DelDOT Aeronautics
Delaware Aviation Advisory Council (DAAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2025

Members Present
LeSans Alexander, At-Large
Robert Bryant, Sussex County- At-Large
Jeff Chorman, Fixed-Based Operator
Jeremiah Hardy, Corporate Aviation
Richard Horstmann, At-Large
Kelvin Lesene, Aviation Education

DelDOT Support Staff
Bruce Allen, DelDOT, Planning
Liddy Campbell, DelDOT, Planning
Austin Gray, DelDOT, Planning

Others Present
Randal Wiedemann, R.A. Wiedemann & Assoc.
Lee Christian, R. A. Wiedemann & Associates
Devdeep Maity, Delaware State University
Brian Baker, Jacobs Engineering

I. Welcome and Introductions

- **Introductions:** Austin Gray started the meeting with a few presentation slides, which included DelDOT's mission statement, the current Delaware Safety Slide, highlighting recent Delaware Traffic Fatalities. Austin continued with the Safe System Approach slide, which offers proactive strategies and actions for all road users.
  - **Mission and Goals:** Austin moved on to the State's Aviation Missions and Goals and the primary purpose in establishing the Delaware Aviation Advisory Council (DAAC). Austin stated that DelDOT's mission in the Office of Aeronautics is to provide and enhance Delaware's economic development by promoting a safe, efficient aviation system for people, goods, and services. Austin provided the seven key goals: Safety & Security; Economic Vitality; Quality of Life; System Preservation; System Management; Travel & Tourism; and Customer Service.
  - **Responsibilities of the Office of Aeronautics:** Austin stated that the Office of Aeronautics is responsible for conducting Statewide System Planning Projects as well as providing funding for infrastructure at the NPIAS and Non-NPIAS facilities across the state. Austin also mentioned that airport inspections are conducted regularly in order to be able to license the airports, and this is a requirement per the state code. And Obstruction Reviews are also conducted in the event a developer is interested in building in the vicinity of the airports.
  - **Role and Purpose:** Austin explained the Role and Purpose of the DAAC, which is defined in State Code: https://delcode.delaware.gov/title2/c005/index.html to support the

department in planning and implementing aviation system enhancements, supporting and promoting aviation education, recommending new or improvements to existing locations, facilities, programs, projects, and equipment, and recommending other related activities to support and improve aviation. Austin provided an overview of the Council itself, stating that the DAAC shall consist of nine (9) members, each appointed by the Secretary of DelDOT which includes at least one representative from each of the following: A Fixed-Based Operator; the Delaware River & Bay Authority (DRBA); an aviation education representative; a representative from corporate aviation; one representative from each County and two At-large members selected by the Secretary. Austin also explained that the Council may create and maintain an annual work plan that sets the priorities of the members and sets work tasks. The Council may also create reports or documents that support the business council, and the Council may form any number of committees or working groups to conduct the business of the Council. Austin also shared the System Map, which provided a breakdown of the 10 public-use aviation facilities as well as facilities at the Dover Air Force Base and Civil Air Terminal.

- **Member Attendance**: Liddy Campbell provided a roll call of the Council members. Six Council members were present for the meeting, and a quorum was met.

- **Staff Updates**
  - **NASAO Conference**: Austin announced that he attended the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) conference from 9/21/25-9/25/25 in Anchorage, Alaska. Austin stated that he attended a lot of great sessions, which included discussions on maximizing state funds, how to implement the state system plan, and models for sustainable AAM funding**.** Austin explained that they hosted a great roundtable discussion that took place with representatives from each state about their programs.
  - **DAAC Member Appointments:** Austin announced that 4 of the council members' terms will be expiring as of December 31st. Austin will reach out to the members asking for their interest in continuing to serve as a member with the DAAC.

II. Old Business

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Copies of the meeting minutes from the July 23, 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 LeSans Alexander seconded the motion for approval. An all-in-favor/opposed vote was announced, and an all-in-favor vote to approve the meeting minutes was made by the Council members.

III. New Business

- **FY26 Budget Overview:** Austin provided a project cost breakdown of the State's Aeronautics Funding Program for FY26 and FY27. The Funding shown was broken down by Fiscal Year as well as by State Spend and Federal Spend. Austin also shared a list of projects and the funding that was spent on these projects. Austin explained what information determines how funding is spent for Airport Capital Improvement plans (ACIP) for NPIAS

and Non-NPIAS facilities and explained what types of funding are utilized for projects received.

