

**North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
Air Transportation Advisory Committee
July 7, 2022**

The Air Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) convened at 1 pm on July 7, 2022. The meeting was held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The new Chair, Eric Pratt, introduced himself and asked others in attendance, in-person and virtual, to do so also.

2. Orientation to Agenda, Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Natalie noted that attendance would be downloaded via Zoom and that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of drafting the meeting summary.

3. Approval of April 7, 2022, ATAC Meeting Summary

The summary of the April 7, 2022, ATAC meeting was accepted as submitted.

4. Defense Manufacturing Agile Curriculum, Dan Kessler and Paul Paine, NCTCOG

The defense industry is changing rapidly but finding an already knowledgeable and qualified workforce to draw from in the region is difficult. Data was collected and analyzed and approx. 50 work segments, specifically in defense and specifically in North Texas, were identified for which North Texas did not offer the right training. Deeper analyses brought about conclusions where curriculum could be built to help the industry.

Funded by a \$1million Industry Resilience Program Grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, a sustainable defense industry curriculum program was put in place by the Agile Curriculum Program to develop educational opportunities in the region. Appropriate degrees, certificates and internship programs were developed within educational institutions and the defense industry that would deliver training to the current workforce and expedite the availability of a highly skilled job ready workforce. The defense industry could be applied to other industries, for example information assurance and cybersecurity.

There will be a phased developmental approach with pilot tests to perfect the Agile Curriculum development process. Steps include reaching consensus on which jobs to include in the curriculum development; determine what workforce population and goal should be targeted for the curriculum; formalize a committee; and create a recruiting and marketing strategy.

5. Aviation Careers for People on the Spectrum - Benefits of Employing Autistic and Neurodiverse People, Dean Wood, Aviation Concepts; Larry Rothman, HAAPE; Alexandra Murray, The deMoya Foundation

Mr. Rothman, Chairperson for HAAPE, Helping Adults with Autism Perform and Excel, began the presentation. Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are becoming a very significant portion of the population, as the number of babies born with autism increases. These individuals can provide huge productivity and high-quality work with minimal accommodations.

This is a population that is wanting to work, is willing to work, and is highly productive. Mr. Rothman listed many strengths and benefits of employing individuals with ASD.

Mr. Wood presented on how Aviation Concepts, a leading industry supplier of replacement parts and inventory management services for Airbus and Boeing commercial aircraft, is working with HAAPE.

A study showed that individuals with autism have a natural propensity for avionics repair because of their repetitive, well-organized, and process-oriented nature. Broward College in south Florida has an avionics repair training facility. After getting the course certified as autism friendly, HAAPE helped get ASD individuals through the program and to find jobs locally. With the pandemic shrinking the number of aviation jobs, supply chain and logistics jobs were focused on. Broward College offered an online certification program in the eight pillars of supply chain. Boeing, Summit Aerospace and Aviotek hire graduates of the certification programs.

Alexandra Murray, Program Director for The deMoya Foundation, joined the presentation in her position as a job coach at Summit. Summit job coaches help educate and support over 60 ASD employees in corporate and retail positions, checking in on them to help them sustain their positions, increasing the value of the employee and decreasing job turnover. Ms. Murray provided examples of some of the tasks entailed of the employees she coaches. To assist her employees, she creates pictographs of task steps.

Mr. Rothman concluded with statistics of ASD in Texas. Over 12 percent of autistic people in the US, 100,000 – 150,000 on the autism spectrum, reside in Texas, providing a unique opportunity to get the value for the ASD community, the people, and the company.

Ernest asked where jobs could be promoted to the ASD community. Mr. Rothman recommended contacting the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Health and Human Services, and the Autism Society of Texas.

6. DBE as a Prime

Cancelled. This topic will be presented at a future ATAC meeting.

7. NCTCOG Aviation Update, Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Regional Airport Funding Update

Ernest provided the regional funding report that comes from the Texas Transportation Commission every month.

Aviation Planning and Education Program Update

Ernest listed the several grants NCTCOG was applying for in the upcoming fiscal year.

UAS Safety and Integration Initiative Updates

Initiatives include positioning for federal funding, continuing the monthly task force meetings, and a workshop on Drone Soccer at the World Games in Birmingham, AL. NCTCOG is still working with NASA on the Community Planning and Integration Annex. Ernest provided Texas Transportation Commission Urban Air Mobility Committee updates.

Committee Updates

Natalie Bettger reminded the committee that a vice-chair was needed. She asked those present if they preferred in-person meetings to virtual. There was support to continue to meet in person at NCTCOG and continue to use the new lunch plan of members purchasing lunches from Murphy's Deli, on the NCTCOG campus.

Ernest asked for ideas and requests for future topics.

The meeting was adjourned. The next ATAC meeting will be held at NCTCOG on September 1, 2022.

Meeting Participants

Voting Members in Attendance

Keith Barrett, Caddo Mills Airport
Christian Childs, Alliance Air
Haley Cuevas, Mineral Wells Airport
Rafael Garza, Dallas Executive Airport
Ty Helton, Greenville Municipal Airport
Linda Pavlik, Ennis Municipal Airport
Eric Pratt, Mesquite Metro Airport
Roger Venables, City of Fort Worth, Aviation
Sharlette Wright, Cleburne Regional Airport

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Steve Hadley, National Business Aviation Assoc.
Joe Hammond, City of Fort Worth, Aviation
Bobby Waddle, Chair Emeritus

Others in Attendance

Perry Havenar, Centurion Planning & Design
James McKenzie
Alexandra Murray, The De Moya Foundation
Larry Rothman, HAAPE
Stephen Schwieterman, Garver
Dean Wood, Aviation Concepts

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Natalie Bettger
Ernest Huffman
Dan Kessler
Paul Paine
Barbara Walsh