New Directions
NASA’s Airspace Operations and Safety Program

Leighton Quon
Three mega-drivers have emerged that are shaping the future of aviation:

- Traditional measures of global demand for mobility—economic development, urbanization—are growing rapidly.
- Severe energy and climate issues create enormous affordability and sustainability challenges.
- Revolutions in automation, information and communication technologies enable opportunity for safety critical autonomous systems.
NASA Aeronautics Research Six Strategic Thrusts

Safe, Efficient Growth in Global Operations
- Enable full NextGen and develop technologies to substantially reduce aircraft safety risks

Innovation in Commercial Supersonic Aircraft
- Achieve a low-boom standard

Ultra-Efficient Commercial Vehicles
- Pioneer technologies for big leaps in efficiency and environmental performance

Transition to Low-Carbon Propulsion
- Characterize drop-in alternative fuels and pioneer low-carbon propulsion technology

Real-Time System-Wide Safety Assurance
- Develop an integrated prototype of a real-time safety monitoring and assurance system

Assured Autonomy for Aviation Transformation
- Develop high impact aviation autonomy applications
What is the Airspace Operations and Safety Program?

This program integrates the Airspace Systems Program and Aviation System-Safety work.

Develops and explores fundamental concepts, algorithms, and technologies to increase throughput and efficiency of the National Airspace System safely.

Provides knowledge, concepts, and methods to the aviation community to manage increasing complexity in the design and operation of vehicles and the air transportation system.

Continues Airspace Systems Program research, and the aircraft state awareness research and system wide safety research that was previously conducted within the Aviation Safety Program.

Projects
- Airspace Technology Demonstrations
- SMART NAS - Testbed for Safe Trajectory-Based Operations
- Safe Autonomous System Operations