



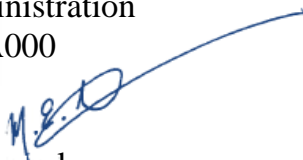
Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –
Reallocation of the Joint Planning and
Development Office (JPDO)'s NextGen Long-
Term Planning Functions
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 15A3002A000

Date: January 23, 2015

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

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-10

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) is critical to modernizing the National Airspace System and meeting the anticipated future demand for air travel. Over 10 years ago, Congress mandated that FAA establish the Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO) to develop a plan for implementing NextGen by 2025 and coordinate research efforts with other Federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. However, FAA's overall progress in developing NextGen has been slower than expected and the Agency is now focused on implementing industry recommendations for near-term investment priorities.

Recently, FAA reallocated the JPDO's functions and responsibilities to the Agency's NextGen Office. In light of these changes, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Space requested that we review how FAA will continue to perform NextGen long-term planning under the reallocation. Specifically, they raised questions about FAA's ability to link its long-term vision with its near- and mid-term efforts; its efforts to identify high-priority research and development to advance NextGen; and its level of coordination with partner agencies since the dissolution of the JPDO.

Accordingly, our audit objectives are to determine (1) how FAA has reallocated the JPDO's responsibilities for identifying high-priority research and development, and

(2) whether FAA has developed an effective structure to coordinate high-priority research and development with other Federal agencies.

We plan to begin our audit the week of January 26, 2015, and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-0500 or Barry DeWeese, Program Director, at (415) 744-0420.

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