Memorandum

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement – Review of FAA’s Controller Scheduling Policies
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 16A3003A000

Date: August 24, 2016

From: Matthew E. Hampton
Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) employs approximately 14,000 air traffic controllers to operate 316 air traffic control facilities. Optimizing controller schedules is a critical aspect of efficient workforce planning, since inefficient facility scheduling can lead to staffing issues and increased overtime. In our January 2016 report, we recommended that FAA use the results of a scheduling tool, and the Agency agreed it should develop a method to uniformly analyze controller scheduling practices. Currently, FAA uses the Business Analysis Tool Suite, which enables managers to visualize their schedules to ensure adequate coverage and estimate annual leave liability for air traffic controllers at 32 facilities.

In its report for fiscal year 2017, the House Appropriations Committee directed our office to review FAA’s progress with implementing scheduling tools and determine whether benefits are being realized by air traffic managers at critical facilities. Accordingly, our audit objectives are to (1) determine FAA’s progress in adopting and implementing a scheduling tool, and (2) identify any challenges that will need to be addressed to realize potential benefits.

We plan to begin our audit this month and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions concerning this audit, please contact me at (202) 366-0500, or Bob Romich, Program Director, at (202) 366-6478.

---

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
    FAA Audit Liaison, AAE-100