



FEBRUARY 2007

What's Next in Travel Distribution

Please join our panel, moderated by Will Tate, Vice President, Management Alternatives, as we discuss the current issues surrounding travel distribution. We will look back to last summer's events and how they are determining what is to come. Chris Kroeger, Senior Vice President, Sabre Travel Network, will address the pathway the industry has chosen and the ripple effect of those choices for travel professionals. Dee Runyan, BCD Travel Executive Vice President will address their strategies to re-combine content into policy driven, preferred supplier supported programs. And Dan Riley, North American Travel Manager, Computer Sciences Corporation will present the opportunities and challenges arising from the current system. The panel will then answer your questions about the current and future state of travel distribution.

Bios

Chris Kroeger
Senior Vice President
Sabre Travel Network, North America

In his role as senior vice president of the North American division of Sabre Travel Network, Chris Kroeger is responsible for the sales, account management, customer service and support for the division.

Previously, Kroeger led the launch and development of Jurni Network, the unique leisure travel agency consortium that enables members to sell more products from preferred travel suppliers using sophisticated market intelligence.

Prior to this role, Kroeger was senior vice president of the Europe, Middle East and Africa division of Sabre Travel Network. He also served as senior vice president for Sabre Travel Network's Latin America division and as vice president for the US national accounts sales and service organization.

Kroeger earned both a bachelor and master of business administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

Will Tate
Vice President – Management Alternatives

Management Alternatives is a travel consulting organization founded in 1977 dedicated to assisting ONLY travel buyers and ONLY in the travel purchasing cycle. This cycle ranges from travel policy review all the way through to expense management automation, including RFI, RFP and validation reviews for each and every facet in between.

Immediately prior to joining Management Alternatives, Mr. Tate was the global travel manager for a Fortune 250 Company with responsibility for all facets of the managed travel program.

Before managing travel, he held a series of audit positions with a multi-national audit / consulting firm and a Fortune 250 company. In these capacities, Will reviewed hundreds of financial processes. His assignments covered more than 30 countries, including relocating to Europe to help launch a branch audit office. While performing his internal audit role, he was selected and performed as a national instructor for the Institute of Internal Auditors.

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In his travel management role, he has served on the advisory boards of the Institute for Business Travel Management, major airlines and hotel chains and industry education groups for both NBTA and ACTE. He recently completed his term serving on the editorial board of Business Travel News.

In his consulting role, he has created (and is so noted in the Copyrights) two measuring methods for determining travel management effectiveness and contribution to the organization.

He is a CPA and received his B.B.A. degree in accounting from Texas Technological University.

Dee Runyan

Executive Vice President, Products, Technology & Supplier Relations

Dee Runyan directs a wide range of technology-related programs that serve as the foundation for BCD Travel's growth, expansion and success. She also oversees industry relations and the company's partner network. With a wealth of experience in the travel industry, Dee is responsible for vendor program negotiations, global coordination, customer implementation, operational and emerging technology solutions, and other activities and programs. Through her strategic vision and dedication, Dee plays a pivotal role in managing BCD Travel's ongoing operations. Prior to joining BCD Travel in 1993, Dee was a senior director of industry relations for Carlson Travel Network.

Dan Riley

Dan Riley is North American Travel Manager for Computer Sciences Corporation which is headquartered in El Segundo. CSC is a leading global information technology services company founded in 1959 with approximately 78,000 employees in 80 countries worldwide. Last year CSC had revenues of \$14.B with Travel and Entertainment spend of \$180M.

Dan started his illustrious travel career 25 years ago working for Hawaiian Holidays as a tour guide in California. Leaving there, he started at a local travel agency wearing 2 hats: First, working at LAX providing Meet and Greet services for their VIP clients, and Second, when not at LAX, working in the office as Chief Brochure Filer. Fast forward a number of years to his last job on the TMC side which was Branch Manager handling the Paramount Studios account for Ask Mr. Foster/Carlson Travel Network.

Leaving the agency business, Dan joined Universal Studios as their Director of Travel. After 8 years, he left Universal to work as Travel Manager for Times Mirror, the publishing parent company of many major newspapers and magazines across the county including the Los Angeles Times and Baltimore Sun. Six months after starting with Times Mirror, the Tribune Company of Chicago bought Times Mirror which resulted in the "displacement" of everyone at Times Mirror, Dan included. Thankfully he was able to make a smooth transition to Korn/Ferry International, the leading Executive Search and Placement firm as their Director of Travel.

