

**2022 Update to *FAA Historical Chronology: Civil Aviation
and the Federal Government, 1926-1996* (Washington, DC:
Federal Aviation Administration, 1998)
Compiled by Theresa L. Kraus, FAA historian**

January 13, 2022: FAA awarded \$5 million in Aviation Maintenance Technical Workers Workforce Development Grants to organizations that will teach technical skills and prepare participants to pursue aviation maintenance careers. (See January 19, 2021.) Grant recipients included:

- Macon County School District, Tuskegee, AL
- Pima County Community College District, Tucson, AZ
- North Orange County Community College District, Anaheim, CA
- San Bernardino Community College District, San Bernardino, CA
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Washington, DC
- DLK Aviation Inc., Kennesaw, GA
- Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs, IA
- Southern University at Shreveport, Shreveport, LA
- Dutchess Community College, Fairview, NY
- Guilford County School System, High Point, NC
- Columbus State Community College, Columbus, OH
- Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
- Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport, PA
- South Carolina Department of Education, Charleston, SC
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Madison, WI

January 13, 2022: FAA awarded \$5 million in Aircraft Pilots Aviation Workforce Development Grants to accredited higher-education institutions, high schools, state and local governments, and flight schools. Grantees can use the funding to create and deliver curriculum designed to prepare students to become aircraft pilots, aerospace engineers, or unmanned aircraft systems operators. (See January 19, 2021.) Grant recipients included:

- Florida State College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL
- Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City, MI
- Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, NC
- University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
- County of Scottsbluff School District #16, Gering, NE
- Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, Flushing, NY
- Aerotrek Flight Academy, LLC, Wadsworth, OH
- Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, Oklahoma City, OK
- Harrisburg University of Science & Technology, Harrisburg, PA

- Spartanburg County School District #5 (James. F. Byrnes High School), Duncan, SC
- South Carolina Department of Education, Columbia, SC
- Florence School District One, Florence, SC
- Crowley Independent School District #912, Crowley, TX
- Utah State University, Logan, UT
- Randolph Macon Academy, Front Royal, VA
- Old Dominion University Research Foundation/Virginia Space Grant Consortium, Norfolk, VA

Grantees could use the funds to establish new educational programs; provide scholarships or apprenticeships for individuals pursuing employment in the aviation maintenance industry; conduct outreach about careers in the aviation maintenance industry to primary, secondary and post-secondary school students; and support educational opportunities related to aviation maintenance in economically disadvantaged areas.

January 24, 2022: DOT announced a final rule that enabled it to speed up the rulemaking process and protect consumers by providing greater flexibility to appoint appropriate hearing officers, eliminate the requirement for the officer to issue a detailed report, and provide more options for the officer on when and how testimony would be presented at the hearing. It also clarified that hearings would only be granted if they were in the public interest.

January 26, 2022: FAA and the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority finalized an agreement that allowed the two countries to share each other's evaluation and acceptance of flight simulators. (See March 25, 2021.)

February 23, 2022: FAA announced a new initiative that outlined how the U.S. could safely eliminate the use of leaded aviation fuel by the end of 2030. The effort was based on four pillars of action that involved FAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, fuel suppliers, and distributors, airports, engine and aircraft manufacturers, research institutions, associations, environmental experts, communities and other key stakeholders. (See December 9, 2021; April 22, 2022.) The pillars included:

- Develop Unleaded Fuels Infrastructure and Assess Commercial Viability
- Support Research & Development and Technology Innovations
- Continue to Evaluate and Authorize Safe Unleaded Fuels
- Establish Any Necessary Policies

March 1, 2022: FAA began installing eight new Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS) across Alaska that would provide continuous, real-time and accurate weather information to remote areas of the state. The eight new stations were located in Akiachak, Coldfoot, Crooked Creek, Kotlik, Nulato, Perryville, Tok Junction, and Tununak. Weather

information from these locations provided pilots a preview of what to expect when arriving, and allowed IFR pilots to conduct instrument approaches to the lowest possible minimums, increasing the safety and predictability of operations. (See October 14, 2021.)

