

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **Air Transportation Advisory Committee May 9, 2018**

The Air Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) convened at 1:00 p.m. on May 9, 2018, at NCTCOG Offices.

#### **Voting Members in Attendance**

Karen VanWinkle, Chair, Arlington  
Municipal Airport  
Gary Hawkins, Vice Chair, Granbury  
Regional Airport  
Keith Barrett, Caddo Mills Airport  
Joey Boyd, City of Rockwall (Remote)  
Christian Childs, Alliance Airport  
Judy Demoney, Mid-Way Regional  
Airport  
Scott Gray, Denton Enterprise Airport  
Ty Helton, City of Greenville  
Joel Jenkinson, Addison Airport  
Linda Pavlik, Representing Ennis  
Municipal Airport  
Eric Pratt, Mesquite Metro Airport  
Ken Pyatt, SKY Helicopters  
Wayne Sanderson, Mineral Wells Airport  
Sharlette Wright, Cleburne Regional  
Airport

#### **Non-Voting Members in Attendance**

Aaron Barth, City of Fort Worth, Aviation  
Jeff Kloska, City of Fort Worth, Aviation  
Darrell Phillips, Dallas Executive Airport  
Bobby Waddle, Past NCTCOG  
Executive Board President

#### **Others in Attendance**

Dave Golden, DHS-TSA-Office of  
Intelligence and Analysis  
Jack Fennell, KSA Engineering  
Michael Mallonee, KSA Engineering  
Kelvin Solco, The Solco Group  
Pat Stewart, Granbury Regional Airport

#### **NCTCOG Staff in Attendance**

Natalie Bettger  
Ernest Huffman  
Lisa Key

#### **Meeting Summary Outline**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Orientation to Agenda
3. Approval of Meeting Summary
4. Officer Rotation, August Meeting
5. TSA Update
6. Lessons Learned from FAA
7. Airport Funding Update
8. UAS Safety and Integration Initiative
9. What's Ahead for ATAC in 2018
10. Touch and Goes

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Karen VanWinkle, Chair

Karen welcomed all attendees and everyone introduced themselves.

**2. Orientation to Agenda:** Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Natalie provided an orientation to the agenda noting the UAS Safety and Integration initiative.

**3. Approval of February 1, 2018 Meeting Summary,** Karen VanWinkle, 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. Joel Jenkinson (M); Jeff Kloska (S). The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Officer Rotation, August Meeting,** Ernest Huffman

Ernest announced the annual officer rotation noting that Sharlette Wright will be the incoming Chair and Keith Barrett will be the incoming Vice Chair. Karen VanWinkle will remain on the Committee and Gary Hawkins is retiring. Pat Stewart will be the new representative from the City of Granbury. NCTCOG staff expressed their appreciation for Karen and Gary's leadership and commitment during their tenure as officers and members.

**5. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Update**

Dave Golden, DHS-TSA-Office of Intelligence and Analysis briefed the Committee on security measures for General Aviation and Commercial Service Airports. As an agency of the Department of Homeland Security, the TSA "has authority over the security of the traveling public in the United States." The primary focus of the TSA is airport security. The TSA collects and analyzes intelligence related to potential terroristic activity. Mr. Golden urged airport staff to avoid complacency as the threat to civil aviation is high for both passenger and air cargo operations. In 2017, there were 250 arrests of homegrown violence that could have potentially lead to terroristic violence.

Airport managers should remain vigilant to insiders (staff or other tenants with airport access) particularly those who have access to airport intelligence, secure areas, or any area not open to the public. Identification and access cards should be closely monitored. Anyone requesting information about security procedures not required for their job should be cause for concern. Triggering events such as a traumatic or life altering experience can sometimes prompt violent behavior and airport staff should be mindful of that potential. Any suspicious activity or behavior should be reported to the local police department.

**6. Lessons Learned from FAA,** Kelvin Solco, P.E., Former Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regional Administrator and Manager, Airports Division

As a former FAA employee, Kelvin Solco gained experience within three appropriated programs. When communicating with the FAA, he encouraged the Committee to be mindful of the appropriated program in which the FAA staff member works. As a regional administrator, Mr. Solco facilitated budget meetings attended by airport staff. He learned that without the appropriate FAA staff participation, proper communication and desired results may not be possible. Mr. Solco also stressed the need to speak from the context of safety in

funding/budget discussions with the FAA.

The mission of the FAA is safety with a focus on capacity, efficiency, and accessibility. Initiatives include sustainability, security, accessibility, compliance, NextGen, expansion, and profitability, among others. The FAA has a national responsibility and is charged with understanding an airfield's needs to determine the safety and budgetary requests from a national perspective.

