

NACA

Washington Wire

24 May 2023



We fly for you®

FAA Reauthorization Update

NACA continues to meet with key Members of Congress and committee staff to discuss FAA reauthorization. Our priorities include addressing the pilot shortage; holding the line on non-safety-related regulations and aviation taxes and fees; funding NextGen and staffing air traffic controller positions, particularly in Florida; and reaffirming that FAA is the sole regulator of aviation safety. The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee is expected to markup FAA reauthorization legislation in June; the Senate Commerce Committee will follow suit in either June or July,

Fundraiser for Senator Ted Cruz on June 7

NACA is holding a fundraiser/cocktail reception for Senate Commerce Committee Ranking Member Ted Cruz (R-Texas), on Wednesday, June 7 at 6:30pm in Washington, D.C. (location TBD). The event is the same evening as our board dinner at NACA headquarters. Senator Cruz' influence will help muster Republican support against amendments on consumer issues and on extending flight and duty time limits to cargo pilots, so we encourage NACA members to contribute to the event.

FAA Administrator Nominee Update

The White House is vetting potential nominees to become the next FAA administrator. Leading candidates include former FAA Deputy Administrator Mike Whitaker; current FAA chief of staff and former DOT General Counsel Katie Thomson; and current NTSB Chair and former House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staffer Jennifer Homendy.

NACA Security Council

NACA's Security Council meeting on May 10 featured excellent participation by government representatives from the State Department's Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), FBI, TSA Policy Plans and Engagement, and DHS, along with a terrific presentation from associate member Medaire. TSA announced they will begin engagements with industry in July to re-write aspects of the Aircraft Operator Standard Security Program (AOSSP). Our carriers will identify issues and submit possible solutions to TSA in the lead up to this process.

TSA Summer Press Conference

TSA held its pre-summer travel season press conference at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) on Monday, May 22. TSA Administrator David Pekoske was joined by representatives from the major airline trade associations, including NACA's Paul Doell. Attendees presented remarks and answered questions from the press.

(next page)

ASAC Unruly Passenger Working Group

The Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC) met in early May to discuss a variety of topics including the continuing problem of unruly passengers. The ASAC is considering the establishment of a special working group or task force to develop recommendations to the TSA Administrator. NACA will participate in this group, as unruly passengers continue to impact our ULCC carriers daily.

Pilot Fatigue Working Group

The Pilot Fatigue Working Group continues to be officially on hold until the Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST) discusses the structure and charter of the group and takes a formal vote at the next CAST meeting on June 1, 2023. The main issue is a dispute over whether the group should have a co-chair or a tri-chair structure to include a labor representative among the chairs.

NACA Maintenance Council Meeting

NACA's Maintenance Council met at the end of April to discuss a variety of issues with FAA representatives, including potential problems created by changes to the Required Inspection Items policy and the lack of parts support for altimeter modifications required by 5G implementation. NACA members were told there will be no deadline extensions granted for the 5G altimeter modifications. NACA is looking at forming a subgroup to discuss operations of older aircraft that may have issues flying CAT 1 approaches.

JIMDAT Co-chair Changes

The FAA government co-chair of the Joint Implementation Measurement Data Analysis Team has been removed and a new co-chair will attend the next meeting at NACA offices on May 30-31. In addition, the Industry co-chair will be retiring October 1, 2023, and JIMDAT is looking for a new industry representative. The airline trade associations have reached out to their members to identify a candidate for the JIMDAT to approve.

NACA Board Meeting June 8

The next NACA Board of Directors meeting will take place Thursday, June 8, at NACA Headquarters. Executive Director for the FAA Office of Accident Investigation and Prevention Kimberly Pyle has been confirmed; further details will be sent as we finalize the agenda and additional speakers. The meeting will begin with a reception and dinner on Wednesday, June 7, from 6:00-9:00 PM. The agenda and further information will be sent out in the next week. Members are encouraged to please RSVP to NACA so that an accurate headcount can be completed.