

DelDOT Aeronautics
Delaware Aviation Advisory Council (DAAC)
Meeting Minutes
July 23, 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
Kelvin Lesene, Aviation Education
Nick Ryan, New Castle County- At-Large

DelDOT Support Staff

Bruce Allen, DelDOT, Planning
Aaron Bell, DelDOT, Planning
Austin Gray, Assistant Director, Planning

Others Present

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions: Robert Bryant started the meeting by announcing that he is the new Chairman of the Delaware Aviation Advisory Council (DAAC). Chairman Bryant then conducted a roll call of the council members and the DelDOT support staff. All council members were present. Austin Gray presented the next few slides, which included an overview of the current Delaware Safety Slide, highlighting recent Delaware Traffic Fatalities. Austin also explained the Safe System Approach, which offers strategies and actions for all road users. Austin commented on how aviation plays a vital role in providing safer travel options compared to long-distance driving on the roadways.
- **Staff Updates**
 - **NASAO Updates:** Austin provided an overview of NASAO - The National Association of State Aviation Officials, which is an aviation-based representative for State Government agencies. Austin provided a copy of the most recent aviation legislation bill that provides a range of changes and updates for the air traffic control system and related infrastructure.

II. Old Business

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Copies of the meeting minutes from the April 16, 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 there was a seconded motion from the council. The meeting minutes were approved.

III. New Business

- **DAAC Member Survey Responses:** Austin stated that a DAAC Member Survey was sent out to the DAAC members for input on future meetings and to support members in their roles. Austin received several responses, and he reviewed them with the Council members during the meeting.
- **FY25 Fiscal Review:** Austin provided a spend analysis of aviation funds that were spent throughout the fiscal year, which included an estimate of 1.1 million dollars. A more in-depth cost breakdown of where the money was distributed was provided as well.
- **FY26 Fiscal Outlook:** Austin announced that funds were effective as of July 1, 2025. Austin continued with a review of the Aviation Jet Fuel Revenue Trends by sharing a breakdown of the Jet Fuel Revenue income received by fiscal years 2020-2025. Austin also shared the State's FY26 Capital Budget program and explained where the aviation funding is acquired from the State's Transportation Trust Fund.
- **Statewide Aviation System Plan Update-Progress Report:** Randal provided updates on the Delaware Statewide Aviation System Plan. Randal focused on the Forecast Framework, which included forecast summary highlights for: Airline, General Aviation, and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM).

IV. Member Updates

- **Jeff Chorman updates:**
 - **Laurel Airport:** Jeff stated that the FAA is attempting to take the instrument approach away. Jeff has had conversations with the FAA, and they stated that they are open to discussion. Jeff explained that runway clearing on the North end of the Laurel airport is a big improvement. Jeff also stated that all the T-hangers are in use.
 - **Chorman Airport:** Jeff stated that his daughter, Galen received her pilot's license and is a private pilot, took on her first passenger. Jeff also reported that tree removal took place at the North end of the property in Greenwood. Jeff stated that he would like to blacktop the taxiway on the North End to tie in with the T-hangers.

- **Kelvin Lesene updates:**
 - Kelvin announced that he is the new Director of Aviation at Delaware State University. Kelvin stated that his previous position was at the ILG Wilmington Airport as an Airport Operations Manager. Kelvin commented that he is excited to be a part of the Aviation community and looks forward to working with the State's Aviation program.
- **Robert Bryant updates:**
 - **Delaware Coastal Airport:** Robert Bryant announced that the first phase of construction has begun on the taxiway Bravo project. Mr. Bryant stated there are 4 phases for this project, and he anticipates completion will take place in 2028.
 - Mr. Bryant also announced that Aloft Air Architects, 737 group, based at Delaware Coastal Airport, had their first Airbus 220 customer fly into the airport. He also announced that Aloft has a 6-year contract with Airbus.
 - Mr. Bryant stated that Delaware Coastal Airport is working with Randal Weidemann as well as Delta Airport consultants on the FAA General Aviation Runway Extension Pilot Program. They are working on an application to submit to the FAA. This is a pilot program that will choose two general aviation airports each year for a five-year period. The application is for the justification of a runway extension.
 - Mr. Bryant also announced that a significant amount of tree removal took place at the Delaware Coastal Airport, on the runway 4 approach, which provided a much clearer outlook.
 - Mr. Bryant announced that Delaware Coastal Airport has an upcoming event that will take place on the first weekend of October, called Wings and Wheels.
- **LeSans Alexander updates:**
 - Ms. Alexander announced that the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame has received inductee submissions, 95% of which are military-based. The ceremony will be held on November 15th at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover, DE.
- **Ben Clendaniel updates:**
 - Ben congratulated Kelvin Lesene on becoming the new Aviation Director for the University of Delaware.
 - **Delaware River and Bay Authority-DRBA:** Ben announced that the DRBA welcomed a new Executive Director and is looking forward to working toward exciting opportunities.
 - **ILG:** Ben stated that they have passed 660,000 passengers since the start of Avelo Airlines. Ben also stated summer airline service is good, but no mention of adding additional new destinations at this time; however, Avelo extended their schedule out until February of next year. Ben also provided an update on the ongoing gate area terminal expansion; they are anticipating the project to be completed by the end of October, early November.
 - **Civil Air Terminal:** Ben mentioned they are continuing to work on partnerships and providing updates to the new DRBA Executive Director.

- **Delaware Airpark:** Ben stated that they continue to work on two projects, the apron expansion phase II, which should be completed next month, and continue work on the 5 connected box hangers.

V. Public Comments

- No public comments.

VI. Next Meeting

- October 22, 2025