The FAA Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget is \$4 Trillion and includes \$20 Billion for infrastructure. Emphasis is also placed on NextGen technology and UAS policies and standards. The FY18 FAA Airports Division Offices are developing new procedures for temporary airport closures for non-aeronautical events and complete evaluation of new electrical infrastructure (LED lighting). The business plan also includes an internal Airport Improvement Program and Airport Division Office (ADO) airport project integration planning effort. In addition to other initiatives, the ADO will be drafting parameters for possible support as remote tower technologies mature and establishing policy for airport requests to be removed from the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems. Preparation is underway for the final draft of the Airport Land Compatibility Advisory Circular for external review and industry comments.

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, H.R. 4, includes \$3.35 Billion for FY 2018-2023, authorizing \$10.231 Billion for FAA operations in 2018, increasing annually up to \$11.329 Billion in 2023. H.R. 4 will also allow General Aviation airports to permit construction of recreational aircraft in airport hangars, extends authority for unclassified airports to continue receiving Non-Primary Entitlement (NPE) from FY18-FY20, and among others, extends the number of State Block Grants from 10 to 20 states. Regarding Unmanned Aircraft Systems, (UAS) H.R. 4 will issue rulemaking for UAS operators to carry property for compensation and establish a remote air traffic control tower pilot program.

#### **7. Airport Funding Update, Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG**

Ernest presented an overall update on airport funding for the region including NCTCOG contributions and the Funding Dashboard. In 2017 the state received approximately \$7 Million more than 2016. Texas has not received any discretionary funding year-to-date. The Dallas-Fort Worth regional annual funding increased from a little over \$4 Million in 2016 to over \$26 Million in 2017. Market share distribution is currently 12% for the region compared to the entire state.

#### **8. UAS Safety and Integration Initiative, Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG**

Natalie presented an update on the UAS Safety and Integration Initiative. Multiple departments within NCTCOG have collaborated on this initiative. Transportation involvement includes the UAS Subcommittee, model ordinance development, Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) of military installations, Team TALON's point of contact, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Technology Task Force, and participation in the Drone Festival.

Emergency Preparedness has been involved in the public safety UAS Committee and Response Team focused on unified training for first responders and sharing resources across jurisdictions. NCTCOG's 911 Department owns and operates four unmanned aircraft systems and is engaged in 3D mapping of new developments and schools. NCTCOG staff would like for the UAS Safety and Integration Initiative to have a North Central Texas UAS Task Force to oversee activities and provide guidance from a regional perspective, to accommodate future UAS activity for new applications in a safe manner. Potential task force members would include airports, public safety, cities, counties, TxDOT, FAA, universities, and others.

UAS legislative issues originally focused on utilizing innovative technology and supporting safe operation and integration of UAS, with support from the Regional Transportation Council and the Surface Transportation Technical Committee. The JLUS Regional Coordination Committee also focused on collaboration for the safe use of UAS and preserving military operational air space. Additional legislative goals include possible amendments to HB 1643 to allow a local UAS ordinance, adding military bases to the list of restricted areas for UAS operation, and establishing a permitting process to allow operators special flight rights. Staff is open to any feedback or suggestions from the Committee going forward and suggested the proposed task force could look into the current language in HB 1643 for more flexibility and from a statewide perspective.

#### **9. What's Ahead for ATAC in 2018, Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG**

Ernest presented recommended Committee Goals and new initiatives for 2018. Ernest completed a system plan forecast validation study to compare the forecast to today's operations. Those results will be available at the next ATAC meeting. The official announcement for participation in the UAS Integration Pilot Program will be announced today.

NCTCOG staff is currently seeking funding to expand the Aviation Speakers Bureau, to add a mentorship training component, and the Aviation Careers website. Expansion of the website would include aviation and aerospace education and career content information on a statewide level.

Previously established goals focused on compatible land use, stakeholder collaboration, system capacity and growth, and federal and state legislative support. New goals include safe UAS integration to ensure ATAC goals align with regional safety and integration initiatives. The funding and Capital Improvement Program development will help ensure that Texas airports receive discretionary funding annually. In addition, NCTCOG and ATAC will support federal legislation related to NPE funds to allow greater flexibility for the state to manage NPE funds without penalizing small airports. Another funding goal is to advocate for FAA procedural changes to allow airports to seek a review of their asset classification as needed and assist in development of procedures to maintain standardized airport development worksheets with proper linkage to airport master plans and the aviation Capital Improvement Program. And the final goal is to support state and federal legislation and programs that help mitigate reckless UAS operations near airports.

**10. Touch and Goes, Committee and NCTCOG Staff**

**Jeff Kloska, Fort Worth Meacham**, presented images of the midfield development covering 24 acres. Meacham Airport is anticipating discretionary funding by the end of 2018. This development is expected to provide about 550,000 sq. ft. of new hangar space, to help meet the current demand. The new US Customs User Fee Facility, housed within Meacham Airport's Administration building, should be operational by the end of 2018. This facility will allow for customs clearance for private and corporate aircraft 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Ernest Huffman** recognized and congratulated Sharlette Wright, Airport Manager at Cleburne Airport, for winning Texas Airport Manager of the Year. Congratulations Sharlette!

Having heard no other business, the meeting was adjourned.