Unfortunately, Dan was "downsized" from Korn/Ferry in September 2001. At first angry that he was laid off, one week later 9/11 happened and Dan suddenly became very thankful he was out of the travel business. Dan ended up enjoying the time off by having a hip replacement, and after the hip was healed, the opportunity arose at CSC and he has been there ever since. Coming up on his 5 year anniversary with CSC, Dan is responsible for the travel agency and airline relationships and is now also working with the Executive Fleet program.

Dan graduated from San Jose State with a BS in business. A member of LABTA since 1991, he is now currently serving as the Director of Membership and Hospitality.



VENUE

The Tower-Beverly Hills

February 15, 2007

The Tower-Beverly Hills
1224 S. Beverly Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90035
Luncheon Meeting



Registration:
11:30 a.m.

Lunch Program:
12:00 p.m.

Rising twelve stories atop a hillside in this high-powered Los Angeles neighborhood, The Tower-Beverly Hills offers an upscale retreat for business and leisure travelers alike. Built in 1965, this classic Beverly Hills hotel playfully blends elegance with vintage Los Angeles style.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS

The Tower-Beverly Hills Hotel is nestled atop a hillside in the affluent neighborhood of Beverly Hills. For your convenience, we're located just 11 miles (or 20 minutes) from Los Angeles International Airport.

Driving Directions From LAX: Follow signs to take SR 1 (Sepulveda Boulevard) north to I-405 North. Exit to National Boulevard, and turn right on National. Turn left on Sepulveda Boulevard, then turn right on West Pico Boulevard. After about two miles, turn left on Beverwil Drive.

Transportation from LAX: Taxi service is readily available from LAX and is only a short 11 miles. The duration of the trip will depend on the time of day, 20 minutes - 45 minutes. The fare is usually in the range of \$30.00. Limo service can be arranged prior to arrival by A List Limo - 310.277.3705



Thank You

United Airlines provided air for Suzanne Fletcher.
Dav El provided limo transfers for Suzanne Fletcher.
Four Seasons provided lodging for Suzanne Fletcher and hosted dinner meeting
Fairmont Hotel Irvine for hosting Orange County Outreach Luncheon
Empire International Limited Corporate Sponsor for January

Special Thank You from Kathy Hoskanian:

Thank you Margarita of Renaissance Hotel, LAX for our first Special Events meeting, we knew it would be a great location for everyone. You really went overboard in making us feel special. I cannot thank you enough for your kind hospitality in providing the delicious appetizers and drinks. Your Catering Staff went out of their way to make us feel comfortable in your beautiful lounge. They gave us a very private table, ideal for discussing our business. Everything was just great.

Thank you, again, on behalf of our entire Committee.

New Members

Bryan Holmes
Broadcom Corporation
Manager, Corporate Services

Daniel Palm
University of Southern CA
Travel Management

Eve White
HRG North America
Vice President Global Markets

Eve Tupay
Carlson Hotels Worldwide
Sr. Director Global Sales

Jo Moyer
Claim Jumper Restaurants
Executive Planner

Laura Ayala-Huntley
Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.
Commodity Manager, Strategic Sourcing

Leslie Williams
Travelocity Business
Director Sales, TMC Director

Marilyn Dear
The Hilton Hotel, San Gabriel
Director of Sales and Marketing

Mark Jerusalem
Air New Zealand
District Sales Manager

MaryAnn Roca
Radisson Los Angeles Westside
Hotel

Mike Baggett
Carlson Wagonlit
Director of Business Development

Michael Fricke
American Airlines
Account Development Manager



Photo Gallery





Releases

Business travelers hit by triple whammy of rising costs

David Grossman, USA Today

Updated 1/18/2007

The travel industry is by most accounts on a strong trajectory. Hotels in many cities are reporting record occupancy levels — and record room rates too. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) forecasts the airline industry worldwide to earn a tidy profit of \$2.5 billion for 2007, the first since 9/11/01. More travelers in airports means more customers for car rental firms, and other ground transportation businesses.

Sadly, the good news for the travel industry is bad news for the consumer, as a trifecta of forces will leave business travelers footing a large part of the bill in the coming year.

