

# **LAX Community Noise Roundtable**

Aviation Noise News Update  
January 11, 2012

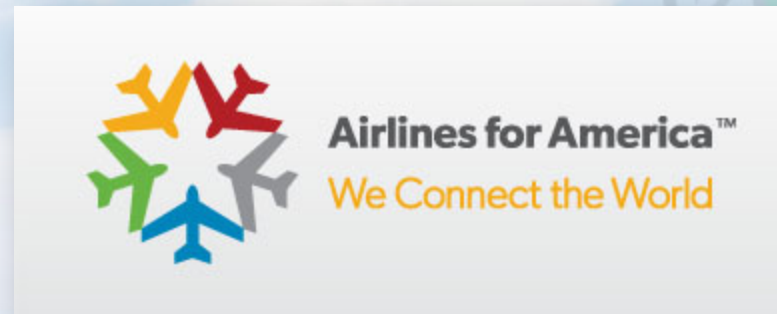


# The Aviation Industry is Asking the FAA to Stay the Course

- **Stakeholders in the aviation industry want the new FAA chief, Michael Huerta, to “Stay The Course”**
  - This comes after the resignation of former FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt
  - Steve Lott, Vice-President of Airlines for America says, “FAA leadership is the difference between success and failure in realizing the benefits of NextGen for all stakeholders”
- **The agency is trying to convince airlines to pay to upgrade the equipment in their planes to match the new navigation technology**
- **Babbitt had gained the support of all the major players in the aviation industry as a former airline pilot and president of the Air Line Pilots Association**
- **Huerta does not have an aviation background, but has extensive experience in Washington and knows the challenges facing the aviation industry**
- **“Lott said it was important to the future of the NextGen system that Huerta doesn’t skip a beat in the job.”**

# Air Transport Association is now Airlines for America

- On December 1, 2011, the Air Transport Association (ATA) became Airlines for America (A4A)
- The organization, which was founded in 1936, remains the leading advocate for the major US airlines and air cargo carriers
- In addition to its new name and logo, A4A also unveiled its new tagline: “We Connect the World”



- A4A stated, “The new tagline and visual identity . . . better represents the industry’s vital role of literally connecting the United States to the global economy.”
- Visit A4A’s website for more information: <http://www.airlines.org/>

# FAA Approves United-Continental Single Operating Certificate

- **United-Continental Holdings has been approved by the FAA for a single operating certificate**
  - This is the final regulatory step integrating the two airlines
  - United Airlines President and CEO Jeff Smisek said, “While we have much work ahead of us as we integrate these two great carriers, this is a significant milestone.”
- **As of November 30, 2011, air traffic control communications referred to all United and Continental operations as United**

**UNITED**



# 2011 Safest Year for Air Travel Since 1945

- **The first 11 months of 2011 were the safest period of travel by plane since 1945**
  - “As of the end of November, global safety performance (for western-built jets) is at the best level recorded, and is 49 percent better than the same time last year,” said Gunther Matschnigg, senior vice president for safety, operations and infrastructure for IATA.
- **The accident rate globally was 2.16 per million take-offs**
- **Accident rates across all regions fell in the first 11 months except for areas such as Russia and the former Soviet Union**
- **Accident rates fell to 1.18 per million from 1.51 in 2010 in North America**
  - Incidents classified as accidents include: runway incursions, gear-up landings or gear collapse, loss of in-flight control, ground damage, and in-flight damage

# Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011

- **Senators Feinstein and Boxer are calling on the FAA to address the growing noise and safety concerns among Los Angeles residents caused by helicopters**
- **The two Senators created the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011 (HR 2677, S 2019)**
  - The Bill directs the FAA Administrator to develop and enforce regulations for helicopter operations in Los Angeles County to reduce helicopter noise, increase safety, and minimize commercial aircraft delays
  - The regulations stems from media, traffic, tour, paparazzi, film, and private commuter helicopters flying above residential areas that violate privacy, create noise issues, and could cause safety hazards for residents on the ground
- **"It is critical that the FAA initiate a plan to stop the disruptive level of helicopter noise in Los Angeles neighborhoods," said Senator Boxer**
- **The Senate version of the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**
- **The House version of the bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**

# ACI-NA Seeks Two-Year Extension of FAA's Operating Authority

- Since October 2007 there have been 23 short-term extensions of FAA's operating authority, including six in 2011, which has severely limited airports' ability to undertake long-term project planning/funding
- Frustrated by Congress' inability to pass a multiyear FAA funding reauthorization bill, the Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) is urging Congress to pass a two-year extension of the FAA's operating authority
- ACI-NA states, "Uncertainty in basic airport funding, such as 22 days of Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants (such as that provided by P.L. 112-21) severely limits the ability to move forward on needed safety and security projects."
- ACI-NA suggests that a two-year extension would provide airports with the financial certainty to commit to long-term projects, which include airport noise projects such as sound insulation programs, aircraft noise monitoring systems, FAR Part 150 Studies