

NACA

Washington Wire

25 October 2021



NACA Meets FAA Deputy Administrator Brad Mims

On September 28, NACA met with FAA Deputy Administrator Brad Mims to introduce ourselves and our issues. We discussed industry's nascent recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, our legislative and regulatory policy priorities, and workforce diversity initiatives NACA carriers are implementing. We also focused on the importance of ensuring the economic viability of our member carriers through sustainability initiatives and opposition to new taxes, fees and unnecessary regulations, including rules regarding the minimum seat pitch on commercial passenger airlines.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

The House is expected to vote on the Senate-passed \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill later this fall. As noted previously, the Senate bipartisan infrastructure bill includes several provisions important to our industry. House Democratic leaders currently are working on the size and scope of a separate reconciliation bill to secure the necessary support of moderate Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) for additional infrastructure investment.

Unruly Passenger Incidents

On September 21, NACA participated in an airline industry working session held by the FAA on best practices to mitigate unruly passenger incidents. Afterwards, NACA, A4A and RAA outlined a robust suite of best practices in the areas of workforce training, corporate and customer initiatives, and communications to FAA Administrator Steve Dickson. We are working collaboratively with other airline groups, airport associations, labor, and the primary airport law enforcement association to develop a fully detailed document with our recommendations, which we expect to be ready in the next three weeks.

NACA Security Call with TSA

Our security council held a conference call with Policy, Plans, and Engagement at TSA to review NACA priorities including TSA's mandate for 100% cargo screening for explosives, updates on Rapback implementation, concerns about cyber security issues, requests for review of the catering provisions, and developing NACA priorities heading into 2022. We are working on in-person meetings later this year or early next year with TSA and Customs and Border Protection.

Hong Kong Concerns

NACA has been discussing the treatment of crews by Hong Kong authorities with the Department of Transportation (DOT) because some NACA carriers have suffered impacts to their operations. DOT is considering implementation of similar treatment for Hong Kong crews to try to convince Hong Kong civil air authorities to make changes to reduce the impact on U.S. operations.

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NTSB Turbulence request

NTSB sent a letter to airline association presidents requesting information on turbulence injuries by December 7, 2021. NACA forwarded this request to our members; thanks to all members that responded. The airline associations collectively agreed to schedule a call between the associations and NTSB to discuss the intent of the request and how the data should be presented. We will continue to work with NTSB on behalf of our members.

Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST)

NACA hosted FAA and industry representatives at our facility for the bimonthly CAST meeting on October 7. Two major safety issues included TCAS alerts into Denver airport and safety enhancements for cargo and cargo fires. The Denver TCAS alerts have been investigated by CAST since 2010, without an agreed solution. CAST leadership wants a fix to be agreed to before a serious incident occurs. There are several migrations in progress to address cargo fires caused by hazardous materials. These include the new advisory circular on safety risk assessment, fire containment covers for pallets and fire containment containers, all of which are approved and being deployed.

NACA Joint Council meeting

NACA will be hosting an in-person joint council meeting for the NACA Safety, Operations, and Maintenance Councils on October 27. The acting executive director for Aircraft Flight Standards will join us, along with division managers for operation and maintenance. The FAA's Accident and Prevention team also will be there to discuss key issues that NACA members have raised. We anticipate 60 member representatives will participate along with the FAA. Many attendees will meet again at the Infoshare to discuss follow-up actions.

RAA 2021 Leaders Conference

George Novak participated on a panel of industry association CEOs during the Regional Airline Association's (RAA) 2021 Leaders Conference on September 27. Moderated by RAA CEO Faye Malarkey Black, the panel also included Nicholas Calio (Airlines for America), Steve Alterman (Cargo Airline Association), and Kevin Burke (Airports Council International – North America). The discussion focused on the challenges, opportunities, and critical issues around facilitating air travel recovery in the post-pandemic world.

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