

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Transportation

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Commercial Space Transportation
Advisory Committee

3b. GSA

Committee No.

682

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

07/08/2025 07/08/2027

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

agency decision
memorandum

13. Effective Date

02/24/1984

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program
Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a.

Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

COMSTAC makes recommendations to DOT and the FAA Administrator regarding proposed federal policy, business and economic issues and other specific concerns affecting the U.S. commercial space transportation industry.

20b. How does the Committee balance its

membership?

The committee members represent a wide range of industry viewpoints. Members include representatives from commercial space launch service providers (companies that conduct FAA-licensed launches); commercial spaceport operators (companies/organizations that manage and operate non-Federal launch sites); space launch vehicle and satellite manufacturers; satellite users; academics; and economists working on commercial space issues. Membership also includes a special government employee expert who is a retired FAA Assistant Administrator. Members have a range of space policy expertise and volunteer/are associated with a number of space advocacy organizations. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of diverse groups served by the FAA, membership includes, to the extent practicable, individuals and/or organizations representing minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The committee typically holds an in-person, public meeting twice per year. Since COVID19 shutdowns began in March 2020, the meetings have been "virtual" using an online webinar service. In FY22, the November meeting was virtual and the May meeting was a hybrid virtual/face-to-face event. On occasion, special meetings are held. In March 2022, for example, Air Traffic Organization hosted a COMSTAC orientation meeting at the Air Traffic Control System Command Center on ATO procedures to ensure aviation safety during launches/re-entries and also explained how the Space Data Integrator functions. Working groups meet as needed,

usually via teleconference, to work on reports and recommendations back to the full committee. In FY24, two in-person and one virtual committee meetings were held. Maintenance of the committee is a vital component to the success of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry. Committee recommendations and input also represent important assistance to the FAA in carrying out the Administration's national space policy.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Members constitute the primary source of information and industry expertise because the members are the key decision makers, launch technology experts, and users of space launch technology throughout the US and the world. The committee is the most appropriate, efficient, and cost-effective way for FAA to obtain information and effective advice in such a dynamic business and policy environment.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

COMSTAC has provided information, advice, and recommendations to the Department of Transportation and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration on U. S. commercial space transportation industry issues since 1984. The economic, technical, and institutional expertise provided by COMSTAC members has been invaluable to our work in developing effective regulations that ensure safety during commercial launch operations and policies that support international competitiveness for the

industry. The Committee utilizes working groups, which provide information, reports, and recommendations to the full Committee for adoption. The Committee may also establish ad hoc working groups or special task groups to address specific short-term issues and/or current issues.

Designated Federal Officer

Brian Verna DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Drees, Karina	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Commercial Spaceflight Federation	Representative Member
Dunn, Mat	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Space X	Representative Member
Elbon, John	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	United Launch Alliance	Representative Member
Frego, Tony	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Spaceflight Inc	Representative Member
French, Mike	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Aerospace Industries Association	Representative Member
Jah, Moriba	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	University of Texas	Representative Member
Jones, Therese	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Satellite Industry Association	Representative Member
Ketchum, Dale	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Space Florida	Representative Member
Kronmiller, Kate	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Jacobs	Representative Member
Mercer, Ted	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority	Representative Member
Mitchell, Megan	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Blue Origin	Representative Member
Moses, Mike	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Virgin Galactic	Representative Member
Newman, Dava	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Representative Member
Nield, George	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Commercial Space Technologies/ Global Spaceport Alliance	Representative Member
Parker, Michelle	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Boeing	Representative Member

Preisser, Melanie	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	York Space Systems	Representative Member
Schenewerk, Caryn	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Georgetown University	Representative Member
Simpson, Amanda	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Airbus	Representative Member
Sitaraman, Ganesh	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Vanderbilt University	Representative Member
Skylus, Jay	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Aevum	Representative Member
Sonty, Sita	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Boston Consulting Group	Representative Member
Stricklan, Melanie	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Slingshot Aerospace	Representative Member
Zoller, Julie	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Amazon	Representative Member
Zulkosky, Ann	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Lockheed Martin	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 24

Narrative Description

The committee has consistently supported the mission of the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration in maximizing safety during commercial launch and reentry operations as well as operations of commercial (i.e. non-Federal) launch sites. The Committee made 36 recommendations for this year

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

524

Number of Recommendations Comments

Since 1984, COMSTAC has typically made 12 recommendations per year to the FAA. In FY22, however, COMSTAC provided 30 recommendations and in FY23, COMSTAC issued 36 recommendations. In FY 24 COMSTAC issued 22 recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

23%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Exact implementation records going back to 1984 are not available. However, In FY22 COMSTAC promulgated 30 recommendations. 8 recommendations were fully implemented, 20 were partially implemented, 1 was not applicable, and 1 was rejected. In FY 23, COMSTAC issued 36 recommendations, and 25 of those were fully implemented, 8 were partially implemented, 2 were rejected, and 1 was not applicable. In FY 24 COMSTAC issued 22 recommendations, 5 were fully implemented, 16 were partially

implemented, and 3 were rejected.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

73%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

In FY 2024 FAA is in the process of implementing 15 of the 16 partially implemented recommendations.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback is provided primarily through white papers, observations, findings and recommendations from the Committee to FAA. FAA then responds to the Committee on how it will implement the recommendations of the Committee during the public meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO



Online Agency Web Site



Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



Access Comments

N/A