

2025 GAMA Hill Day Air Traffic Control Infrastructure Investment

KEY TALKING POINTS

- Our membership along with airline, operator, manufacturer, labor union, and airport stakeholders have formed the Modern Skies Coalition united in support of increased air traffic control investment for the FAA that will expeditiously modernize aviation technology infrastructure and address critical air traffic controller staffing needs.
- GAMA, and other Coalition members, support the \$12.5 billion that was included in the House Transportation and Infrastructure reconciliation package to make a downpayment on ATC modernization. (The GAMA letter of support can be found [HERE](#); the Modern Skies Coalition statement can be found [HERE](#).)
- GAMA is also eager to hear details of U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy's plan, to procure a best-in-class air traffic control system and maintain U.S. leadership. We believe this will build on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's efforts and provide a meaningful response to recent aviation accidents and concerns expressed by the flying public. We ask you to give his initiative your full consideration.
- There is a broad industry consensus in the Coalition that the FAA should continue to manage and oversee the National Airspace System (NAS) – no privatization. The Coalition is in alignment that pursuit of privatization would be a distraction from making progress on ATC investment and reform.

BACKGROUND

Robust additional funding for air traffic modernization is a critical area that needs to be addressed by policymakers. A broad group of industry stakeholders, including airlines, operators, manufacturers, labor unions, and airports, have identified the following priorities:

- Robust emergency funding is needed either through emergency measures or budget reconciliation for critical air traffic control technology and infrastructure, and controller and technician staffing and training.
- Direction to FAA to achieve prudent divestment from legacy NAS elements and utilize their existing procurement authority to facilitate the effective deployment of state-of-the-art technology.
- Realignment and modernization of ATC facilities to improve operational efficiencies and leverage technological developments.
- Exempting the FAA from government shutdowns to ensure more predictable funding and support for continued safety and air traffic control personnel hiring and training, and other critical FAA personnel.
- Continuation of general fund support of FAA operations and consideration of additional flexibility within the Airport and Airways Trust Fund to meet existing obligations and help FAA manage long-term facility and technology upgrades through access to long-term capital funding and multi-year budgeting.

Importantly, this approach maintains FAA oversight and management of air traffic control functions and avoids debate about privatizing services which in the past hindered needed investments.

These infrastructure investments will yield benefits for users of the air traffic system and those who manufacture and maintain products that are regular users:

- *ATC Systems*: 90% of FAA's budget for Facilities and Equipment goes to air traffic control sustainment. Today, over half is unsustainable or potentially unsustainable which creates critical operational impacts.
- *ATC Towers and Centers*: Collectively, the average age of these assets is 61 years old - we need safe and secure towers to effectively manage air traffic.
- *Technology*: GAMA members believe investment in tools and technologies that prevent service interruptions and modernize traffic management and yield efficiencies are essential. Examples include telecommunication equipment, radar replacement, and situational awareness technologies.

GAMA also strongly supports FAA efforts to ensure the air traffic controller and technician workforce is sufficient to meet the needs of industry and the flying public.

In the wake of recent aviation accidents, acting now is essential to creating an air traffic system that cement the FAA as a leader in aerospace, safety, and innovation. Additional information and the signatories that support these priorities can be found [HERE](#).