

# NACA

## Washington Wire

26 April 2022



### **TSA Suspends Enforcement of Federal Mask Mandate**

Following a U.S. District Court ruling that the CDC's federal mask mandate for all transportation modes exceeded its authority, the White House and TSA announced on April 18, that the mandate would no longer be enforced. On April 20, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that it would appeal the ruling in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, but not request a stay of the court ruling while the appeal is pending, which will take several months. CDC is seeking authority to reimpose the mask mandate for public transportation if future circumstances warrant.

### **ATO Summit on Florida Air Traffic Management Challenges**

NACA carriers will participate in an operational summit hosted by the FAA Air Traffic Organization in Melbourne, Fla., on May 3-4, to discuss the causes of, and potential solutions to, recent air traffic delays and cancellations in Florida. We asked ATO to discuss topics such as:

- Air traffic controller staffing levels at Jacksonville (FL) Air Route Traffic Control Center, the Central Florida Terminal Radar Approach Control Facility, and Orlando Tower
- Use of military airspace to ease air traffic congestion
- Management of corporate jet traffic
- Ways to mitigate the impact of commercial space launches on commercial traffic

### **TSA Likely to Enshrine RAMP Soon**

TSA is likely to solicit comments by late summer or early fall on a change compelling airports to recognize a RAMP designation for some employees, notably flight mechanics. This is expected move has been some years in the making, as TSA attempts to reduce the population of employees that hold a CREW designation. NACA will review the proposal and coordinate with your security staffs before commenting.

### **FAA Makes Zero Tolerance Permanent**

The FAA is making permanent its Zero Tolerance of unruly passenger incidents policy. NACA requested this change early in the pandemic and repeatedly over the course of the last two years. The FAA formally delinked the policy from the federal mask mandate – which is in abeyance while DOJ appeals the District Court decision – thus making zero tolerance permanent.

### **NACA To Join TSA for Summer Kick Off Press Event**

NACA President and CEO George Novak will join TSA Administrator David Pekoske and CEOs from other aviation trade associations at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) on May 10, to formally kick off the summer travel season. This event will highlight various considerations the traveling public should keep in mind as they embark on an extremely busy summer travel season.

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## FAA Technical Matters

The *Operation and Safety Councils* met during the first week of April, with robust, in-person member and government attendance covering a wide array of topics. Representatives from AIR-720 – a new branch of FAA certification handling safety, STCs and AD notes – attended both meetings and will also speak with our Maintenance Council. *Evacuation and Seat Pitch/Width reports* were released a few weeks ago and sent to all NACA councils. FAA considered 27 recommendations on Evacuation. FAA (CAMI) determined that seat pitch of 28 inches or greater did not impact evacuation and there were no safety concerns.

*Infoshare*, with more than 1200 aviation professionals registered, will be held April 26-28 in St. Louis. The 119-leadership meeting is Monday, April 25, before Infoshare; most NACA members will have representation at the leadership session. NACA is also hosting a NACA box lunch for NACA members attending the Info-share on Wednesday, April 27. A draft *Advisory Circular (AC) on Minimum Equipment List (MEL), Configuration Deviation List (CDL) and Necessary Equipment Furnishings (NEF)* was issued and sent to our members for comment. There was also a notice of data collection on seat width, concerning child restraint seats used by passengers, sent to NACA members for comment. This notice would require that the data be presented on the airline's website.

## June Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting for the NACA Board of Directors has been tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, June 15** at NACA's Arlington, VA offices. A reception/dinner will be scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, June 14. The draft agenda, list of speakers and other information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

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