March 2, 2022: FAA issued orders blocking Russian aircraft and airlines from entering and using all domestic U.S. airspace as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The notice and regulatory orders suspended operations of all aircraft owned, certified, operated, registered, chartered, leased, or controlled by, for, or for the benefit of, a person who was a citizen of Russia. It included passenger and cargo flights, and scheduled and charter flights, effectively closing U.S. air space to all Russian commercial air carriers and other Russian civil aircraft. (January 8, 2020.)

March 23, 2022: A jury in federal district court in Fort Worth, Texas, acquitted former Boeing 737 MAX Chief Technical Pilot Mark Forkner on felony charges of deceiving the FAA about a key flight-control system involving 737 Max jets. The jury cleared him of criminal charges of four counts of wire fraud brought by the U.S. Justice Department. (See October 14, 2021.)

March 31, 2022: Steve Dickson resigned as FAA Administrator. Billy Nolen, the Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, became acting administrator. (See August 12, 2019; July 6, 2022.)

April 5, 2022: FAA dedicated the newly commissioned air traffic control tower at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. The 370-foot-tall, 850-square-foot tower cab provides air traffic controllers a clear view of the airfield. A 42,000-square-foot building houses an expanded terminal radar approach control (TRACON) that handles flights departing and arriving into the Charlotte airspace. The tower is the second-tallest tower in the nation after the 398-foot-tall tower at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The existing tower was commissioned in 1979. (See June 6, 2016.)

April 15, 2022: FAA announced \$4.4 million in drone research, education, and training grants to seven universities. Research focused on three areas: electromagnetic compatibility, detect and avoid classifications, and cybersecurity oversight. The grant awardees included: University of North Dakota; University of Kansas; Drexel University; The Ohio State University; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Mississippi State University; and Oregon State University.

April 18, 2022: A federal judge in Florida declared U.S. the government's mask mandate for air travel unlawful. (See September 10, 2021.)

April 20, 2022: FAA announced it planned to make its zero tolerance policy against unruly passengers permanent. FAA had implemented the policy on January 13, 2021, after seeing a disturbing increase in unruly passenger incidents. (See December 21, 2021.)

April 20, 2022: FAA announced it had added a new feature to MedXPress that allowed pilots to track the status of their medical certificates online throughout the application and review process.

April 21, 2022: FAA downgraded the air safety rating for Russia, restricting any expansion of service or partnerships since Russia's Federal Agency for Air Transport did not comply with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) safety standards. Under the International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program, the FAA assesses the civil aviation authorities of all countries with air carriers that have applied to fly to the United States, currently conduct operations to the United States or participate in code-sharing arrangements with U.S. partner airlines. Air carriers from countries with Category 2 ratings are not allowed to initiate new service to the United States, are restricted to current levels of existing service to the United States, and are not permitted to carry the code of U.S. carriers on any flights. At the time of the assessment, no airlines operate regularly scheduled flights between Russia and the United States. (See May 8, 2020.)

April 22, 2022: FAA and U.S. airports launched an Airport Climate Challenge to help achieve a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. FAA offered several funding programs to meet the goal, including grants for low- or zero-emissions vehicles, renewable energy production, energy assessments and other efforts. Airports could receive funding through the Voluntary Airport Low Emissions Program, Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Program, and the Airport Sustainability Planning Program. The FAA also announced plans to develop a tool for airports to voluntarily estimate, track, and report on the emissions reduction achieved when implementing projects supported by the airport programs. (See February 23, 2022; June 15, 2022.)

May 3, 2022: Norman Mineta died. He served as Secretary of Transportation from January 25, 2001-July 7, 2006, the longest-serving Secretary in the department's history.

May 13, 2022: FAA issued a license to the Huntsville-Madison Airport Authority in Alabama to operate the Huntsville International Airport (HSV) as a commercial space reentry site. The license allowed the airport to offer its site for Sierra Space Dream Chaser vehicles returning to Earth from future NASA resupply missions to the International Space Station. The Reentry Site Operator License is valid for five years. The Huntsville site is the 14th FAA-licensed commercial spaceport. (See December 20, 2021.)

May 26, 2022: FAA issued a rule to improve and modernize training requirements for aviation maintenance technician schools (AMTS). The previous AMTS requirements were almost 50 years-old, which limited schools from aligning curriculums with modern industry standards.