Whammy #1: Higher oil prices mean higher airfares

Domestic airfares for business travel are up by 13% over the past year according to an American Express of airfares during the first half of 2006. While some airfare increases are the result of decreased capacity as the larger network airlines have scaled back domestic flights, most fare increases are a result of higher jet fuel prices.

Airlines have imposed fuel surcharges of anywhere from \$10 to \$98 per one way ticket according to BCD Travel. But IATA says these fuel surcharges cover only half of the increased fuel bill, which most likely means more fare increases and surcharges in the coming year. Jet fuel costs are up 150% since 2003 and fuel now accounts for 26% of airline operating costs, exceeding labor as the #1 airline operating cost according to IATA.

BCD projects airfare increases of 6% to 10% this year while American Express forecasts a 3% to 6% increase for domestic economy tickets and 2% to 4% for international business class fares for travel originating in the U.S.

Although oil prices have declined recently (around \$53 a barrel as of Jan. 12), as most drivers no doubt know, such declines are slow to trickle down to the retail level. Oil refineries are already operating at capacity and will be hard pressed to meet the rising demand. At IATA's annual meeting last year, the chief executive of jet fuel producer, Shell Aviation, warned airline managers that there will be no significant increase in refining capacity and consequently no relief from higher fuel prices until the end of the decade. Though seasonal peaks and valleys are normal with many commodities, capacity constraints on the production of oil and jet fuel will precipitate a steadily upward trend at least for the next few years.

While this is bad news for airlines, much of the cost will be passed along to airline customers and business travelers in particular. As costs climb, airlines will raise prices to the highest tolerable threshold before business travelers begin to balk and conduct business by phone, email, or videoconference in lieu of face-to-face meetings.

Leisure travelers will also pay higher prices, but the bulk of the increases will be borne by business travelers as even modest price increases on restricted fares cause most discretionary travelers to postpone a family visit or choose a driving vacation much closer to home.

Whammy #2: Higher construction costs mean higher hotel rates

Rising airfares aren't the only headaches for business travelers in 2007. Hotel rates also jumped 3% according to the American Express study, and hotel prices are forecast to rise again in the coming year from 5% up to as much as 18% depending on the location and type of property.



The high cost of oil is also a factor in increased hotel charges, but it is not the main culprit. Increased travel demand coupled with a lack of new hotel construction in recent years is largely responsible for higher room occupancy levels and the subsequent rise in hotel rates according to PKF Hospitality Research.

The lack of new hotel construction is due in large part to increased construction costs, but the drop in travel during the post-9/11 slump also contributed to the dearth of new properties, as hoteliers were afraid they would be stuck with brand new hotels with hundreds of empty rooms if the downturn continued.

The result has meant a windfall for hotel owners and higher prices for travelers. Hotels are enjoying their most profitable period since 1991. PKF projects hotel profits will rise by 9.8%, and if that trend holds true, profits would be up almost 60% since 2003. The average hotel room is expected to earn \$16,000 in profit this year.

Whammy #3: Excise taxes mean higher rental car rates

Rental car rates increased by 4% over the previous year during the first half of 2006 and American Express is projecting a 4% to 6% rise in the cost of renting a car this year. While you can probably blame some rental car rate increases on smaller fleets and the gas prices, local excise taxes and other charges imposed by states and municipalities have padded the average rental car bill by 26% according to the National Business Travel Association (NBTA).

Although most excise taxes and local fees are incurred by out of state business travelers, many rental car excise taxes and fees are used to fund local projects like new stadiums, teachers' salaries, and even a new culinary school – products and services that visiting business travelers will likely never use. In many cases the taxes are only imposed at airports exempting city center car rental locations which are more likely to be utilized by residents than out of town business travelers.

NBTA estimates that excessive car rental taxes have cost consumers and corporations \$3 billion over the past 12 years. The situation has become so dire that NBTA has enlisted its members in a campaign to reverse the rising tide of rental car excise taxes. Although NBTA had initial success in preventing a new car rental tax in Florida, at least 38 states levy these egregious rental car taxes and NBTA estimates there are another 49 proposed excise taxes pending approval in state and local legislatures across the country.

The triple whammy

With the price increases imposed on air, hotel, and car rentals, American Express estimates that the average domestic business trip will cost \$46 more this year and the average international trip will increase by \$180. Given the likely rise in oil prices in the coming months, I'll bet those increases are only the beginning. With overcrowded airplanes, sold out hotels, wasted time in security lines, the carry-on liquids ban, and so many more post-9/11 hassles, business travel has become the bane for most. Now we will be paying more to endure those hassles and inconveniences in the coming year, through the triple whammy of increased air, car and hotel prices.

