

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

Members' Present

Robert Bryant, Sussex County- At-Large
Ben Clendaniel, DRBA
Jeremiah Hardy, At-Large
Richard Horstmann, At-Large
Matt Jordan, At-Large
Kelvin Lesene, Aviation Education
Nick Ryan, New Castle County, At-Large

DelDOT Support Staff

Liddy Campbell, DelDOT, Planning
Austin Gray, DelDOT, Planning
Roxana Fuentes-Colin, Intern, Planning

Others Present

Randal Wiedemann, R.A. Wiedemann & Assoc.
Brian Baker, Jacobs

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 and 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 to provide State of Delaware Airport Operator licenses to the airports, as a requirement per

the state code. 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 assigns 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. Seven Council members were present for the meeting, and a quorum was met.
- **Staff Updates:** Austin stated that DelDOT has two new interns, one of whom was present at the meeting, Roxanna Fuentes-Colin, a student at Delaware State University, studying Aviation Management. Austin also stated that Gena Eleias will be attending the NASAO conference in the fall.

II. Old Business

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Copies of the meeting minutes from the April 15, 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 Nick Ryan 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 Fiscal Review:** Austin provided the projected spend vs the actual spend for projects that took place in FY26. Austin provided a list of Airport projects as well as System Planning projects that were awarded funding.
- **FY27 Fiscal Outlook:** Austin provided the spend plan for FY27. Austin also provided a list of potential funded projects for FY27.
- **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 asked the council members if they were interested in having the interns assist at their local airports, to please get in contact with him.

IV. Member Updates

- **Robert Bryant updates:**
 - Robert Bryant stated that he is interested in the DAAC hosting the 2027 Delaware Aviation Conference. Mr. Bryant mentioned he is interested in the Advanced Air Mobility Initiatives that were presented at a recent meeting at Del-Tech.
 - **Delaware Coastal Airport:** Mr. Bryant stated that Delaware Coastal Airport has received a \$6 million grant offer from the FAA to complete construction of the multi-phase, multi-grant Taxiway Bravo project.
- **Richard Horstmann:** Richard stated that he attended a meeting in New York City that gave a presentation regarding the VTOL program that is moving forward at the New York City airports and stated that Atlantic Aviation is involved and providing funding for some of the secondary sites. Richard stated he found the VTOL program interesting and, once the program is in place, could potentially spread throughout the East Coast.
- **Ben Clendaniel**
 - **Wilmington ILG Airport:** Ben stated that they celebrated a million passengers in May, and with the increase in customers, a third aircraft will be added in the Fall to their airport fleet services. Ben also stated that the terminal seating area project is completed.
 - **DRBA:** Ben stated that the DRBA has started their own Economic Impact Study and will share their input with DelDOT.

V. Public Comments

- No public comments.

VI. Next Meeting

- October 14, 2026

VII. Adjournment: A motion was made by Nick Ryan to close out the meeting and seconded by Ben Clendaniel. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

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