June 2, 2022: FAA sought public comments for its Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Conformity Determination of the Chicago O'Hare International Airport proposed terminal area plan and changes to air traffic procedures. The assessment would determine whether proposed projects could decrease environmental effects.

June 7, 2022: FAA awarded \$518 million to build safer and more accessible airports across the country. The grants helped fund various projects like maintaining airfields, buying equipment, and fixing runways.

June 8, 2022: FAA launched the "Be ATC" campaign to recruit the next generation of diverse air traffic controllers. The application window was from June 24-27. (See July 30, 2021.)

June 8, 2022: FAA updated guidelines on how to develop and establish sound insulation programs near airports to mitigate sound exposure. The updated "Guidelines for Sound Insulation of Structure Exposed to Aircraft Noise" provided standards, procedures, and processes for creating and facilitating a sound insulation program.

June 10, 2022: U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced the end of the requirement for a pre-departure COVID-19 test for U.S.-bound air travelers.

June 13, 2022: FAA required SpaceX to take more than 75 actions to mitigate environmental impacts before the next in Boca Chica, Texas. Actions included addressing impacts on wildlife and resources protected by the National Historic Preservation Act and real-time monitoring of the closure of State Highway 4. SpaceX also had to meet all the requirements for the FAA Launch Operator License, as well as FAA risk, safety, and financial responsibility requirements. (September 15, 2021.)

June 15, 2022: FAA proposed a rule, *Airplane Fuel Efficiency Certification*, to require more fuel efficiency for subsonic jet aircraft, large turboprop, and propeller aircraft or for new aircraft manufactured after January 1, 2028. The proposed rule was part of the U.S. Aviation Climate Action Plan which hoped to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from U.S. aviation by 2050. The proposal also aligned with the ICAO CO2 emission standards and with EPA regulations. (See April 22, 2022.)

June 17, 2022: FAA released a statement on 5G regarding an update for C-band. The aviation and wireless industries had been collaborating to protect air travel from 5g C-band interference while allowing providers to improve service around airports. The FAA issued a phased approach to limit interference, ordering regional aircraft operators with susceptible radio altimeters to retrofit them with radio frequency filters before the end of the year. Filters for mainline commercial fleets would be available by July 2023. (See December 7, 2021.)

July 1, 2022: FAA awarded \$371 million in AIP funds for safety, airfield, and improvement projects at 169 airports in 40 states.

July 5, 2022: DOT reassigned with conditions 16 peak-hour runway timings from Southwest Airlines to Spirit Airlines at Newark-Liberty International Airport. Southwest Airlines had discounted service from the airport.

July 6, 2022: President Joe Biden nominated Phillip Washington as the next FAA administrator. A Chicago native, Washington spent 25 years in the U.S. Army, retiring in 2000 with the rank of command sergeant major. He joined Denver's Regional Transportation District and later became its CEO. In 2015, he left to head the Los Angeles County's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, where he stayed until becoming the CEO of Denver International Airport in 2021. (See March 31, 2022.)

July 7, 2022: FAA announced it would award almost \$1 billion in grants from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to 85 airports to improve terminals, promote competition, expand accessibility for individuals with disabilities, increase energy efficiency, and build air traffic control towers.

July 8, 2022: DOT published an Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights and issued a notice urging airlines to guarantee that children age 13 and younger would be seated next to their accompanying adults. DOT crafted the bill of rights after receiving input from the Air Carrier Access Act Advisory Committee.

July 13, 2022: DOT approved American Airlines flight schedules between Miami and Cuba. The flights began in November 2022. The flights were the first approved flights since a May announcement regarding steps to strengthen US and Cuban ties. (See August 13, 2020.)

July 21, 2022: DOT issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to update the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Airport Concession program regulations. Both programs were created to prevent discrimination and alleviate the effects of previous discrimination toward small businesses owned and operated by disadvantaged individuals. The proposal included:

- Increasing the personal net worth (PNW) limit from \$1.32 million to \$1.6 million and excluding retirement assets from PNW calculations
- Formally adopting COVID-19 flexibilities such as virtual on-site visits
- Empowering certified firms to market themselves to prime contractors via expanded State directories
- Helping more small businesses participate in FAA-assisted airport projects by requiring airports to remove obstacles and adopt more race-neutral strategies

- Strengthening prompt payment monitoring and oversight requirements to help ensure that DBEs in all subcontracting tiers are promptly paid

July 27, 2022: FAA proposed mandating a second barrier to flight decks on select commercial aircraft to protect flight decks from unwanted intrusion when the flight deck door was opened.

