

**DelDOT Aeronautics**  
**Delaware Aviation Advisory Council (DAAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 17, 2024**

**Members Present**

Robert Bryant, Sussex County, At-Large  
Jeff Chorman, Fixed Based Operator  
Ben Clendaniel, DRBA  
Jeremiah Hardy, Corporate Aviation  
Richard Horstmann, At-Large  
Steve Williams, DRBA

**DelDOT Support Staff**

Mike DuRoss, Assistant Director, Planning  
Steve Bayer, Planning Supervisor  
Austin Gray, Aeronautics Program Manager  
Yassin Alallaq, DelDOT/ADCI Support Intern

**Others Present**

Randal Wiedemann, R.A. Wiedemann & Assoc.  
Paul Wiedemann, R.A. Wiedemann & Assoc.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- **Introductions:** The meeting started with a roll call of the DAAC members present. Quorum was confirmed.
- **Administrative Updates:**
  - **Staff Updates:** Austin announced that he attended the 2024 NEC/AAAE Conference in Hershey, PA. stating the conference was very informative, received great input on other states aeronautic programs.
  - **Advanced Air Mobility Study:** Austin stated that Randal will be working on starting the study in the future. Austin also mentioned that they will be forming a working group to review the study and that if any of the DAAC members are interested in becoming a part of the working study group, to please let him know.
  - **AASHTO UAS/AAM Working Group:** Austin announced that he will be participating in this working group along with other State DOT members to gain more information on similar aviation projects.
  - **NASAO Small Community Air Service Working Group:** Austin shared that he will also be participating in the NASAO Small Community Air Service Working Group to identify shared challenges for small community air service and develop solutions as well as share best practices/lessons learned.

## II. Old Business

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Copies of the meeting minutes from the January 17, 2024, meeting was distributed and reviewed by the DAAC Council members prior to the meeting. Austin asked the members for approval of the minutes. All members agreed on the minutes, and they were approved.

## III. New Business

- **2024 Delaware Aviation Summit Review:** Austin provided a brief overview of the 2024 Delaware Aviation Summit that was held at the Del Tech Terry Campus. Austin shared that approximately 100 guests were present. We received great feedback on some of the topic discussions as well as suggestions for the next Aviation Summit, such as adding more interactive sessions, a broader variety of speakers.
- **Economic Impact Study Summary:** Randal presented summaries of the three studies he is currently working on, the Economic Impact of Delaware Airports, Airport Community Value and Aircraft Operations Counts. Randal also presented a video explaining the Economic Impacts for each of the Delaware Airports. Randal also shared findings on the Airport Community Value results, which included Total Airport Replacement Value, Existing Airport Value, Economic Sustainability Factors and Return on Investment/Assets. Randal also presented the Delaware Operations Counting 2023 Program. Randal also presented the Operations Counting comparison from 2022 to 2023, which showed a 4% growth in operations.
- **Capital Programming and Financial Plan:** Austin presented an overview of the Capital Planning funding program and what information determines how funding is spent. Austin also explained the steps in the application process for Privately Owned, Public-Use Airports which are not eligible for Federal Funding. Austin provided the grant funding breakdown from 2017-2024 of the System Planning Obligations. Austin stated approximately 90% of the Planning Obligations are Federally Funded. Austin also provided the cost breakdown for State funded projects as well as Consultant Support. Austin also provided a cost breakdown for non-NPIAS projects, which are State funded and then he continued with the NPIAS Airport State Spending breakdown.
- **DAAC Member Roles and Purpose:** Austin provided a brief overview of the Aeronautics Program Objectives, which included Seven goals: Safety and Security, Economic Vitality, Quality of Life, System Preservation, System Management and Operations, Travel and Tourism and Customer Service and Communication. Austin also provided the Delaware Airport Facility Overview, which listed 10 public use aviation facilities; 6 privately-owned aviation facilities; One public-owned helipad; Dover Air Force Base and Civil Air Terminal at Dover Air Force Base and approximately 30 private-use, privately-owned facilities, of which are not under the jurisdiction of or oversight by DelDOT.

Austin proceeded with the Roles and Responsibilities of the Aeronautics section as well as the DAAC, which includes: the Statewide Aviation System Planning (FAA); System Plan Updates; Economic Impact Assessments; Pavement Management Studies; Aircraft Operation Counting; Regulated Airspace Obstruction Reviews (State Code); Capital Infrastructure Support at NPIAS & Non-NPIAS Facilities (FAA) and the Delaware Aviation Advisory Council (DAAC) Support (State Code).

#### IV. Member Updates

- **Jeff Chorman updates:**
  - **Greenwood and Chorman Airports:** Construction has started on the new T-hanger building. Jeff stated they also may be coordinating another fly-in event at the Chorman Airport.
  - **Laurel Airport:** Installation of runway lights has taken place and they also narrowed the runway. Jeff also explained that trees are obstructing the view on the south end of the runway and will need to be removed.
  - Jeff stated that Chorman just purchased land in Reliance, Maryland; still deciding on what will be done with the land.
- **Robert Bryant updates:**
  - **Delaware Coastal Airport-** Robert Bryant stated that Phase II of the construction of the Taxiway Bravo project currently advertised for bid.
  - Robert also explained they are currently working with FAA on the submission of their AIP Grant application, \$13 million estimated total. Robert also stated the FAA is requesting an Obstacle Action Plan, the last plan was done in 2020. The action plan will include any obstructions that would impact the existing facility and how these obstructions would be removed. The recent Airport Master Plan shows many obstructions so Delaware Coastal is working with their airport consultant as well as the County Administrator and County Council to update the Obstacle Action Plan.
- **Steve William updates: DRBA/Wilmington ILG airport-**
- **Avelo Airlines:**
  - Ben Clendaniel stated that commercial airline service has been going well. Avelo Airlines will be celebrating their 1-year anniversary on February 1, 2024. In the Spring, Avelo will return non-stop flights to Wilmington, NC, and Myrtle Beach.
- **Wilmington Airport:**
  - Ben Clendaniel stated that they received funding for the expansion of the Airport terminal gate.
  - Ben stated that a meeting took place with DelDOT and discussed New Castle County Airport Parking Expansion Plans and other Aviation Projects. Ben also stated that the Airport Parking Expansion project will be finished sometime in the Fall.

- **Civil Air Terminal:**
  - Ben Clendaniel explained that the NASCAR race is to take place on April 28, 2024. Most of the NASCAR drivers will utilize the Civil Air Terminal space for aircraft transportation during the race.
- **Delaware Airpark:**
  - Ben Clendaniel stated they are waiting on steel supply for construction of the box hangers.

**V. Public Comments**

- No public comments.

**VI. Next Meeting**

- July 24, 2024