

MEETING SUMMARY

North Central Texas Council of Governments Air Transportation Advisory Committee February 6, 2020

The Air Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) convened at 1 p.m. on February 6, 2020, at NCTCOG Offices.

Voting Members in Attendance

Keith Barrett, Chair, Caddo Mills Airport
Christian Childs, Vice Chair, Alliance
Airport
Joey Boyd, City of Rockwall *
Mark Divita, Grand Prairie Municipal
Airport
Scott Gray, Denton Enterprise Airport *
Ty Helton, Greenville Municipal Airport *
Linda Pavlik, Representing Ennis
Municipal Airport
Darrell Phillips, Midway Airport
Eric Pratt, Mesquite Metro Airport
Wayne Sanderson, Mineral Wells Airport
Pat Stewart, Granbury Regional Airport
Karen VanWinkle, Arlington Municipal
Airport
Sharlette Wright, Cleburne Municipal
Airport
Mark Divita, Grand Prairie Municipal
Airport

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Tom Chandler, AOPA
Joe Hammond, Spinks Airport
Bobby Waddle, Past NCTCOG
Executive Board President
Carlos Wilches, Dallas Executive Airport

Others in Attendance

Bill Macke, TxDOT Aviation
Jessica Ryan
Marissa Sanchez, City of Dallas Dept. of
Aviation
Marty Nelson, City of Ennis
Chris Whitfield, H. W. Lochner
Mitch McCanally, Garver

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Natalie Bettger
Ernest Huffman
Dan Kessler
Lisa Key

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Orientation to Agenda
3. Approval of November 7, 2019
ATAC Meeting Summary
4. State of Texas Aviation
5. DOD Compatible Use Planning
Implementation Grant
6. Texas Funding Update
7. Airport Spotlight - Alliance Texas
Mobility Innovation Zone
8. Fire Code Update and FAA
Remote ID NPRM

*Remote Participant

1. Welcome and Introductions, Keith Barrett, Chair

Keith welcomed all attendees, and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Orientation to Agenda, Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Natalie provided an orientation to the agenda noting Bill Macke's State of Texas Aviation Update and the Department of Defense Compatible Use Planning Grant, by Dan Kessler.

3. Approval of November 6, ATAC Meeting Summary, Keith Barrett, Chair

The Committee was asked to approve a summary of the previous ATAC meeting. There were no comments and the summary was approved as submitted. Sharlette Wright (M); Karen VanWinkle (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. State of Texas Aviation, Bill Macke, TxDOT Aviation

Bill Macke briefed the Committee on recent staffing changes at the Texas Department of Transportation, Aviation Department. After the retirement of Dave Fulton, Dan Harman was appointed as Interim Director and has since been officially promoted to Director. Mr. Harman also serves as Interim Director for TxDOT Maritime and Interim Director for TxDOT Flight Services. The role of Planning and Programming Session Director, vacant since Greg Miller's retirement December 5, is expected to be filled in the March 2020 timeframe. Additionally, there have been three new hires in the Aviation Grants section.

Bill reported on Airport Grant Funding noting Airport Improvement Program and Non-Primary Entitlement funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 19. He anticipates similar funding amounts for 2020 to be made available in April, but it could be later. In FY19, TxDOT received \$10.4 million in supplemental and discretionary funding. Discretionary funding was awarded to Georgetown, Victoria, Bay City and Conroe. The FY19 Supplemental Apportionment, 100% federally funded, was awarded to Monahans and Seymour. FY20 Supplemental Apportionment will be funded as a 90/10 split and will go to Mineral Wells, Post, Sugar Land, and Giddings. There were 217 Routine Airport Maintenance (RAMP) Grants in 2019 totaling \$7.88 million, with each grant averaging \$35,725.

Bill noted the 38th Annual Texas Aviation Conference will be in Galveston in April and the FAA Airports Conference is coming to Texas at the Hurst Convention Center. The Committee expressed their appreciation for the TxDOT update.

5. Department of Defense Compatible Use Planning Implementation Grant, Dan Kessler, NCTCOG -

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has worked with the Department of Defense (DOD) on multiple regional initiatives, primarily in aviation-related activities, and in support of regional military bases. The DOD, local defense contractors, and regional military bases have a significant economic impact on North Central Texas. Almost 60% of DOD contract spending in Texas is spent in Collin, Dallas, Hunt and Tarrant Counties, representing almost \$19 billion in economic impact. Lockheed Martin, a government-owned contractor-operated manufacturing facility with three locations in North Central Texas and contributes to the regional economy in a big way. Lockheed Martin Aeronautics is headquartered at Air Force Plant 4 in Fort Worth, manufacturing the F35 Joint Strike Fighter. This facility provides more than 18,00 jobs to our region.

The Naval Air Station Fort Worth, Joint Reserve Base (NAS Fort Worth, JRB) contributes \$3.9 billion to the North Texas economy. The former Carswell Air Force Base became a Strategic Air Command Base in 1946 after opening as Fort Worth Army Field in 1942. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission of 1993 closed NAS Fort Worth, JRB until it was recommissioned in 1994 after the closing of the Dallas Naval Air Station. The base employs more than 3,000 military personnel, deploys troops worldwide, and carries out more than 25,000 annual operations.