- **DSU CAAM Update:** Mr. Devdeep Maity from Delaware State University provided a presentation on the Center for Advanced Air Mobility (CAAM) that was created in March 2025. Mr. Maity shared photos of new advanced aircrafts from various conferences that he attended. He also commented and shared information on current investors, Joby Aviation and Archer Aviation. Mr. Maity also shared statistical information on how the CAAM could potentially produce a community average growth rate of 21.7% and a $110B industry by 2035. Mr. Maity continued with an explanation of the Vision and Mission statements, as well as the Objectives of the CAAM. Mr. Maity also shared the Areas of Focus, which included items such as: Vertiport Planning and Infrastructure, Ground and Airspace Integration, Pilot training and Workforce Development, Policy Development and Public Acceptance. Mr. Maity continued with an explanation of how DSU CAAAM is working with NASA on an education and grant program. Mr. Maity also announced that an event took place at Delaware State University called- Air 2026- Advanced Air Mobility Innovation and Readiness for the State of Delaware. This event included stakeholders and regulators, and the main focus was on the potential integration for the FIFA World Cup as well as stadiums within the United States.

- **Statewide Aviation System Plan Update:** Randal provided updates on the Delaware Statewide Aviation System Plan. Randal stated the Goals and Objectives are complete as well as the Inventory and Forecast and now the next step is the Demand/Capacity Analysis, followed by System Facility needs. The Demand/Capacity analysis was performed for Airfield and Landside Facilities. Randal explained that the analysis performed includes 20 years of constrained facilities. Randal shared an annual breakdown of Delaware's airports' airfield capacity, and the analysis shows that the airports are well within their airfield capacity limits. Randal provided information on the Wilmington ILG airport, and the gate and terminal capacity were adequate, which provided 2,200 Annual Airport Operations. Randal also explained that in 2024, an airport expansion of 6,000 square feet of terminal space was made at the ILG Airport. Randal continued with Airfield Improvements through 2045, which includes: Pavement Overlays for 6 airports; Runway Extension for Delaware Coastal Airport; Extension also for Summit Airport for Corporate and MRO Growth; Runway Widening for Chorman and Chandelle Airports; and Turf Preservation at Jenkins, Laurel, and Smyrna Airport Facilities. Randal also shared information on Landside Facility Needs for some of the Delaware Airports. Randal explained that an analysis was also done on Heliport and Vertiport Capacity by using the Modeling FAA, AAM Vertiport Design Brief.

IV. Member Updates

- **Jeff Chorman updates:**
  - **Laurel Airport:** Jeff stated that the installation of lights is working great. All the hangars are full, except for one.
  - **Greenwood Airport:** Jeff stated that a fly-in event will take place on October 25, 2025, from 10 am – 3 pm. Jeff also submitted a Request for Funding for taxiway paving on the

north side of the rental hangars and obstruction removal on the north end. Jeff also stated that sealcoating went well, and he mentioned that two of the airport rental hangars are available for rent.

- **Kelvin Lesene updates:**
  - Kelvin announced that the DSU Airport student pilot program has approximately 100 students, and there are 25 airplanes available; however, they have been under an airplane schedule maintenance shutdown for the past 2 weeks and are actively looking for an aircraft mechanic.
- **Robert Bryant updates:**
  - **Delaware Coastal Airport:** Robert Bryant announced that construction on the taxiway has been completed on the first phase of a four-phase project. Mr. Byant announced that the FAA will provide FAA grants for the remainder 3 phases of the project.
  - Mr. Bryant stated that he is waiting for a response from the FAA regarding the application submission on the General Aviation Runway Extension Pilot Program.
  - Mr. Bryant also stated that Aloft is doing very well, utilizing all hangars.

V. Public Comments

- No public comments.

VI. Next Meeting

- January 21, 2026

VII. Adjournment: A motion was made by Jeff Chorman to close out the meeting and seconded by Jeremiah Hardy. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Minutes prepared by: *Liddy Campbell, DelDOT Planning*
Minutes reviewed by: *Austin Gray, DelDOT Planning*