

DelDOT Aeronautics
Delaware Aviation Advisory Council (DAAC)
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2026

Members' Present

LeSans Alexander, At-Large
Robert Bryant, Sussex County- At-Large
Jeff Chorman, Fixed-Based Operator
Lt. Farnsworth- on behalf of Matt Jordan, At-Large
Richard Horstmann, At-Large
Kelvin Lesene, Aviation Education

DelDOT Support Staff

Bruce Allen, DelDOT, Planning
Liddy Campbell, DelDOT, Planning
Gena Eleias, DelDOT, Planning
Austin Gray, DelDOT, Planning

Others Present

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

- **Introductions:** Chairman Robert Bryant started off the meeting with an overview of the meeting materials provided at the start of the meeting. Chairman Bryant then turned the meeting over to Austin Gray for a review of the first agenda item: Welcome and Introductions. Austin began with a few presentation slides, which included DelDOT's mission statement, the current Delaware Safety Slide, highlighting recent Delaware Traffic fatalities. Austin continued with an overview of the Safe System Approach slide, which offers a more proactive view of safety measures.
- **Aviation Program Overview:**
 - **Mission and Key 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 licensing inspections are conducted annually in

order to provide State of Delaware Airport Operator licenses to the airports, as a requirement per the state code. And Airspace Obstruction Reviews are also conducted in the event a developer is interested in building in the vicinity of the airports. Austin continued with an explanation of the Delaware-based airports, which consist of 10 public-use Aviation facilities: 3 publicly owned facilities; 1 commercial service facility and 2 general aviation facilities; 6 privately-owned facilities; 1 reliever facility and 5 small general aviation facilities; 1 publicly owned helipad facility, here at the DelDOT Administration facility. Austin stated that there are also airport facilities located at the Delaware Air Force Base and Civil Air Terminal. Austin also stated there are 30 additional private-use, privately owned airport facilities that are not regulated by the State.

- **DAAC Role and Purpose:** Austin explained the Role and Purpose of the DAAC, which is defined under State Code Title 2, § 103: <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.
- **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.

II. Old Business

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Copies of the meeting minutes from the January 21, 2026, meeting was distributed and reviewed by the DAAC Council members before the meeting. Chairman Bryant asked the members for approval of the minutes. Richard Horstmann made a motion for approval, and Jeff Chorman 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

- **System Plan Update Progress:** Randal Wiedemann presented an update on the System Plan and provided the airport operations estimates for 2024 and 2025. Randal explained the changes that occurred in some of the local airports. Randal continued with the identification of alternatives for each of the existing airports, such as airports with little improvements, expansion of existing systems, which includes plans for airport improvements, and also the

Contracted Airport System, which includes a few airports that could potentially close. Randal also briefly spoke about potential sites for future heliports and/or vertiport operations.

- **Airport Land Use Compatibility Presentation/DEALUCS Application:** Gena Eleias provided a presentation about the Delaware Aviation Land Use Compatibility System and the DEALUCS Application. Gena started her presentation with a summary of the significance of Airport Compatibility. Gena further explained DelDOT's role is to implement a standardized definition and measurement framework, derived from the FAA, for airport compatibility within the State development review processes. Gena also stated that the objective is to provide a systematic framework for evaluating airport land use compatibility and to support developers and decision-makers with concise, transparent, and well-justified comments on proposed developments. Gena moved on to explain the DEALUCS Application and stated that the application will integrate FAA-established criteria and guidance into spatial scoring systems. Gena also explained that this approach allows DelDOT to justify its planning recommendations and comments objectively and transparently. Gena provided a breakdown of the DEALUCS application scoring system and how it assists the development reviewer in assigning the appropriate score for each of the measurements being evaluated. Gena demonstrated three different application processes using the scoring criteria and also explained who is responsible for the reviewing process, which is the Director of Planning and the Director of the Office of State Planning Coordination (OSPC).
- **Spring 2026 Airport Capital Project Submissions:** Austin provided updates for the Spring 2026 Airport Capital Project Submissions, stating that the most recent change to the schedule was to align more closely with the FAA project application cycle and State Fiscal Year. Austin stated that seven project applications were received from three airports: Chorman, Laurel, and Summit Airports. Austin explained that the project applications received were scored and ranked based on criteria to prioritize projects. Austin provided a list of how the projects were ranked and scored. Austin explained that the next steps will be to evaluate and determine what projects will be eligible for funding in the next fiscal year.
- **DelDOT Aviation Intern Program:** Austin explained that DelDOT, in conjunction with Delaware State University, has an Aviation Intern Program, which includes students who assist with the aircraft counting program and airspace obstruction analysis reviews. Austin stated that DelDOT is potentially looking into expanding their responsibilities and asked the council members if they would be interested in having the interns assist at their local airports. Kelvin Lesene stated that in the past, he has participated in three internships while at Delaware State University, assisting local airport facilities, and his main priority as the Director of the Aviation Intern Program at DSU is to provide resources for the students' career paths. Chairman Bryant stated that Delaware Coastal Airport would be willing to assist in providing the students with summer program opportunities.
- **2027 Delaware Aviation Conference:** Chairman Bryant stated that the last Delaware Aviation Conference took place in 2024; overall, the event went well, and they are now hoping to have another Delaware Aviation Conference in 2027 and asked the council members for their thoughts. It was suggested that Delaware State University would be a

great option to host the 2027 Delaware Aviation Conference. Kelvin commented that it is a great idea, but it would have to depend on scheduling. Kelvin will look into other areas of interest as well.

IV. Member Updates

- **Jeff Chorman updates:**
 - **Greenwood Airport:** Payten mentioned that on October 17, 2026, a fly-in/air show will take place.
- **Kelvin Lesene updates:**
 - **Delaware State University:** Kelvin announced that the Delaware Aviation Program turns 40 in 2027, and Kelvin is working on putting together a celebration/fundraising event.
- **Robert Bryant updates:**
 - **Delaware Coastal Airport:** Robert Bryant announced that 2nd phase of their multi-phase, taxiway Bravo design and construction project will begin on May 7th. Pre-construction meeting on June 1st. He also said they are working with the FAA on the remaining part of this project, trying to apply for funding to combine design and construction grants into a single grant, rather than two separate grants. Mr. Bryant also stated that a month ago, Sussex County approved a \$43 million application to the FAA's General Aviation Runway Extension Pilot Program.

V. Public Comments

- No public comments.

VI. Next Meeting

- July 15, 2026

VII. Adjournment: A motion was made by LeSans Alexander to close out the meeting and seconded by Kelvin Lesene. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

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