



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Deputy Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20591

October 2, 2023

Mr. Russell "Chip" Childs
President and Chief Executive Officer SkyWest, Inc.
444 South River Road
St. George, UT 84790

Dear Mr. Childs:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is revising NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC) Task 23-1: National Airspace System (NAS) Airspace Efficiencies to extend the completion deadline from Fall 2023 to no later than the Fall 2024 NAC Meeting. This extension accommodates industry's request to allow time for additional data collection.

Task 23-2 (Task 23-1 Extension): National Airspace System (NAS) Airspace Efficiencies

The FAA requests NAC advice on ways to achieve greater airspace efficiencies as we collaboratively attempt to reduce reliance on, and divest from legacy NAS systems and procedures, and move to a reliance on a more modernized NAS.

The FAA offers the following suggestions as a way to begin the efficiency discussions:

1. Within the scope of current FAA automation capabilities, explore opportunities for increased utilization of existing Performance Based Navigation (PBN) procedures.
2. Identify opportunities for industry to leverage efficiencies gained from their avionics and dispatch systems investments while simultaneously allowing the FAA to divest from legacy NAS elements that do not contribute to those efficiencies.
3. Identify opportunities for the FAA to remove existing and infrequently used Instrument Flight Procedures (IFPs).
4. Identify opportunities to potentially modify existing IFPs/Standard Instrument Departure Procedures (SIDs)/Standard Terminal Arrival Procedures (STARs) to gain overall airspace efficiencies.
5. Identify a recommended baseline PBN and non-PBN IFP infrastructure to provide the minimum service level and airport access for both non-Global Positioning System /Area Navigation equipped aircraft and aircraft with advanced avionics for each Navigation Services Group Airport Category (1-5).

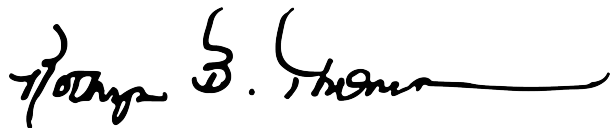
6. Identify any trends in IFP/SID/STAR inventory suggestion (above) that might be used as a national standard.
7. Explore opportunities for even greater efficiencies with the use of Advanced Required Navigation Performance the Performance Based Operations Advisory Rulemaking Committee is pursuing.
8. Work with the NAC Subcommittee Minimum Capabilities List Team to capitalize on any cross-cutting issues that might support both taskings and industry achieving MCL-level of equipage.

This advice should be provided on the following schedule:

- Summer 2024: Interim briefing and progress report
- Fall 2024: Full briefing and report on NAS Airspace Efficiency advice and recommendations

If you have questions, please contact Kimberly Noonan, NextGen Stakeholder Collaboration Manager, at Kimberly.Noonan@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn B. Thomson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn B. Thomson
Deputy Administrator