August 3, 2022: DOT awarded \$16.9 million in grants from the Small Community Air Service Development Program to help 25 communities in 20 states improve local air service needs. The grants gave financial incentives to study, conduct marketing programs, and carry out studies on expansion. The money allowed communities to create new or first air services, provide support, or re-establish old services.

August 3, 2022: DOT announced a proposed rule to enhance protections for customers seeking refunds on airline tickets. The proposal was in response to the increased complaints from consumers who were refused refunds because they could not travel due to Covid issues or airlines canceling or changing flights. If passed, the rule would clearly define “significant change and cancellation” and codify failure to refund passengers as an unfair practice. Additionally, the rule would require airlines and agents to provide non-expiring vouchers or flight credits when passengers could not fly due to Covid issues.

August 10, 2022: American Airlines formally accepted a 787-8 from Boeing’s Charleston, South Carolina, production site, officially marking the resumption of deliveries of the aircraft following a 14-month suspension because of production-quality issues. The resumption of deliveries followed FAA’s July 29 approval of Boeing’s plan to correct the issues and inspect the 118 undelivered aircraft. The plan, which addressed inspection and repair procedures, provided airframe-specific compliance processes that Boeing would use to show each aircraft conformed to specifications.

August 18, 2022: FAA awarded \$2.7 million for drone research to support growing research on their effectiveness in assisting disaster preparedness and emergencies. Awardees included: the University of Vermont, the University of Alabama Huntsville, New Mexico State University, North Carolina State University, and Kansas State University. The funding was part of the Alliance for Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE).

September 1, 2022: DOT launched a new [online dashboard](#) to help air travelers know their rights when they experience airline flight disruptions. The dashboard provided air travelers a one-stop location to obtain information on the services and amenities they should receive from airlines if they experienced delays or cancellations caused by something within the airline’s control like a mechanical or staffing issue. The dashboard also provided a clear comparison of amenities the

airlines have committed to provide. The department said it would hold airlines accountable if they failed to provide the promised services.

September 7, 2022: FAA issued a new policy requiring Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) holders to protect employees authorized to act on behalf of the agency from feeling pressure to ignore possible safety risks and ensure they have direct lines of communication with the agency. The policy codified a 2020 law that called for more protections of ODA employees delegated to work on behalf of the FAA. The new requirements included: documented procedures for monitoring interference among UMs, annual anonymous surveys soliciting feedback on whether workers have experienced or witnessed pressure, clearly established protocols for addressing reports of interference, and clear lines of communication with FAA Organization Management Teams.

September 7, 2022: FAA issued type certificate to Matternet Inc.'s Model M2, a four-rotor copter capable of carrying a 4-pound (1.8-kilogram) package, the first flying drone built specifically for shipping packages.

September 8, 2022: FAA announced it planned to establish the agency's largest solar project to date at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City. The panels are expected to produce 2,600 megawatt hours annually, the equivalent needed to power 260 average homes. The project will reduce the Center's electric bill by an estimated \$170,000 - \$200,000 annually.

September 9, 2022: The FAA and NASA signed a new memorandum of agreement outlining their roles investigating commercial space accidents. Under the agreement, the NTSB will be the lead agency for investigating mishaps that involve a fatality or serious injury as well as those that involve damage to property outside the launch site from debris that could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious injury. The FAA will lead all other commercial spaceflight investigations.

September 14, 2022: Nextgov.com highlighted FAA's new interactive online dashboard designed to make the agency's data more accessible and understandable to the general public. The interactive Fact Book includes, in part, data and figures on air traffic, safety, airspace modernization and unmanned aircraft systems.

