

MEETING SUMMARY

Air Transportation Advisory Committee February 7, 2019

The Air Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) convened at 1:00 p.m. on February 7, 2019, at NCTCOG Offices.

Voting Members in Attendance

Sharlette Wright, Chair, Cleburne
Regional Airport
Keith Barrett, Vice Chair, Caddo Mills
Airport
Judy Demoney, Midway Airport
Mark Divita, Grand Prairie Municipal
Airport
Scott Gray, Denton Enterprise (Remote)
Ty Helton, City of Greenville
Joel Jenkinson, Addison Airport
Ken Pyatt, SKY Helicopters, Inc.
Wayne Sanderson, Mineral Wells Airport
Pat Stewart, Granbury Airport
Karen VanWinkle, Arlington Municipal
Airport
Bill Welstead, City of Fort Worth

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Aaron Barth, Meacham Airport
Joe Hammond, Spinks Airport
Darrell Phillips, Dallas Executive Airport

Others in Attendance

Colin Bible, Garver
Haley Cuevas, Dallas Executive Airport
Michael Mallonee, KSA Engineering
Michael Mitchell, KSA Engineering
Leif Nelson, Industrial UAV Photography
Chase Patterson, Denton Airport
Stephen Schwieterman, Garver
Chris Whitfield, H.W. Lochner

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Natalie Bettger
Ernest Huffman
Dan Kessler
Lisa Key
Chedel Townsend

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Orientation to Agenda
3. Approval of November 1, 2018
ATAC Meeting Summary
4. Texas Aviation Grant Funding
5. Texas Economic Impact Study
6. North Texas UAS Initiative Update
7. Integrating UAS into the Airport
Operating Environment
8. ATAC Topics Discussion
9. Touch and Goes

1. Welcome and Introductions, Sharlette Wright, Chair

Sharlette welcomed all attendees and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Orientation to Agenda, Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Natalie provided an orientation to the agenda and noted that David Fulton and Greg Miller of TxDOT were unable to attend due to flight conditions.

3. Approval of February 7, 2019, ATAC Meeting Summary, Sharlette Wright, 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. Karen VanWinkle (M); Mark Divita (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. Texas Aviation Grant Funding, David Fulton, Director, TxDOT

Unable to attend; will present at the next ATAC Meeting, May 2.

5. Texas Economic Impact Study, Greg Miller, Director of Planning and Programming,

TxDOT. Unable to attend; will present at the next ATAC Meeting, May 2.

6. North Texas UAS Initiative Update, Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Ernest presented an update on the UAS Safety and Integration Task Force with an overview of the December 11, 2018, meeting. Contributing entities included the Lone Star UAS Center of Excellence & Innovation presenting the NASA Urban Air Mobility Grand Challenge, Arlington Chamber of Commerce UAS Consortium and UAS Werx, and the City of Fort Worth presented the UAS Use Policy. Working groups have been established in the areas of Education and Public Awareness, Legislation, Training, and Integration. The criteria established for each working group is designed to identify issues, provide solution-oriented recommendations, identify potential funding, and report findings to the Task Force. The Education and Public Awareness Working Group has so far identified issues related to lack of public awareness and lack of designated flying/training areas. Outreach strategies are being developed. The Legislation Working Group has stressed the need for UAS law education for state legislators and law enforcement, noting that Industry should weigh in on proposed legislation. UAS Training Working Group Members stress that lack of baseline training curriculum is a big issue as well as credentialing without flight demonstration. It was suggested that standard curriculum be developed and sent to the FAA for comment. The Integration Working Group identified the lack of special rules and regulations for aircraft certification and airworthiness, as well as regulations for UAS operations over people, as top issues.

The UAS Task Force will be meeting again February 18 with follow-up working group meetings on February 25. NCTCOG staff is developing a Request for Proposals to conduct regional Know Before You Fly Workshops throughout 2019 and 2020. The purpose of these workshops is to encourage safe commercial and recreational UAS operations through education and regional training, for safe integration into the nation's airspace.

7. Integrating UAS into the Airport Operating Environment, Paul Sichko, Dallas Fort Worth (DFW) International Airport - As DFW Airport is the fourth busiest airport in the world, with operations capacity at 240 operations per hour, with an airport perimeter of more than 38 miles, safe UAS operations near this airport is a significant priority. DFW Airport was one of the first airports in the country to receive FAA authorization to operate UAS in Class B airspace. DFW employs numerous operations in support of law enforcement activities involving airlines, tenant communications, pre-flight communications and approval from Air Traffic Control, flight operations procedures and communication, and others.

DFW Airport participates in the UAS Data Exchange, or the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC). This data exchange is “an innovative, collaborative approach between government and private industry facilitating the sharing of airspace data between the two parties...It provides access to controlled airspace near airports through near real-time processing of airspace authorizations below approved altitudes in controlled airspace.”

Source FAA

Future DFW UAS operations will include Part 139 inspections, airport infrastructure inspections, package deliveries, and many others.

8. ATAC Topics Discussion, NCTCOG Staff and Committee

Topics mentioned to include for future potential agenda items included contract towers, remote towers, more communication from TxDOT, UAS Task Force updates, funding updates, Aviation Education Survey, and the Mineral Wells Airport/UAS Werx project.

9. Touch and Goes, NCTCOG Staff and Committee

There were no Touch and Goes presented.

The next meeting of the Air Transportation Advisory Committee is scheduled for May 2, 2019.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.