's mostly lip service.

Executive level: Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, National Economic Council Director Brian Deese and National climate adviser Gina McCarthy had a virtual meeting with airline executives Friday to discuss reducing carbon emissions and using biofuels, among other issues. White House officials were "grateful and optimistic to hear airline leaders share information about the industry's ongoing and future efforts to address climate change, and they offered the Administration's support to strengthen and advance the airlines' climate goals," according to a readout provided to reporters.

Industry says: Airlines for America, an industry trade group, released a statement after the meeting pledging to work with the Biden administration on climate goals and highlighting its members' commitment to a 50 percent reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050, compared with 2005 levels. Delta and American also separately announced Friday that they had partnered with Deloitte to reduce emissions through sustainable fuel use.

And yet: It isn't enough, according to at least one environmental group. "Biofuels are false solutions that don't decarbonize air travel," according to Clare Lakewood, climate legal director for the Center for Biological Diversity. "Real action on aircraft emissions requires phasing out dirty, aging aircraft, maximizing efficiencies and funding the rapid development of electrification."

