

NACA

Washington Wire

23 September 2021



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NACA Meets DOT Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg

NACA met with Deputy Secretary of Transportation Polly Trottenberg on August 26, to provide background on our organization and our industry's nascent recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We discussed our legislative and regulatory policy priorities, focusing on sustainability initiatives and the importance of holding the line on new taxes, fees and non-safety-related regulations to ensure the economic viability of our member carriers. On September 28, we're planning a similar meeting with FAA Deputy Administrator Brad Mims.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel Legislation, White House Initiatives

On August 27, NACA joined other aviation associations, manufacturers, airlines, fuel producers and environmental groups urging Congress to include a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) tax credit in the infrastructure bill and briefed authorizer and appropriations committee staff on the importance of SAF to reducing commercial aviation's carbon footprint. The Senate-passed \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill includes a \$1.50-2.00/gallon blender's tax credit that requires at least a 50% reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions and offers increased incentives for greater reductions. The bill also includes \$25 billion in aviation initiatives. The Biden Administration supports the SAF tax credit and announced a multi-billion dollar, whole-of-government effort to boost SAF projects, including funding increases for federal research and development programs.

Contact Tracing

The CDC interim order on contact tracing is moving slowly through the inter-agency clearance process. There likely will be an option for carriers to hold passenger information and only transmit to CDC if they get a request, which should cut down on technological challenges for many carriers. Carriers who want to transmit the live data should be able to continue doing so under the administration's maximum flexibility pledge.

ICAO Cargo Screening

TSA implemented the 100% cargo screening requirement for explosives over two months ago; we continue to work with TSA on revisions to the charter/on-demand and impracticable to screen amendments. TSA has issued two revisions to the amendments, though issues remain for some NACA cargo carriers. We hope to have a final resolution in the next couple of months.

Afghanistan Evacuation

Two of NACA's member carriers were formally activated for DOD's Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) effort to evacuate American and Afghan civilians from Afghanistan at the end of August. Other NACA carriers conducted flights to assist in relocating these civilians to the United States. We expect to participate in future reviews of the CRAF program and the carriers who proved their value in driving this mission's success.

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Disruptive Passengers

TSA recently announced a doubling of penalties for travelers who refuse to wear a mask or violate federal mask mandates at airports or onboard aircraft. Industry is also working on a best practices document to help bring this problem under control. The FAA will hold a carrier call to discuss our ideas, and the House Aviation Subcommittee will hold a hearing soon to review progress on this issue.

FAA Technical Matters

The FAA has released the new Advisory Circular (AC) 120-121 SMS Involving Items in Aircraft Cargo Compartments for passenger and all cargo airlines. NACA had numerous calls with our member airlines and the Cargo Airline Association to address issues; the new AC included almost all of NACA's recommended changes. The FAA also updated the website hosted by the FAA technical center and committed to continually update the site as new hazards present themselves.

NACA will hold an in-person meeting for the Safety, Operations and Maintenance Councils on October 27. These all-council meetings are very productive because many issues concern more than one group. Since Rick Domingo is retiring at the end of September, we are working to invite the new acting executive director of AFS-1 to the meeting.

Infoshare will be held in-person from November 2-4, 2021, in Pittsburgh. NACA is setting the agenda for a cargo break out session. *A virtual meeting was discussed, but because many presenters would be more open in person and because the information shared is very sensitive, the FAA decided security issues would be too great.*

The FAA Cargo Focus Team (CFT) has been sunset. This is of great concern to NACA since the CFT was critical for addressing emerging cargo issues. NACA has engaged FAA leadership to ensure that the knowledge the CFT developed is not lost. We stressed that many CMOs still do not have the requisite cargo expertise. The FAA committed to work with NACA on any new issues.

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