

NACA

Washington Wire

15 June 2021



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Infrastructure Talks Continue

White House and congressional transportation leaders continue to discuss what should be included in a bipartisan infrastructure proposal, with Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W. Va.), Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), chair of the Senate aviation subcommittee, playing key roles. Proposals have been exchanged, but it's unclear what policies can draw support from both parties. Preventing any increase in the \$4.50 per flight segment Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap continues to be one of our top infrastructure priorities, putting us at odds with the airport community. The Biden administration's FY22 budget proposal did not include a PFC increase, which Democratic administrations have traditionally supported.

Ligado 5G Wireless Network Reimbursement Legislation

Senator James Inhofe (R-Okla.) plans to introduce legislation later this month directing that the FCC Ligado Order shall not be effective until Ligado has reimbursed both public and private sector GPS users for the costs associated with the interference the Ligado 5G network would cause. In the weeks ahead, NACA will continue to work with industry stakeholders to secure bipartisan support for the Inhofe bill.

NCA Urges Sustainability Initiatives in Infrastructure Package

NACA joined an aviation industry stakeholder coalition asking congressional transportation leaders to help the industry reduce its carbon footprint by including a series of sustainability initiatives in any infrastructure package. The coalition urged action in four key areas: sustainable aviation fuels, low/no emission technologies, research and development, and air traffic management modernization. The coalition will continue its advocacy efforts with authorizing committee staff as the infrastructure talks go on. Read the coalition letter on our website [here](#).

TSA/ICAO Cargo Screening Requirement

This week TSA issued amendments for on-demand/charter carriers and unscreenable commodities to mitigate the operational impacts of ICAO's 100% cargo screening mandate. Our carriers have identified several deficiencies in the text of the charter amendments; we will work with TSA over the next couple weeks to resolve them. We have alerted the House Homeland Security Committee of the disruptions within TSA on these issues which are occurring just ahead of the July 1 implementation of the screening mandate. The chairman of the committee urge TSA to provide more time for charter carriers to resolve these outstanding issues.

Outdoor Mask Requirement

CDC issued new guidance permitting employees and the public to go without masks in outdoor areas – a welcome development in summer heat. Unvaccinated persons still are strongly encouraged to wear masks in outdoor areas. We are expecting further guidance in the coming weeks providing airlines and airports flexibility to decide whether masks are needed for vaccinated employees in non-public areas.

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DHS/TSA Summer Kick-Off

NACA President and CEO George Novak participated in a DHS/TSA press event at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport highlighting the busy summer travel season. Secretary Mayorkas and TSA Acting Administrator Darby LaJoye headlined the event and outlined what the traveling public can expect as they return to the skies. We appreciated the opportunity to be a part of this event and underline for travelers the importance of patience, preparation and treating air crews and airport staff with the respect they've earned.

FAA Technical Matters

The deadline for *Aircraft Weight and Balance Control Advisory Circular 120-27F* is June 12, 2021, requiring each airline to submit a plan to their local Certificate Management Office authorizing new passenger weights based on guidelines in the circular. NACA has been discussing issues regarding the deadline with the FAA for the past six months. Although the extension we requested could not be given, the FAA developed a process to achieve the goal of the circular and establish new weights for passengers. This FAA-approved plan allows airlines to continue operations after June 12 without the new weights in place.

NACA council meetings will all occur virtually in June, with high levels of participation from members and FAA guests expected. The Operations Council will meet June 23, to discuss the Weight and Balance circular referenced above, Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST) updates, and a new process under the Safety Management System (SMS), allowing airlines to use only SMS as one reporting system. The Maintenance Council will meet June 24, with a cargo focus team update, a question-and-answer session with the FAA manager of the maintenance division and a discussion on some FAA handbook changes impacting maintenance. The Safety Council will meet June 30, to cover CAST, along with safety enhancements and CAST portal usage, more detail on FAA's transition to their SMS process and other topics.

NACA has resumed quarterly meetings with the *Director, Flight Standards Office, (AFS-1)* and have set the agenda for the second quarter meeting on a date to be determined. Topics include the seat pitch and width process from the Emergency Evacuation Standards Advisory and Rulemaking Committee being handled by FAA's Civil Aerospace Medical Institute; any update on potential changes in FAA leadership, or the structure of the Aviation Safety Office, in light of the impending retirement of Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety Ali Bahrami; and the extension until 2024 of the exemption for ADS-B out (Exemption No. 12555), submitted to the FAA in early June, along with several others.

The *Pilot Record Data Base rule* was issued May 26 with a 60-day window to implement. It replaces the previous requirement of Pilot Records Improvement Act, to transition to an electronic process for validating the employment history of new hire pilots. NACA participated on the Advisory and Rulemaking Committee that made the recommendations for this rule.

Summer Board of Directors Meeting

NACA has tentatively scheduled an in-person Board of Directors meeting for Wednesday, July 21, at NACA headquarters in Arlington, Va. We are planning to host FAA Administrator Steve Dickson and Acting TSA Administrator Darby LaJoye as guest speakers, along with senior Hill staffers. Additional information on logistical details and a Tuesday night reception and meal will be coming in the next few weeks.

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