NCTCOG's military community planning efforts that began in 2006, in collaboration with neighboring communities, was focused on the NAS Fort Worth, JRB Joint Land Use (JLUS) Study. The study was initiated to "recommend actions that will improve the compatibility of land uses" around NAS Fort Worth, JRB. Specifically, the study would identify encroachment concerns around the base and make recommendations to mitigate urban development that could impact the installation's ability to sustain military training operations. This initiative was led by the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) comprised of representatives from the surrounding communities and Tarrant County, along with other public and private stakeholders. Then in 2012, the RCC also played a vital role in the Transportation Needs Assessment to ensure adequate surface transportation around the base. Approximately \$750 million has been programmed by the Regional Transportation Council in collaboration with local government partners and TxDOT on road improvements and bicycle and pedestrian facilities in this area. In 2013, NCTCOG received a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help fund the Planning for Livable Military Communities initiative to sustain adequate military housing in the communities surrounding the base.

In 2017, the Regional Joint Land Use Study, in collaboration with military and community leaders was completed. The purpose of the study was to "identify and recommend land-use strategies to preserve a military installation's ability to operate." Installations included in the study are NAS Fort Worth, JRB, Fort Wolters Training Centers in Mineral Wells and Eagle Mountain, Redmon Taylor Army Heliport in Dallas and Grand Prairie, and Camp Maxey Training Center in Lamar County. This study analyzed land-use changes since the previous NAS Fort Worth, JRB study and made recommendations to fine tune existing initiatives and promote regional and statewide compatibility solutions for the military installations included in the study.

The 2020 JLUS Implementation Grant, funded by the DOD and the RTC, provides funding to ensure land-use compatibility through appropriate zoning, military operations monitoring, environmental protection, Unmanned Aircraft Systems education, and outreach, monitoring of regional aviation air space utilization and other efforts. The Texas Military (National Guard) support facilities are included in this study in addition to the installations mentioned above.

NCTCOG is involved in ongoing outreach activities to engage and educate the public and foster awareness of the economic impact, job opportunities and overall value of our military installations to neighboring communities, our region, and the State of Texas.

6. Texas Funding Update: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Ernest briefed the Committee on funding recorded by the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) in 2019. He compared regional funding, by source, to State funding, noting that federal funding for our region was approximately \$12.4 million while the remainder of the State of Texas received approximately \$28 million. No discretionary funding for our region has been recorded so far by the TTC. From a regional perspective, annual funding continues to improve.

The Committee felt it has been difficult to catch up with projects that should have been completed in previous years, as a result of the lack of funding in 2013 and 2014.

Ernest reminded the Committee that he is planning a workshop on the new funding formula that will help clarify how airport development projects are scored. The workshop would include information on the application process that would potentially improve scores and therefore increase potential funding. He hopes to have that available soon and will share workshop information as soon as its available, tentatively sometime in May. To assist in drafting agreements, the Committee suggested it would be helpful to have someone from the FAA participate in the workshop. Ernest will work on ensuring FAA participation.

7. Airport Spotlight - Alliance Texas Mobility Innovation Zone, Christian Childs, Alliance Airport – Christian Childs presented an overview of the Mobility Innovation Zone (MIZ) at Alliance Airport. Alliance Texas is developing a one-of-a-kind facility in collaboration with business partners, policy makers, and academic institutions to develop, test and scale advanced mobility and business models. The vision is to “integrate smart infrastructure, foster innovation across supply chains, provide validation ground for future aviation technology, and leverage new emerging technology.

“While the MIZ will allow testing for multimodal autonomous vehicles, the focus will be on proven technology and vehicles to execute their mission in a ‘test’ environment. The MIZ will not be the location for an initial operation of any vehicle. The current name for the aerial UAS portion of the MIZ is the UAS Proving Grounds.”

The driving force for this initiative is “rapid growth and change across the transportation industry and the need for partnership and integration.” In 2018, in excess of \$14 billion was invested in drone technology and over \$3.5 billion in autonomous truck technology. More than 100 billion parcels were shipped in one year. The Mobility Innovation Zone will offer a fully integrated test bed providing infrastructure to test and integrate autonomous mobility in a complex airspace environment. Alliance Airport maintains two 11,000 ft. parallel runways; offers a 24/7 FAA Air Traffic Control Tower; and is home to Amazon Prime Air Freight Hub, FedEx Hubs and UPS Ground. For more information, please visit www.alliancetexasmiz.com.

8. Fire Code Update and FAA Remote ID NPRM, Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Ernest updated the Committee on the FAA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the UAS Remote ID ruling. Airports had expressed concerns about UAS activity near their airports with no available platform for detection. This ruling would enable airports to find UAS (drones) in proximity to the airport that did not have pre-authorization. Comments on the Remote ID Ruling are due March 2, 2020. The FAA is also looking for viable solutions.

Since the previous meeting’s presentation on regional fire codes, Ernest contacted the Chair to NCTCOG’s Fire Advisory Board and quoted the response from the Chair. The Chair noted that the Advisory Board was open to proposed amendments to any existing codes that would be discussed in the upcoming code review and extended an invitation for private sector participation on the Fire Advisory Board. Ernest will be working on an amendment to clarify fire codes specific to airport hangars and encouraged Committee participation to work with him on that proposed amendment.

Other Discussion - Participation was encouraged in the *Know Before You Fly* workshops and meetings with city leaders to gain elected official perspective on specific UAS concerns.

It was noted that the Texas Airports Council currently has a \$2,000 scholarship offered to high school students enrolled in aviation-related programs. The deadline to apply is March 13.

Cleburne Municipal Airport will be hosting a Pancake Fly-In on February 29. Everyone is invited to attend.

Natalie mentioned that the Air Quality Program area would like to include regional airports in surveys to help facilitate possible funding for clean air initiatives.

Ernest noted that one more presenter was needed for the next ATAC meeting in May and encouraged the Committee to reach out if interested.

As no other business was heard, the meeting was adjourned.