Read previous columns

Send David your feedback: David Grossman is a veteran business traveler and former airline industry executive. He writes a column every other week on topics of interest and concern to business travelers. E-mail him at travel@usatoday.com.



More than 200 Attend First-Ever NBTA Mexico Corporate Travel Conference

Caleb Tiller ,
Courtney Leigh Beisel ,

Mexico City, Mexico (January 18, 2007) -- The National Business Travel Association (NBTA) is pleased to welcome more than 200 attendees to the first-ever NBTA Mexico Corporate Travel Conference held here today. The event marks the expansion of a strategy begun by NBTA last year to hold industry-leading corporate travel conferences in key markets around the world.

"I am thrilled and honored to say the level of attendance at the first NBTA Mexico Corporate Travel Conference is much higher than we expected when we planned this event," said NBTA President & CEO, Suzanne Fletcher. "More than 200 corporate travel professionals have come today, because they are dedicated to furthering their level of professionalism and the value they provide their companies. NBTA is pleased to be able to provide that opportunity in this key Latin American market."

The day's education sessions are focused specifically on corporate travel in Mexico, covering topics such as:

The Value of Corporate Travel Management
Changes in the Airline Industry
How to Create and Benefit from a Corporate Hotel Program
Corporate Travel Technology Trends

NBTA would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of the NBTA Mexico Corporate Travel Conference:

BCD Travel
Gran Meliá México Reforma
Fiesta Americana
Mastercard
SkyTeam
Worldspan
UATP (Universal Air Travel Plan)

Last year, NBTA expanded upon its U.S. and Canadian events to host conferences in Sao Paulo, Brazil and London, UK. In 2007, NBTA added to its global events offerings the Mexico Corporate Travel Conference and an event in Shanghai, China. The events are designed to benefit travel professionals in global programs operating in those regions, as well as those overseeing travel on behalf of companies or divisions headquartered in those regions. Additionally, NBTA and its affiliate in Canada, the Canadian Alliance of Business Travel, host conferences and educational events throughout the United States and Canada. Major NBTA conferences for 2007 include the following; for details see www.nbta.org:

Mexico Corporate Travel Conference, Mexico Corporate Travel Conference, January 18, Mexico City, Mexico
Latin American Corporate Travel & Technology Exchange, February 5-7, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Canadian Alliance Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase, March 19-21, Toronto, Canada
NBTA Business Travel Financial Forum: A Wall Street Look at the Business of Business Travel, March 26, New York, NY, USA
NBTA 2007 International Convention & Exposition, July 22-25, Boston, MA, USA
NBTA Corporate Travel Buyer Think Tank, Fall 2007 (date to be determined), London, UK

The National Business Travel Association is the source for critical information on the business travel industry. For more than 35 years, NBTA has dedicated itself to the professional development of its members through advocacy, education and training, and networking opportunities. NBTA represents over 2,700 corporate and government travel managers and travel service providers, who collectively manage and direct more than \$170 billion of expenditures within the business travel industry. For more on NBTA, visit www.nbta.org.



AIRPORTS' FILM-FRIENDLY POLICY CONTRIBUTES \$590 MILLION, 4,800 JOBS TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY

(Los Angeles, California – January 22, 2007) Los Angeles World Airports' (LAWA) film-friendly policy toward the entertainment industry has contributed \$590 million to the region's economy, while encouraging the industry to use its airport locales and retain production work in Southern California.

The Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners today heard the results of a study prepared by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) about LAWA's role in Southern California entertainment productions during 2002 - 2005. The policy follows Mayor Antonio Villariagosa's commitment for the City of Los Angeles to be film-friendly in order to retain the important economic benefits the industry provides to the region.

According to the LAEDC, LAWA's efforts have brought sizeable economic output to the region totaling \$590 million between 2002 and 2005. The study said the \$190 million attributed to production on LAWA property in 2005 is almost four times the economic output generated in 2002. These figures include both direct and indirect economic activity made possible by industry expenditures.

Commission President Alan Rothenberg said, "To the extent that it helps keep the film industry in L.A., the contributions of LAWA's film-friendly policy and the availability of our facilities are orders of magnitude larger than reported here in the study."

