

**North Central Texas Council of Governments
Air Transportation Advisory Committee
March 2, 2023**

The Air Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) convened at 1 pm on March 2, 2023, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), in person and virtually via Teams.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Eric Pratt welcomed members and guests, and all were introduced.

2. Orientation to Agenda, Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Natalie listed the agenda items and presenters.

3. TxDOT Aviation Update – Jim Halley, TxDOT Aviation

Jim Halley stated TxDOT Aviation is in year two of three of implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. TxDOT is making good progress, in an agreement with the FAA, for being able to administer and leverage funds. A 10-year \$50M contract is agreed upon. There are still some final items to discuss.

That will set the tone for the upcoming memorandum of agreement (MOA) reauthorization. TxDOT has some priorities for FAA reauthorization, and the National Association of State Aviation Officials does as well. A new MOA between the FAA and the 10-block grant states is returning to the original language that created the block grant program to administer airport improvement programs. The new MOA and block grant reauthorization proposes focusing on project delivery.

TxDOT is also updating the Texas System Plan. The next step is inventory. Texas has the largest aviation system in the country. The inventory will guide analysis. What is TxDOT Aviation's true role? Jim explains there is an opportunity to become more than a grant-issuing agency. TxDOT staff will be brainstorming roles beyond issuing grants. Jim asked for ideas from members – what projects, initiatives, etc. would airports in the region like to see TxDOT do? Suggestions and comments can be sent to Jim Halley.

TxDOT Aviation is in the final stages of signing an MOA with Virtower, an airport operations tracking system, to deploy throughout the state.

The 41st Annual Texas Aviation Conference is scheduled for April 12-14, 2023. Nicole Johnson and Ernest Huffman are presenters. Sessions are offered on education, advancing technologies, UAS sessions, and more. The keynote speaker is Dr. Lloyd Potter, the State demographer.

4. Regional Planning and Funding for EV Charging Infrastructure – Amy Hodges, NCTCOG

Amy Hodges provided an overview of the role of the Air Quality program area being a part of the Transportation Department. Transportation is the root cause of about two-thirds of the ozone-forming pollution affecting our region. They promote using alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, propane, electric vehicles, and hydrogen (coming soon). There is a big push to get

electrification in infrastructure planning. She further explained the impacts of the Texas EV charging plan to the NCTCOG region. Amy provided a breakdown of the \$2.5 billion in charging and fueling infrastructure for corridors and communities. She asked ATAC members if there was any interest in a community charging proposal and also what is the use case for charging at airports.

5. FAA Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Report – Nicole Johnson, NCTCOG

In September 2022, the Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force released a report identifying solutions to encourage youth to pursue a career in aviation. Currently, there is an unparalleled need for talent throughout the aviation industry. Nicole Johnson presented the recommendations to recruit youth from an early age, the resources readily available, the importance of collaboration, and the financial hurdle of getting the proper education and detailed the recommendations to achieve success in each category.

6. Meacham Airport Master Plan – Aaron Barth, Fort Worth Aviation Department

Aaron Barth gave the background on the City of Fort Worth's Meacham Airport Master Plan process. The Plan began in September 2020 and went to the Aviation Advisory Board and received final approval in September 2022, with significant input from all partners along the way. Consultants worked back several years so they could create a forecast. With 186,000 operations for 2022, Meacham is already outpacing the 2025-2030 forecast. It ranks sixth in general use airports in the state.

Meacham Airport will be 100 in 2025. Several safety items need to be brought up to standardization. Aaron shared the recommended development concept, including the expansion of a second runway. One recommendation was incorporating airport land use compatibility goals and policies into the City of Fort Worth's Comprehensive Plan. Aaron shared short-, intermediate- and long-term development stages in the master plan. Lastly, he covered the funding needed for the short-, intermediate- and long-term plans.

7. Airport Readiness for Autonomous Technologies –Dr. Clinton Purnell, UNT

Dr. Clinton Purnell presented on behalf of a research team at UNT that is extremely active in airport logistics, aviation logistics, advanced air mobility, drones, etc. He asked members to participate in and share a data collection survey on airport readiness with their peers. This new research project focuses on the new technologies at the airport, and it is also intended to understand how airports plan for, perceive and manage the critical factors around the new AV technology. Dr. Purnell listed the numerous ways AV are integrated into airport services and what is to come: robotics, self-driving vehicles, airport parking services, airside operations, and drones/air taxis. He provided several examples of where AVs are in use in airports in Europe.

The next ATAC is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2023.

Meeting Participants

Voting Members in Attendance

Trent Ballard, Arlington Municipal Airport
Keith Barrett, Caddo Mills Airport
Mark Divita, Grand Prairie Municipal Airport
Rafael Garza, Dallas Executive Airport
Ty Helton, Greenville Municipal Airport
Eric Pratt, Mesquite Metro Airport
Lauren Spence for Christian Childs, Alliance Air/Aviation Services
Roger Venables, City of Fort Worth, Aviation
Sharlette Wright, Midway Airport

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Aaron Barth, City of Fort Worth, Aviation
Tom Chandler, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Assoc.
Jim Halley, TxDOT – Aviation
Joe Hammond, City of Fort Worth, Aviation
Sean Newton, TxDOT – Aviation
Brenda Weber, DFW International Airport

Others in Attendance

Logan Hutto, KSA Engineers
Michael Mallonee, KSA Engineers
Dr. Clinton Purtell, University of North Texas
Michael Savoie

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Natalie Bettger
Ernest Huffman
Nicole Johnson
Amy Hodges