

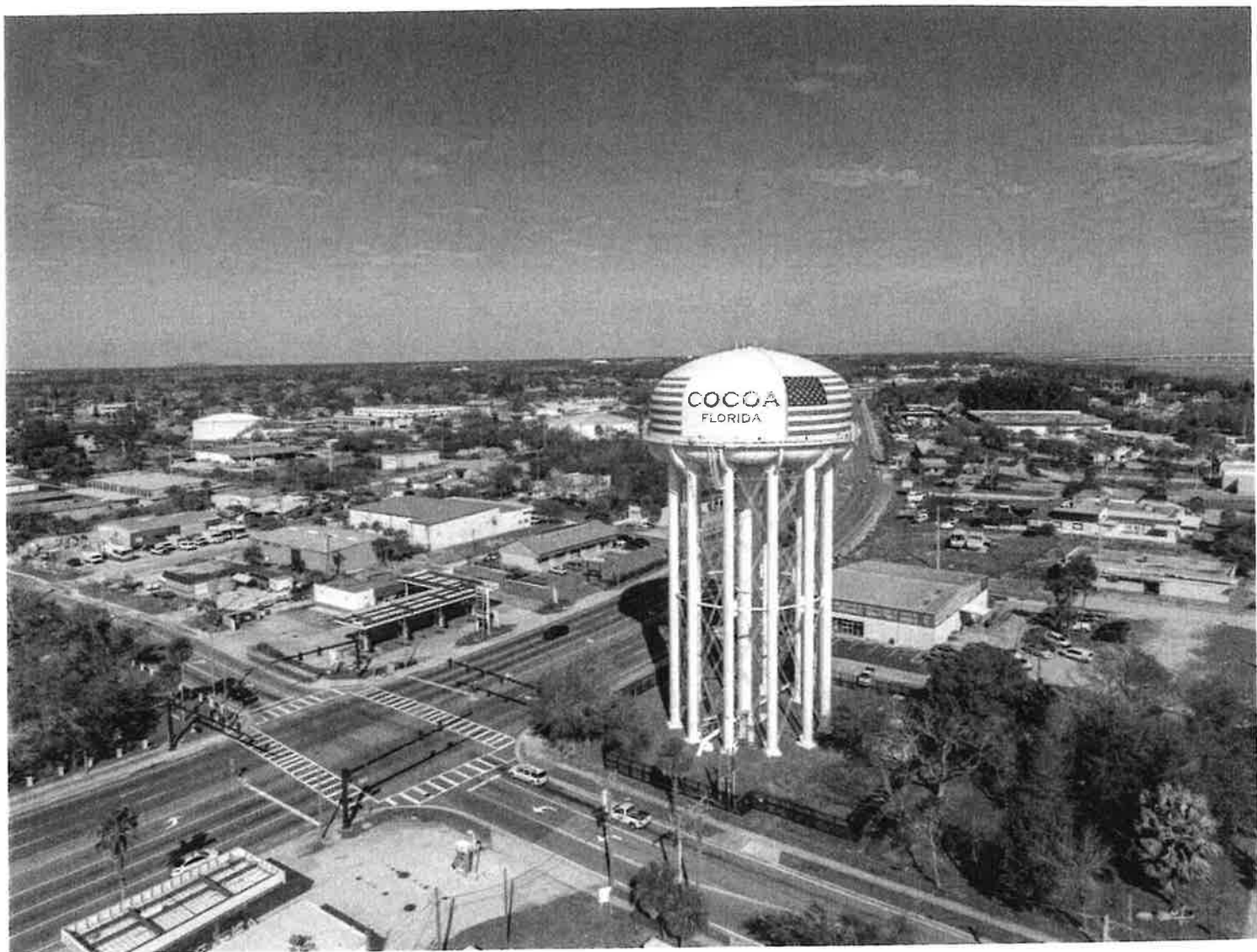
# Cocoa Multimodal Station Project

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Washington, DC

Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>

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## SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

### Tuesday, July 30

7:00am – 9:24am: MICO-DCA | American 511  
9:30am – 10:20am: Mini Bus from DCA to Hart Senate Office Building  
10:25am – 10:55am: Meeting with Senator Rick Scott  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
*[those arriving on American 511 will join as soon they arrive]*  
11:15am – 11:30am: Walk to The Monocle  
11:30am – 1:00pm: Lunch  
The Monocle, North Room  
1:00pm – 1:15pm: Walk to Russell Senate Office Building  
1:30pm – 2:00pm: Meeting with Keeri Kallarackal, Legislative Correspondent and Colin Tomlinson, Sr. Policy Advisor for Senator Marco Rubio  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
3:00pm – 3:30pm: Meeting with Valentina Valenta, Legislative Director for Congressman Bill Posey  
2150 Rayburn House Building  
3:45pm – 4:30pm: Carey Mini Bus from Rayburn House Office Building to Marriott Metro Center  
4:45pm – 5:15pm: Meeting with Jennifer Mitchell, Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration Washington Marriott at Metro Center  
5:30pm – 5:45pm: Carey Mini Bus from Marriott Metro Center to Del Frisco's  
6:00pm – 8:00pm: Dinner with Michael Halle, Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation  
Del Frisco's Steakhouse

### Wednesday, July 31st

8:20am – 8:30am: Carey Mini Bus from Conrad Hotel to Hart Senate Office Building  
8:30am – 8:40am: *[if not staying at Conrad]* Meet outside Hart Senate Office Building (Lucas: 412-628-3870)  
9:00am – 9:30am: Meeting with Kyle Fields, Counsel, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
227 Hart Senate Office Building  
10:30am – 11:00am: Meeting with Drew Feeley, Staff Director, House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials  
2253 Rayburn House Office Building  
11:00am – 11:30am: Carey Mini Bus from Rayburn House Office Building to Ocean Prime  
11:45am – 1:30pm: Lunch with Susie Perez Quinn, Senior Advisor, NASA  
Ocean Prime  
1:45pm – 2:00pm: Carey Mini Bus from Ocean Prime to DCA  
4:10pm – 6:39pm: DCA-MICO | Delta 924

## POINT OF CONTACT

### Scheduling & coordination:

Lucas Peilert

[lpeilert@bltrain.com](mailto:lpeilert@bltrain.com)

Mobile: 412-628-3870

## Cocoa Multimodal Station and Rail Project

<b>Grant Program:</b>	FRA - Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements (CRISI)
<b>Project Partners:</b>	City of Cocoa (lead applicant), Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (co-lead applicant), Brightline Trains (sub-recipient)
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$83,208,094
<b>Grant Request:</b>	\$47,460,000 (57% share)
<b>Member Project Funding:</b>	\$2,000,000 (5% share, requested by Representative Posey)
<b>Other Federal Funding:</b>	\$15,500,000 (19% share, Space Coast TPO)
<b>Non-Federal Funding:</b>	\$18,250,000 (20% share, private/local match)
<b>Project Purpose:</b>	<p>The Cocoa Multimodal Rail Station project aims to create a thriving Intermodal Hub by constructing a Brightline station in the City of Cocoa that connects various modes of transportation, including rail, air, sea, space, road, and active transportation. The new station would leverage existing Brightline operations that currently pass through the city without stopping. The proposed station is located near transit and has access to rideshare alternatives to transport riders to their end destination.</p> <p>Central Florida's substantial projected growth will increase demands on the existing transportation network. High-speed rail delivered through the Cocoa Multimodal Station and Rail Project would foster intercity connectivity and provide a viable alternative to road travel in a rapidly growing region.</p>
<b>Scope of Project:</b>	The project activities would include the construction of a new in-line station, four miles of double-tracking, and all necessary signals to support smooth and efficient operations. The station and four miles of double-track will be contained entirely within the Brightline Corridor; parking and on-site circulation will be developed on land already owned by the project partners.
<b>Benefits:</b>	<p>The project would generate nearly \$700M in quantifiable benefits, yielding a 10.5 Benefit-Cost Ratio. The project would benefit Cocoa residents and travelers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing a travel option with 75% fewer emissions as compared to driving</li><li>• Shifting 1.5M car trips per year to rail, eliminating associated congestion</li><li>• Improving transport access in a census tract where 21% of residents lack a car</li><li>• Facilitating car-free travel to nationally-renowned, but parking-constrained destinations like Kennedy Space Center, Port Canaveral, and Cocoa Beach</li></ul>

## PROJECT TALKING POINTS

- Economic development flywheel effect: Brightline is part of an ecosystem that has propelled growth in Central Florida. The new station will permanently wire the Space Coast region in to the benefits of this growth flywheel, building on sizeable recent and future investment inflows:
  - Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center: Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center account for 70% of US rocket launches; the sites are expected to see 120 launches in 2024, up from 73 in 2023. Nearly every major space company has a significant operational presence in the region.
  - Port Canaveral: A recent Space Florida study recommended \$2B in Port Canaveral improvements to accommodate space industry demand. Demand for Port capacity is also strong from the cruise industry, as indicated by recently-announced plans to build new terminals to the north and the south of the current facility.
- Connections to major destinations: The future station site is a prime location, allowing riders to connect to Port Canaveral's cruise terminal, the Kennedy Space Center Visitors Complex, Atlantic Ocean beaches, the Brevard Zoo, and the Melbourne International Airport—destinations which combine for annual visitation in the tens of millions.
  - Cruise terminal: Port Canaveral is the 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest cruise terminal in the world, with almost 7 million passengers every single year. The Port is located just 10 miles from the station site, allowing for a direct MCO-cruise terminal connection. Next year, the world's largest cruise ship will enter service at Port Canaveral.
  - Kennedy Space Center: The new station would connect Kennedy Space Center to Brightline's statewide high-speed rail network, providing access for education, tourism, the federal government, and the space industry.
- Traffic relief: The new station is expected to shift 1.5 million trips each year from car to rail, relieving congestion and reducing emissions on area roads and parking facilities.
- Space industry: The space industry is strong and growing in the region, and improved connectivity to Orlando and Miami will only accelerate the investments that space industry firms are making in the area.
- Strong match funding package and local support: Contributions from key stakeholders including the City, Space Coast TPO, and Brightline (land). Historic Cocoa Village (HCV) identified well over 100 businesses in the area supporting the project.
- Florida's IIJA funding gap: Florida is currently ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out 50 states in discretionary IIJA grant funding per capita. This project represents an opportunity to provide Floridians access to the transformative benefits the IIJA has delivered for residents of other states.

Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> | 10:25am – 10:55am: Meeting with Senator Rick Scott



**Senator Rick Scott**  
Republican - Florida

Rick Scott was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2018 and is currently serving his first term representing the state of Florida. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Rick Scott served two terms as the 45th Governor of Florida. Before entering politics, from 1987 to 1997, Scott established and led Columbia, which later became Columbia/HCA, a company that works to reduce costs and improve care for patients in hospitals around the country. After purchasing a controlling interest in America's Health Network, Scott co-founded Solantic Corporation in 2001, which operates urgent care centers across Florida.

**Committee assignments:**

Committee on Armed Services

- Subcommittee on Airland
- Subcommittee on Personnel (*Ranking*)
- Subcommittee on Seapower

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

- Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
- Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight

Committee on the Budget

**Agenda:**

- 10:25am – 10:40am: Welcome and project overview (Jason Steele, Brevard County Chair)
- 10:40am – 10:50am: Local delegation introduction & comments (Mayor Michael Blake facilitating)
- 10:50am – 10:55am: Questions, discussion, and conclusion

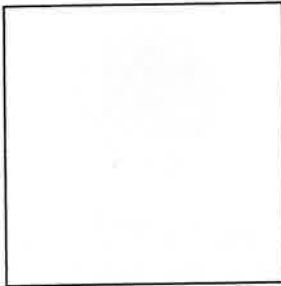
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Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> | 1:30pm – 2:00pm: Meeting with Senator Marco Rubio staff



**Keeri Kallarackal**  
*Legislative Correspondent*  
Senator Marco Rubio



**Connor Tomlinson**  
*Senior Policy Advisor*  
Senator Marco Rubio

Keeri Kallarackal and Connor Tomlinson are members of Senator Rubio's policy staff. Connor Tomlinson advises the Senator on transportation matters.

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Senator Rubio's committee assignments:

Committee on Appropriations

- Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
- Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
- Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
- Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
- Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Select Committee on Intelligence (*Ranking Member*)

Committee on Foreign Relations

- Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues (*Ranking Member*)
- Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
- Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development

**Agenda:**

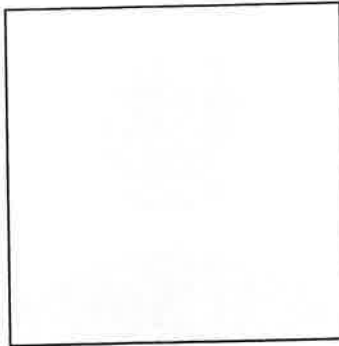
- 1:30pm – 1:35pm: Welcome (Mayor Michael Blake, City of Cocoa)
- 1:35pm – 1:40pm: Station project overview (Jason Steele, Brevard County Chair)
- 1:40pm – 1:55pm: Local delegation intro, perspectives on project benefits (Jason Steele facilitating)
- 1:55pm – 2:00pm: Questions, discussion, and conclusion

**Key talking points:**

- Connections to major destinations: The future station site is a prime location, allowing riders to connect to Port Canaveral's cruise terminal, the Kennedy Space Center Visitors Complex, Atlantic Ocean beaches, the Brevard Zoo, and the Melbourne International Airport—destinations which combine for annual visitation in the tens of millions.
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Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> | 3:00pm – 3:30pm: Meeting with Valentina Valenta, Leg. Dir., Congressman Posey



**Valentina Valenta**  
*Legislative Director*  
Congressman Bill Posey  
Florida's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

**Valentina Valenta, Legislative Director for Congressman Bill Posey**

Valentina's background includes Financial Services Committee portfolio, including Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee; Appropriations; Budget; Natural Resources (Interior and EPA); and Army Corps of Engineers.

**Background on Congressman Bill Posey**

Congressman Bill Posey represents Florida's 8th Congressional District. Posey was elected to the House in 2008 and is serving his eighth term. Prior to Congress, Posey served for eight years in the Florida State Senate. In 1992 Posey was elected to the Florida House of Representatives and had previously served for 10 years as a member of the Rockledge City Council. Before entering public service, Bill worked at the Kennedy Space Center until he was laid off with the end of the Apollo Program. He then founded Posey & Co. Realtors and later served as a director of the Florida Association of Realtors and President of the Space Coast Association of Realtors.

**Committee assignments:**

Committee on Financial Services

- Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy
- Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

- Subcommittee on Environment
- Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics

**Agenda:**

- 3:00pm – 3:05pm: Welcome (Mayor Michael Blake, City of Cocoa)
- 3:05pm – 3:10pm: Station project overview (Jason Steele, Brevard County Chair)
- 3:10pm – 3:25pm: Local delegation intro, perspectives on project benefits (Jason Steele facilitating)
- 3:25pm – 4:00pm: Questions, discussion, and conclusion

**Key talking points:**

- Connections to major destinations: The future station site is a prime location, allowing riders to connect to Port Canaveral's cruise terminal, the Kennedy Space Center Visitors Complex, Atlantic Ocean beaches, the Brevard Zoo, and the Melbourne International Airport—destinations which combine for annual visitation in the tens of millions.
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- Florida's IJJA funding gap: Florida is currently ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in discretionary IJJA grant funding per capita. This project represents an opportunity to provide Floridians access to the transformative benefits the IJJA has delivered for residents of other states.



Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> | 4:45pm – 5:15pm: Meeting with Jennifer Mitchell, Dep. Administrator, FRA



**Jennifer Mitchell**  
Deputy Administrator  
Federal Railroad  
Administration

Jennifer Mitchell was appointed as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration in April 2022. In that role, she provides executive leadership and direction on agency operations and policy matters, including the agency's safety and rail development activities.

Prior to joining the FRA, she served for eight years as Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DPRT) where she led several strategic initiatives. These include landmark agreements between CSX, Norfolk Southern Railway and Amtrak to significantly expand passenger rail service in the State over the next ten years, as well as advancing construction of the new Long Bridge across the Potomac River. Jennifer also helped lead the creation of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission in collaboration with Maryland and the District of Columbia. She played a key role in securing dedicated regional funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, development of a new transit ridership incentive grant programs, and creation of the Commonwealth's SmartScale multimodal transportation funding program.

Ms. Mitchell has served on boards of the American Public Transportation Association, Women's Transportation Seminar, and the Eno Transportation Foundation. In 2018 she was named by Railway Age as a Woman of the Year, and in 2020 she was named by the Council of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) as a Woman that Moves the Nation. She holds a Bachelor of City Planning degree from the University of Virginia and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

#### **Agenda:**

TBD: Welcome (Mayor Michael Blake, City of Cocoa)

TBD: Station project overview (Jason Steele, Brevard County Chair)

TBD: Local delegation intro, perspectives on project benefits (Jason Steele facilitating)

TBD: Questions, discussion, and conclusion

#### **Key talking points:**

- Connections to major destinations: The future station site is a prime location, allowing riders to connect to Port Canaveral's cruise terminal, the Kennedy Space Center Visitors Complex, Atlantic Ocean beaches, the Brevard Zoo, and the Melbourne International Airport—destinations which combine for annual visitation in the tens of millions.
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Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> | 6:00pm – 8:00pm: Dinner with Michael Halle



**Michael Halle**  
*Senior Advisor*  
U.S. Department of  
Transportation

Michael Halle serves as Senior Advisor in the Office of the Secretary. Michael previously served in the federal government from 2009-2010 in the Office of Health Reform at the Department of Health and Human Services, where he worked on the passage of the Affordable Care Act. Most recently, Michael served as a consultant and strategic adviser to executives in the private and philanthropic sectors. Michael grew up in Champaign, Illinois, and tries to spend as much time outdoors as possible.

**Additional experience:**

- Pete for America
- Blue Leadership Collaborative
- 13D Research & Strategy
- Hillary for America
- Office of Health Reform at the Department of Health and Human Services
- Obama for America

Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> | 9:00am – 9:30am Meeting with Kyle Fields



**Kyle Fields**

*Counsel*

U.S. Senate Committee on  
Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation

Kyle Fields is the Counsel for the Senate's Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports Subcommittee within the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Prior to working in Congress, Kyle served as a fellow and a trial attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel at the Federal Railroad Administration, where he focused on safety issues.

**Agenda:**

- 9:00am – 9:05am: Welcome (Mayor Michael Blake, City of Cocoa)
- 9:05am – 9:10am: Station project overview (Jason Steele, Brevard County Chair)
- 9:10am – 9:25am: Local delegation intro, perspectives on project benefits (Jason Steele facilitating)
- 9:25am – 9:30am: Questions, discussion, and conclusion

**Key talking points:**

- Connections to major destinations: The future station site is a prime location, allowing riders to connect to Port Canaveral's cruise terminal, the Kennedy Space Center Visitors Complex, Atlantic Ocean beaches, the Brevard Zoo, and the Melbourne International Airport—destinations which combine for annual visitation in the tens of millions.
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Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> | 10:30am – 11:00am: Meeting with Drew Feeley



**Drew Feeley**

*Staff Director*

House Subcommittee on  
Railroads, Pipelines, and  
Hazardous Materials

Drew Feeley first joined the Subcommittee as Senior Counsel in December 2019. Prior to joining the Committee, Feeley served as Senior Counsel with the White House Council on Environmental Quality and as Policy Counsel with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); in both positions, he worked on infrastructure project permitting reform and the modernization of the federal environmental review process. Feeley has also served on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, where he worked on energy and environmental issues.

**Agenda:**

- 10:30am – 10:35am: Welcome (Mayor Michael Blake, City of Cocoa)
- 10:35am – 10:40am: Station project overview (Jason Steele, Brevard County Chair)
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Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> | 12:00pm – 1:30pm: Lunch with Susie Perez Quinn



**Susie Perez Quinn**  
*Senior Advisor*  
NASA

**Additional experience:**

- Director of Government Relations, National Governors Association
- Chief of Staff, Senator Bill Nelson

Susie Perez Quinn is senior advisor in the NASA administrator's office. In announcing her appointment, Administrator Bill Nelson said, "Susie's passion for climate policy and her understanding of federal, state, and local government has been a guiding light since joining NASA in 2021. She was instrumental in the success of many priorities, including making NASA's Earth science data more accessible to communities around the country through initiatives like the Earth Information Center. She has been a trusted counsel to me for more than two decades and I look forward to her continued guidance in her new role as senior advisor."

Before taking this role, Quinn was NASA's chief of staff, where she worked with Nelson and senior staff to shape the strategic direction of the agency while overseeing and articulating various policies and programs. Previously, Quinn served as the director of government relations at the National Governors Association (NGA), where she led, directed, and executed the federal policy agenda for the nation's 55 state and territory governors. These policy efforts ranged from health care and workforce to education and the National Guard. She worked with Congress and the administration to ensure states and territories received COVID-19 response relief and recovery funds in the American Rescue Plan and CARES Act.

Prior to joining NGA in 2019, she worked in the U.S. Senate for 17 years, most recently as chief of staff to Sen. Nelson. In that role, she managed all policy, communications, and political affairs. She had a key role in crafting legislation dedicating funding for critical research for the domestic citrus industry and helped lead the congressional response to the 2010 BP oil spill, resulting in direct funding to the states and localities harmed by the spill. During her time in the Senate, she helped to secure authorizations and funding for numerous civilian projects, including the massive, multiyear restoration of the Everglades.

She also served as a political appointee at the Department of the Interior in 2010 during the reform of the agency's oil and gas permitting processes where she was part of a team charged with developing a new regulatory framework for offshore wind energy.

Quinn is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and criminology and a Master of Arts in political management from George Washington University.