LAWA's film coordinators at Los Angeles International, LA/Ontario International, LA/Palmdale Regional and Van Nuys airports handled 182 productions in 2005, up from 108 in 2002. Airport filming fees for labor and utilities are on a cost recovery, rather than a revenue-producing basis. No permit fees are charged for filming.

The combination of affordability and LAWA providing an adaptable and accessible environment, while maintaining safety and security requirements, helps keep work in Southern California. Producers of television shows, feature films, commercials and other media like the ability to use the airports real estate as stand-ins for a variety of locales. The recent television series "LAX" used three of the airports, while features like "Mission Impossible III" and "Dream Girls" had sequences filmed on LAX property.

The study found LAWA's 359 annual production days alone equal one percent of all productions annually in Los Angeles. This number of days has tripled since LAWA's film-friendly policy resumed in 2002, following Sept. 11, 2001.

According to the LAEDC, employment due to film industry projects on LAWA property has grown from 400 full time equivalent jobs in 2002 to 1,600 in 2005. The total number of jobs created over the four-year period was 4,800. Direct and indirect wages attributable to these jobs on LAWA locales grew from \$20 million to \$100 million annually over the same period. The four-year total of wages attributed to the LAWA policy is \$280 million.

The LAEDC study is entitled, "Now Arriving Daily: The Economic Output, Jobs, Wages and City Tax Revenue Attributable to LAWA's Film-Friendly Policy." LAWA commissioned the study which was completed in December 2006. The report is available at www.lawa.org/news.

Los Angeles World Airports is a City department that owns and operates four airports: Los Angeles International (LAX), LA/Ontario International (ONT), LA/Palmdale Regional (PMD) and Van Nuys (general aviation)



News & Happenings

Passport Requirement for Air Travel Begins January 23

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Department of State are issuing a reminder today that beginning January 23, 2007, citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda are required to present a passport to enter the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere. Since announcing this requirement last November, the departments have been encouraging all travelers to obtain passports before they travel.

The public awareness of the air travel requirement continues to grow and current data shows that 88 percent of affected passengers are already traveling to the United States with passports. Since the week of Thanksgiving 2006, 83 percent of U.S. citizens, 94 percent of Canadians, 88 percent of Mexicans, and 99 percent of Bermudans have arrived at U.S. airports with passports.

The air requirement is part of the departments of State and Homeland Security's Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). This change in travel document requirements is the result of recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, which Congress subsequently passed into law in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

The only acceptable alternative documents to a passport for air travel will be the Merchant Mariner Document (MMD) and the NEXUS Air card. The MMD or "z-card" is issued by the U.S. Coast Guard to U.S. Merchant Mariners. The NEXUS Air card is issued to citizens of Canada and the United States, lawful permanent residents of the United States and permanent residents of Canada who meet certain eligibility requirements. The NEXUS Air card will only be accepted when used in conjunction with the NEXUS Air program at certain airports. The MMD card will only be accepted when used on official business by U.S. Citizen Merchant Mariners. All active duty members of the United States Armed Forces will be exempt from the requirement to present a valid passport when entering the United States. Legal Permanent Residents of the U.S. may re-enter on their I-551 Permanent Resident Card.

A separate proposed rule addressing land and sea travel will be published at a later date with specific requirements for travelers entering the United States through land and sea border crossings. As early as Jan. 1, 2008, citizens traveling between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea may be required to present a valid passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security to enter the United States.

NBTA President Suzanne Fletcher Recognized in Business Travel News' Annual Top 25 Association Leader Recognized for Her Outstanding Contributions to Corporate Travel Industry

Caleb Tiller , +1 703-684-0836, ext. 138
Courtney Leigh Beisel , +1 703-684-0836, ext. 133

Alexandria, VA (January 22, 2007) -- Suzanne Fletcher, President and CEO of the National Business Travel Association (NBTA), has been named to Business Travel News' list of the business travel industry's 25 Most Influential Executives of 2006 for her outstanding contributions to the corporate travel industry throughout the past year. As leader of the industry's most prominent association, Fletcher has played a significant role in the advancement and education of corporate travel professionals throughout the U.S. and world.



NBTA Past President and Chairman Carol Devine, CCTE, congratulated Fletcher on this accomplishment, saying, "It has been a true pleasure to work with Suzanne Fletcher during her tenure as president of NBTA. Under her leadership, the association has even further solidified its role and reputation as the leading provider of education, news, information, advocacy and resources for corporate travel professionals. On behalf of NBTA and its members, I applaud Suzanne for the well-deserved recognition in Business Travel News' annual list of the most influential leaders in the industry."