September 22, 2022: The Securities and Exchange Commission said that Boeing Co. will pay \$200 million to settle charges the company and its former CEO misled investors about the safety of its 737 Max after two of the airliners crashed, killing 346 people. It charged the aircraft maker and former CEO Dennis Muilenburg with making significant misleading public statements about the plane and an automated flight-control system that was implicated in the crashes in Indonesia

and Ethiopia. Neither Boeing nor Muilenburg admitted wrongdoing, but they offered to settle and pay penalties, including \$1 million to be paid by Muilenburg.

September 26, 2022: President Biden announced a proposal to require airlines and ticket sales websites to disclose additional fees up front, aiming to add a dose of transparency to the process of booking travel. The disclosures would cover any fees for passengers to sit with their children, change or cancel a flight, and bring checked or carry-on bags, according to the Department of Transportation. The fees would be required to be displayed the first time a ticket price is shown.

September 26, 2022: FAA announced it would work with countries when it sees early indications that civil aviation authorities are not meeting safety standards. Previously, the agency would offer assistance only after the country had been downgraded. The agency will now work with a country to address developing safety risks before downgrading it. The FAA said if it notifies a country of a safety concern it will limit direct service and code sharing by foreign operators to current levels as it reviews whether to issue a downgrade.

September 26, 2022: FAA released new design guidelines for vertiports – infrastructure that will support Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) aircraft. The design standards will serve as the initial step to provide key information for airport owners, operators and infrastructure developers to begin development of facilities that will support operations of AAM aircraft that are electrically powered and take-off and land vertically.

October 1, 2022: ICAO voted to remove Russia from its governing council. Historically G7 countries, Australia, Brazil, China, and Russia, have held permanent spots as “states of chief importance in air transport.” During the vote, Russia secured only 80 votes to remain on the governing council, while 86 votes were needed.

October 3, 2022: FAA announced it had upgraded Malaysia's air safety rating to a Category 1 nearly three years after it took action to restrict the country's airlines from adding new flights to the United States. In November 2019, the FAA lowered Malaysia from Category 1 to Category 2, meaning Malaysian airlines were restricted to current levels of any existing U.S. service and subject to additional inspections at U.S. airports.

October 4, 2022: FAA issued a final rule requiring that flight attendants receive longer periods of rest between shifts. The new rule increases the rest period from 9 to 10 consecutive hours.

October 11, 2022: FAA announced it would be publishing 54 GPS-guided routes in Alaska, allowing pilots to navigate direct flight paths at lower altitudes to avoid icing conditions. The 30 new and 24 amended Terminal Transition Routes, known as T-routes, are part of the FAA's Alaska Aviation Safety Initiative. Pilots use T-routes to navigate along specific points while

flying under instrument flight rules (IFR) using approved Global Positioning System (GPS)/Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) equipment.

October 18, 2022: FAA and the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) signed a Declaration of Cooperation to support future Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) aircraft development and operation. The declaration continues the safety agencies' long partnership and formalizes ongoing discussions on certifying and validating new AAM aircraft, production, continued airworthiness, operations, and personnel licensing.

October 24, 2022: FAA issued guidance on how to become an FAA-recognized community-based organization for recreational drone flying. Under federal law, recreational drone flyers must follow the safety guidelines of a FAA-recognized community-based organization. The organization is required to develop its safety guidelines in coordination with the FAA and an applicant may wish to tailor them to a particular type of unmanned aviation.

November 15, 2022: FAA dedicated the Senator Kay Hagan Air Traffic Control Tower at Piedmont Triad International Airport, the tower designed by women engineers

November 16, 2022: FAA adopted a final rule requiring commercial hot-air balloon pilots to hold medical certificates when flying paying passengers. The rule mandated a second-class medical certificate, the same standard required for other commercial pilots.

November 21, 2022: FAA completed the environmental review of the proposed new passenger terminals at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. The review analyzed Chicago Department of Aviation projects including new terminals, on-airport hotels, airfield and taxiway improvements and support facilities. It also reviewed the FAA's proposal to make permanent angled approaches to Runway 10R/28L to allow simultaneous arrival to multiple runways. The FAA concluded that proposed construction projects and changes to air traffic procedures will not significantly affect any environmental resources, including noise, air quality, water resources, and historic sites.

November 23, 2022: FAA announced the Republic of Rwanda had achieved an International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) Category 1 rating, and is in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards.