

Recent MTAC Proposed Changes – Frequently Asked Question

The following questions reflect concerns expressed by MTAC members related to some of the proposed changes to MTAC meeting content, scheduling and structure.

Q: Why has the format of MTAC meetings been changed?

A: The new format was developed in response to the mutual interest expressed by MTAC members and Postal Service leadership in having more focused, candid, and timely technical discussions. The new format also addresses Postal leadership's desire to most efficiently and effectively receive technical feedback from MTAC members, and make best use of the tremendous resources they provide.

- MTAC members have requested a smaller, more candid discussion venue with USPS executives where they can provide feedback focusing on the interests, ideas and concerns of specific classes of mail. The MTAC Focus Group meetings are designed to give MTAC members and Postal leaders the opportunity to candidly discuss class-specific topics in smaller groups; the new meeting format also supports a more free-flowing, two-way discussion of sensitive/hot topics.
- Postal and Industry leadership recognized that stakeholders across the entire mail supply chain are interested in interacting with both MTAC representatives and Postal executives on a regular basis. The "USPS Leadership Forum for Stakeholders" concept is designed to allow all interested industry stakeholders to hear directly from Postal leadership on current USPS issues and initiatives. Leadership Forums are planned for the afternoon (Tuesdays) before full-day MTAC meetings (Wednesdays). The current plan is for each Leadership Forum to be followed on Tuesday evening by a reception open to MTAC members, other stakeholders, and Postal executives. Pre-registration and payment will be required for all attendees. Details regarding pre-registration, payment, and location of the Leadership Forums and receptions are still being determined.
- For a number of reasons, the Postal Service and the MTAC Executive Committee decided to end the MTAC dues collection process; MTAC member associations no longer are required to pay annual dues to maintain MTAC membership. Funding for stakeholder receptions will be based on attendance, and handled independently of the Postal Service.

Q: Why are MTAC Focus Group sessions all scheduled on one day, rather than split across two days?

A: This was designed for two reasons.

1. Having the Focus Group sessions on a single day (Wednesday) permits a continuous dialogue involving all classes of mail across all four focus areas. The objective of these sessions is to flesh out concerns, questions and ideas, and elicit technical feedback from attendees. Then, during the MTAC business meeting at the end of the day (Wednesday), MTAC representatives, association executives, and Industry focus area/class leaders will compare and share notes and feedback in order to fully inform the next morning's (Thursday) discussion between MTAC Industry and Postal leaders.

2. Having all four sets of “focus area” meetings on a single day ensures the regular and active participation of Postal Service vice presidents, and provides greater flexibility to those MTAC members who use “MTAC week” to participate in Work Group meetings, visit their representatives in Congress, or schedule other DC-area meetings.

Q: Why is the number of MTAC Representatives changing from 2 to 3?

A: Adding a representative ensures that MTAC member associations have the ability to cover all four “focus area” meetings, which are concurrently scheduled – three MTAC representatives and one association executive will be able to attend all four concurrent meetings during each Focus Group period on Wednesdays. The MTAC Executive Team strongly encourages all association representatives to compare notes with one another, and to keep their constituents informed of the content and outcomes of MTAC meetings.

Q: Will there still be an MTAC “General Session”?

A: Yes. MTAC Focus Group meeting days will begin with a general MTAC meeting (a “plenary session,” or membership assembly) at which important MTAC housekeeping information will be shared, new members will be recognized, and key Postal presentations important for all MTAC members may be made (so they need not be repeated in individual Focus Group meetings throughout the day). Between MTAC meetings, teleconferences and webinars will be used as frequently as is necessary to keep members informed and updated. However, some of what MTAC members previously understood to be “General Session” topics (e.g., financial reports, legislative and marketing updates, etc.) will be covered in the Postal Service’s Leadership Forums for Stakeholders rather than as a part of MTAC meetings. Again, these Leadership Forums will be held the afternoon before MTAC meetings to encourage attendance by MTAC members.

Q: Why do current MTAC Associations have to submit “Association Membership Forms” – is this a way of making them re-apply to MTAC?

A: The MTAC Executive Team’s intent is not to create an extra hoop for associations to jump through, or to use this process to “weed out” associations. The Executive Team believes that having MTAC Associations submit Association Membership Forms with complete, updated information about the associations themselves, their Executives, and their representatives (including a third representative, if the Association chooses to name one) is necessary to ensure that all segments of the mailing industry are effectively represented by MTAC. Associations have been asked to provide information that will help the Executive Team understand:

- The association’s main charter/mission/purpose
- The number of members in the association
- Why the association wants to be part of MTAC, and what they hope to gain from membership
- Who will represent the association in MTAC:
 - Up to 3 Representatives
 - An Association Executive

Q: Can MTAC members attend *any* MTAC Focus Group session? And are non-MTAC industry stakeholders ever allowed to attend MTAC Focus Group sessions?

A: Any **active MTAC member** (“member” for the purpose of this answer means a designated representative or the designated association executive for an MTAC member association) may attend any Focus Group session, although the MTAC Leadership Team’s preference would be for an association to have only one of its four designated MTAC members in any one Focus Group session. This will help keep each of the Focus Group sessions small enough to allow for meaningful discussion. A **non-MTAC industry stakeholder** may **participate** in Focus Group sessions, **provided:**

1. The “participant’s” name was submitted by an MTAC association or an elected MTAC leader or USPS leader to the MTAC Program Manager **at least one month** before the date of the next set of MTAC Focus Group sessions. A form for this purpose (“Participant Sponsorship” form) is provided on the MTAC page on RIBBS. The form asks the sponsor to identify the unique perspective or experience this individual would bring to the upcoming Focus Group sessions that is not currently represented by active MTAC members.
2. In accordance with the current MTAC Charter, the MTAC Executive Team will review the nomination and will respond within two weeks of the Program Manager’s receipt of the form. Approval of a participant’s attendance *is only for the next meeting* unless the MTAC Executive Team specifically approves that participant’s attendance for other scheduled meetings.

Q: Why is there no USPS Leadership Forum for Stakeholders and reception offered in connection with MTAC’s May meeting?

A: Because a tremendous amount of stakeholder-type information had been shared at the National Postal Forum just the month before the scheduled May meeting, the Postal Service determined, in consultation with the MTAC Executive Committee, that there would be no USPS Leadership Forum scheduled adjacent to the May MTAC meeting. Since the presentations from NPF are posted publicly on npf.org, the mailing industry already has access to this wealth of stakeholder information. Any critical changes from what was presented at NPF either has or will be considered for webinars, presentation at the opening MTAC plenary session, or mentioned during the Focus Group meetings, notes from which will be posted publicly on the MTAC page of RIBBS shortly after the May MTAC meeting.

Because there is no Leadership Forum scheduled for May, there is also no stakeholder reception. The Postal Service has scheduled both for the day before the August 2012 MTAC meeting (the Leadership Forum and stakeholder reception will be on Tuesday, August 14; MTAC’s August meeting date is Wednesday, August 15).

The MTAC Executive and Leadership teams are listening to MTAC members, and value your input. We want to ensure an MTAC structure and meeting format that is productive and constructive for Industry and the Postal Service, and reflects the continuing evolution of our industry. We realize that change can be difficult, so we appreciate your patience as we continue to actively structure an MTAC that best serves everyone involved.