

NACA

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Airline Representatives meet with Transportation Secretary Buttigieg

On June 16, NACA President and CEO George Novak, along with the leaders of A4A and RAA, and senior U.S. passenger airline representatives, participated in a remote meeting with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to discuss the challenges of the upcoming summer travel season. We provided an update on steps NACA carriers are taking to address potential delays, including increased communications and coordination with DOT, TSA and FAA. The Secretary's office has offered to schedule a further meeting with senior representatives of NACA and RAA passenger carriers this summer to focus on ULCC and regional carrier issues.

NACA Discusses Policy Priorities with Congressional Transportation Leadership

Last week, NACA representatives met with Senate Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member Ted Cruz (R-Texas), House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-Mo.), House Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member Garret Graves (R-La.), to discuss our primary FAA reauthorization priorities, including the pilot shortage, holding the line on aviation taxes and fees, and ensuring that the commercial pilot flight and duty time rule is not expanded to cover cargo pilots. These members would lead their respective committees and draft the FAA Reauthorization bill should Republicans take control of the House and Senate following the November elections.

5G Deployment Update

On Friday, June 17, the FAA announced an agreement with AT&T and Verizon to extend their voluntary limits on the deployment of 5G near airports until July 2023. FAA Acting Administrator Billy Nolen notified NACA, A4A and RAA that air carriers should plan to install 5G filters or new altimeters with 5G filters by July 2023. The 5G aviation industry coalition will express concern to White House National Economic Council staff that the new timeline is not feasible given the lack of availability of the necessary equipment.

FAA Administrator Nomination Update

The White House personnel office continues to vet candidates for the FAA Administrator opening. Denver International Airport President and CEO Phil Washington and Airbus Americas Vice President for Research and Technology Amanda Simpson are reportedly in the mix. Our understanding is that the short list now also includes acting FAA Administrator Billy Nolen, former DOT General Counsel Katie Thomson, and former member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee John Boccieri (D-Ohio).

NACA Cyber Security Council holds first meeting

On June 22, NACA hosted the first meeting of its new Cyber Security Council, featuring robust participation from the FBI Cyber Division as well as an in-depth presentation by the FBI's Crisis Negotiation Unit on dealing with Ransomware attacks. The council also was briefed by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on their role and their available products to protect the private sector. The group elected Tim Shaw from Kalitta Air as Chairman and Terri White from Northern Air Cargo as Vice Chair. The next formal meeting will likely be in the fall.

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ASAC Working on Just Culture

The Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC) is currently reviewing a formal draft of the Just Culture recommendation to TSA Administrator Pekoske. We expect minor changes to the draft recommendation, which the full ASAC should take up during its next meeting in September.

7th Freedom Passenger Rights – Cuba

NACA talks with ALPA are underway to explore the potential for proposing to cut back 7th freedom passenger operations by foreign carriers in the Cuban market. Since Cuba does not have an Open Skies agreement with the United States, there may be more room to find a solution with the Biden Administration.

TSA Holds ADIAC Industry Day

NACA recently attended the classified industry day briefing from TSA's Aviation Domain Intelligence Integration and Analysis Cell (ADIAC). The briefing is open to any airline that is a member of the ADIAC and we are working with carriers to become members so they can benefit from this intelligence sharing organization.

TSA Action Plan Review

In July, TSA will be hosting the next round of action plan reviews with industry. NACA will facilitate the participation of member carriers who are interested in this process, which has been suspended since the start of COVID.

FAA Technical Matters

The *Pilot Record Database (PRD)* regulation is now in full effect. Though the FAA IT system is not fully functional, carriers are meeting the minimums. We will be addressing the many open questions about this regulation directly with FAA at our next meeting. NACA, in consultation with the chairs and vice chairs of the *Operations and Maintenance Councils*, has set the agenda for the next Council meetings on August 2-3. Invitations have been sent out – we encourage members to attend in person. Once the draft agenda is distributed, any member can add a specific topic to the agenda. The *Joint Implementation Data Analysis Team (JIMDAT)* met in Denver to review the report the working group submitted to JIMDAT in 2018, listing differences in passenger operation versus cargo operations. The report made no recommendations, leaving it to the JIMDAT to take any action. One of the issues was the Part 117 rule, but it appears the entire JIMDAT felt that it was not actionable. FAA reorganized AFS-200, which oversees operations. Tom Malone moved over to the Safety Assurance System (SAS) and Lee Abbott is now the new manager of AFS-200. NACA knows Lee and has received prompt responses to our initial requests, which bodes well for the future relationship.

NACA Summer Board of Directors meeting

The NACA Board of Directors had another outstanding turnout at its Summer Meeting at NACA headquarters in Arlington, Va., with over 50 people attending the reception/dinner on June 14 and 41 attending the board meeting on June 15. Guest speakers included TSA Administrator David Pekoske, and FAA Air Traffic Organization (ATO) representatives Acting Chief Operating Officer Tim Arel and Vice President for System Operations Services Ginny Boyle. Former FAA Administrator and former ALPA President Randy Babbitt co-moderated a discussion on the pilot shortage with former FAA Chief Counsel Kenneth Quinn. We will be circulating draft dates for the September meeting shortly and look forward to continued strong participation.