The association has undergone considerable growth throughout Fletcher's two-year presidency, which will come to close at the NBTA 2007 International Convention & Exposition, hosted July 22-25 in Boston. Among the most notable advancements are NBTA's involvement in the fight against the proliferation of excise taxes in the car rental industry; NBTA's global expansion to include events in markets such as Brazil, China, Mexico and the United Kingdom; and NBTA's bylaws change to include more supplier representation on its Board of Directors.

NBTA would like to congratulate all 25 individuals named by Business Travel News as the 25 Most Influential Executives of 2006, particularly the following NBTA individual members: Sheri Carlsen, American Council for International Studies; Trip Davis, TRX; Tom DePasquale, Concur; Mike Koetting, Carlson Wagonlit Travel; and Richard Wooten, Lockheed Martin. The list includes 23 travel suppliers and corporate travel buyers, all of whose companies are supporters of NBTA as members and/or participants in the NBTA International Convention & Exposition.

Each year, Business Travel News acknowledges the work of 25 professionals in corporate travel for their influence in the industry. In the 2006 list, Fletcher and other NBTA members join the ranks of top industry executives, elected officials and innovative entrepreneurs who have had an impact on the industry throughout the past year.

The National Business Travel Association is the source for critical information on the business travel industry. For more than 35 years, NBTA has dedicated itself to the professional development of its members through advocacy, education and training, and networking opportunities. NBTA represents over 2,700 corporate and government travel managers and travel service providers, who collectively manage and direct more than \$170 billion of expenditures within the business travel industry. For more on NBTA, visit www.nbta.org.

**Redress Inquiry Program Announced by U.S. Department
NBTA Lauds Traveler Redress Inquiry Program Announced by U.S. Department
Association Views Program as a Healthy Step Towards Streamlining, Simplifying Travel Experience in U.S.**

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Alexandria, VA (January 18, 2007) – The National Business Travel Association, the leading provider of advocacy on behalf of the corporate travel industry, lauds the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) announcement of a Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP) aimed at providing travelers with a single, easy-to-use point of access for travel-related questions. The program, unveiled earlier this week by DHS officials, stems from travel industry officials and the traveling public's pleas for a system to rectify misidentification issues and instances in which travelers are incorrectly delayed, denied boarding or subjected to increased scrutiny at U.S. airports and other transportation hubs.

NBTA President and CEO Suzanne Fletcher remarked, "NBTA has been calling for simplified redress processes on behalf of its members for years. The association is pleased its efforts were recognized by DHS officials and commends the agency for moving forward with the vision for travel security the Departments of State and Homeland Security outlined early last year."



Fletcher continued, "The healthy conduct of business travel is essential to the U.S. and global economies. By introducing a system that will give business travelers a simplified process to address issues they may encounter at security checkpoints when traveling, our nation is assured that commerce is not negatively impacted by national security efforts."

Execution of the DHS TRIP system is expected to take place on February 20, 2007. At this time, the system will collect and process traveler redress inquiries and route them to the appropriate DHS department for review. Individuals submitting redress inquiries through the system will be able to track the progress of information collected throughout the process online. Further information, including how to file and monitor a redress inquiry, will be announced prior to the system's launch next month. Additionally, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) recent announcement that it will review the names on the nation's terrorist watch list for accuracy should help reduce the number of travelers mistakenly misidentified at security check points.

Fletcher added, "Both of these steps – the introduction of a simplified redress process and the review of TSA terrorist watch lists – are vital to preventing unnecessary havoc on travelers. NBTA looks forward to working with these and other government bodies on behalf of the corporate travel industry throughout the coming year to refine and enhance these processes to improve the experiences for thousands of travelers."

NBTA is recognized as the voice of corporate travel on Capitol Hill. Through the association's advocacy efforts, NBTA strives to inform and enlighten elected officials and agency representatives about the importance of business travel to the nation's economy and the impact of government regulations on commerce, as well as represent the views and concerns of the business travel community. NBTA looks forward to continued interaction with DHS to ensure the DHS TRIP system and other initiatives put forth by the department take into consideration the viability of business travel, respect traveler privacy, and avoid undue burdens on business.

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