DelDOT Aeronautics
Delaware Aviation Advisory Council (DAAC)
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2025

Members Present
LeSans Alexander, At-Large
Robert Bryant, Sussex County- At-Large
Jeff Chorman, Fixed-Based Operator
Ben Clendaniel, DRBA
Jeremiah Hardy, Corporate Aviation
Richard Horstmann, At-Large
Matt Jordan- Kent County- At Large
Nick Ryan, New Castle County- At-Large

DelDOT Support Staff
Liddy Campbell, Admin Assistant, DelDOT
Austin Gray, Assistant Director, Planning
Stephanie Johnson, Director, Planning
Bryce Kent, DelDOT/ADCI, Intern
Tyller Maltbie, DelDOT/ADCI Intern

Others Present
Randal Wiedemann, R.A. Wiedemann & Assoc.
Lee Christian, R. A. Wiedemann & Associates

I. Welcome and Introductions

- **Introductions:** Austin started the meeting with an announcement about some recent changes within the DelDOT Planning section. Austin introduced Stephanie Johnson as the new Director of Planning. Stephanie thanked Austin for the introduction, and she stated that she is excited to take on the new role as Director of Planning and is looking forward to working with the DAAC. Austin proceeded with an overview of the current Safety Slide, which included the recent number of Delaware Traffic Fatalities. Austin also presented to the DAAC members a newly adopted Policy through DelDOT, called the Safe System Approach, which provides strategies and actions for all road users. Austin explained how aviation plays a key role in providing safer travel modes versus long-distance driving on the roadways. A roll call of the DAAC members present was taken. Quorum was confirmed. Austin also announced that we currently have one vacant seat for the Aviation Education position.

- **Administrative Updates:**
  - **Council Member Survey:** Austin announced that he and Bob Bryant met to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the DAAC, and they created a Council Member Survey to get feedback from the DAAC Council members. Austin stated that he will be sending out the surveys to the DAAC.

- **Delaware State University Aviation Classes:** Austin attended two aviation classes at Delaware State University and presented information on Delaware Aviation.

    - **FAA System Planning Grant:** Austin stated that DelDOT will be applying for the updated System Planning Grant. The grant will cover the next two calendar years of the aircraft operations counting program and pavement management study.

II. Old Business

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Copies of the meeting minutes from the January 15, 2025, meeting was distributed and reviewed by the DAAC Council members before the meeting. Austin asked the members for approval of the minutes. Jeff Chorman made a motion for approval, and Nick Ryan seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

III. New Business

- **2024 Aircraft Operations Counting Program Review:** Randal provided an overview of how the Noise Meters are used at the airports and how the data is collected throughout the year. Randal stated that Bryce and Tyller, DelDOT's aviation interns, gather the data. Bryce stated that the new noise counters are being distributed at each airport. Randal provided Noise data counts for each airport from 2024, which shows an increase in airport operations at most airports. Ben Clendaniel asked if the Airport Data results could be sent to the various airports. Randal stated there is a report that can be provided to the DAAC and asked Austin to email it to the DAAC for review.

- **Statewide Aviation System Plan Updates:** Randal provided updates on the Delaware Statewide Aviation System Plan, with a brief explanation of the nine tasks within the planning process. Randal stated that they have added the Integration of AAM and Vertiports into the System Plan. Randal continued with a brief explanation on the Analysis of Existing System. Randal also explained the Forecasts of Aviation Demand, as well as the Role of FAA Terminal Area Forecasts. Randal also shared the Aviation System Plan Schedule, which includes the 9 tasks, and currently they have completed the first three tasks: Issues, Goals, Inventory, and Forecasts, and will continue working on the remaining 6 tasks.

- **Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Feasibility Study Progress:** Randal provided an update on the Advanced Air Mobility Feasibility Study (AAM). Randal stated that he and Austin met with Dr. Devdeep Maity, who oversees the Center of AAM at Delaware State University (DSU), and DSU has their own AAM Task Force and Randal explained the Vision and Focus aspects of DSU's AAM and found it would be beneficial to collaborate their goals along with the State of Delaware's AAM Study.

- **State Funding Program Updates:** Austin announced that six projects were selected for FY25 funding. Austin also announced that applications for FY26 funding will be accepted starting July 1, 2025.

IV. Member Updates

- **Jeff Chorman updates:**
  - **Chorman Airport:** Jeff Chorman stated that the AWOS project is up and running. Jeff also mentioned that on the North end of the airport, they cleared away approximately 6 acres of land and will be speaking to Austin on next steps.
  - **Laurel Airport:** Jeff announced that runway clearing on the North end of the airport has been completed.

- **Robert Bryant updates:**
  - **Delaware Coastal Airport:** Robert Bryant stated they submitted a Notice to Proceed for the first phase for the new full-length parallel taxiway, for their primary taxiway 422. Bob stated that this will be the first phase to be completed, and there will be three additional follow-ups to complete the project. Bob also announced they submitted a Notice to Proceed to mark all the runway and taxiway markings, a $78K bid award. Bob mentioned that they are working with the FAA in applying for the Runway Extension Pilot Program, and they are waiting on a response from the FAA. Austin mentioned that he recently attended a NASAO conference, and there were talks about the Pilot Program and funding is expected in May.

- **Ben Clendaniel updates:**
  - **ILG:** Ben stated that they are currently working on the six-thousand-square-foot terminal expansion.
  - **Avelo Airlines:** Ben stated that they have completed 24 months of air services. Ben also mentioned that some of their destination areas have been removed from their services, however, two other destination spots were added back onto the list, Raleigh-Durham and Nashville. And they also added Jacksonville, FL to their list.
  - **Civil Air Terminal:** Ben mentioned they continue to work with DelDOT as well as with Kent Economic Partnership, looking at development potentials.
  - **Delaware Airpark:** Ben stated they are about to begin the apron expansion phase II. Another project they are working on starting is the 5 connected box hangers.

V. Public Comments

- No public comments.

VI. Next Meeting

- July 23, 2025