

FAA — PERFORMANCE INITIATIVES

The National Airspace System is the safest, most efficient airspace system in the world. While safety is our primary concern, it is efficiency that propels our optimization of available capacity. ATO leadership is working with leading air carriers to set clear goals for the operation in the coming years. By establishing a baseline, managing constraints, and measuring how the NAS operates, we will be able to identify what we can do to improve overall system performance. Our collective success depends on your commitment to moving the system forward.



Miles-in-Trail Stringency

Stringency analysis helps to identify how effectively Miles-in-Trail are being used to manage the flow of air traffic. The goal of Stringency tracking is to encourage a more tailored approach to the application of Miles-in-Trail and the elimination of unnecessary constraints. For 2020, we will compare calendar month against the same 3-year baseline month with a target of 3% reduction.



Program Compliance

Program Compliance is a new metric that we will be examining. Initially, the internal measurement will be compliance with departure release times (EDCT). ATO is responsible for setting a proper baseline and developing a “scorecard” to help track Program Compliance throughout the system. Leading air carriers have committed to better educating their personnel on the importance of participation and cooperation with operational initiatives. Increased compliance is expected to expose other factors which lead to over and under-delivery at the receiving facility.



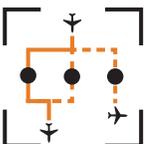
Departure Gate Capacity

Increased use of available Departure Gate Capacity will depend on communication, common situational awareness, transparency, and participation. We will be using analytics to track utilization of playbooks, escape routes, capping and tunneling, etc., during convective weather, or other operationally impactful events. In some instances where we have historically published ‘recommended’ routings, we will implement the use of ‘required’ routes along with an expected % of utilization by industry. In addition, with industry’s commitment to increase participation, we will continue to develop “pathfinder” processes.



Arrival Fix Balancing

We will use arrival fix balancing to maximize surface capacity. Congestion of arrival fixes is not a challenge at all facilities. However, in those locations where we can identify an opportunity to maximize airport throughput we will work together with industry to develop new solutions to relieve over-scheduled routes.



Airspace Flow Program (AFPs)

For 2020, we will refine and adapt Flow Constrained Area (FCA) design using new tools to make timely, data-driven decisions. Where possible we will provide industry with options of FCA based reroutes as an alternative to AFPs. Improvements to the AFP process started in 2019 through re-evaluation and adjustments to reference rates of historical FCA applications in limited locations. The 2020 initiatives expand on that.



Communication

Explaining the “why” and engaging directly with ATO and industry workforces will be critical for overall success. It will require multiple touch points on an on-going basis to ensure awareness and adoption. ATO is committed to providing a steady stream of content to keep internal and external audiences up to speed on performance and developments.

It is our goal to reduce delay minutes NAS-wide by 3% in the coming year.

By the end of January baselines and benchmarks will be in place for Stringency and Program Compliance. Performance data on these will be provided on a regular basis.

Departure Gate Capacity, Arrival Fix Balance, and Airspace Flow Programs will require additional analysis. ATO is targeting April 1 to roll out a more formalized approach for each.

Because these efforts are not solely about ATO performance, the air carriers have also committed to providing data on how constraints in the operation impact the flying public.

Our joint commitment to NAS-wide reduction of delay minutes is about keeping our promise to the American people to optimize capacity without compromising safety.

