

MARYLAND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

OPEN SESSION

MARYLAND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY COUNCIL (The Council)

Ricky D. Smith, Sr., MD Aviation Administration
John Slaughter, University of Maryland
Rebecca Flora, MD Department of Planning
Harry Coker, MD Department of Commerce
Maj. Michael Tagliaferri (Designee), MD State Police
Ashley Sharp (Designee), MD Department of Labor

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT)

MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (MAA)

Ashish Solanki
Bill Lindsey
Staci Gorden
Robert Sager
Theodore Eyler
Keiva Rodriques

OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Colter Menke, MD Department of Commerce
John Gilstrap, MD Department of Commerce
Ricardo Benn, MD Department of Commerce
Melanie Gross, MD Department of Planning

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

John Porcari, former Deputy Secretary, U.S. Dept. Of
Transportation and former Secretary, MD Dept. of
Transportation
Jennifer Lutz, AECOM
Suzanne Murtha, AECOM
Clint Laaser, AECOM
John Sulsona, AECOM
Anthony Tezla, AECOM
Byron Thurber, Arup
Ronak Patel, Arup

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The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

WELCOME – Ricky Smith

Mr. Smith provided brief welcome remarks, followed by Mr. Solanki who conducted the roll call. Afterwards, members of the public introduced themselves.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Upon request for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24th Council meeting, it was so moved by Councilmember Coker, seconded by Councilmember Slaughter, and approved unanimously.

There was a brief discussion about the format of the meeting minutes. Feedback was given that the meeting minutes were too granular, and it was recommended that future minutes not contain so much detail.

WORKING PAPER #1

MAA has contracted with the infrastructure consulting firm AECOM to help draft the report that will be submitted to the Governor’s Office.

During the meeting, AECOM provided an overview of the first iteration of the draft report, which is referred to as Working Paper #1.

Currently within the draft report, MDOT MAA branding is utilized. As the report is further developed, the Council may want to consider whether to use alternate branding (i.e. branding for the State of Maryland or Office of Governor Wes Moore).

Sections outlined in the draft report include:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Necessary Policies and Regulations for AAM
- Initial phase-in timeline
- Public communications campaigns
- Educational Opportunities
- AAM Regulatory Model Considerations

Each section of the report will incorporate the action items required of the Council that are specified in Executive Order 01.01.2025.05 (i.e. cataloging existing state assets, technologies, opportunities, potential use cases, etc.)

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During AECOM's overview of the report, Council members recommended additional areas of focus and/or topics needing special consideration, including background information on AAM, privacy issues, and supply chain vulnerabilities. There was also discussion about what entities should regulate air space in low level altitudes and the state's role in planning and zoning. Secretary Flora recommended that planning staff in her office get involved in the process as progress is made on the draft report.

MEETING RESOURCES

Meeting participants posted the following resources in the chat feature of Microsoft Teams:

- A resource from APA that MDP has reference for others to be aware of if not already <https://www.planning.org/publications/report/9286262/>
- LA DOT's UAM Policy Framework (2021) is also a good reference. [20210121 LADOT-hires](#)
- Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) is very involved in crewed AAM too. They have a campaign called "AAM Prepared" (<https://www.auvsi.org/aam-prepared>) which includes model state legislation.
- <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-faa-propose-rule-allowing-expanded-drone-use-2025-03-14/>

CONTINUATION OF INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council discussed the components of the report, the process of developing recommendations, and where the recommendations should be contained in the report.

AECOM recommended that within each section of the draft report, state issues and non-state issues are delineated. After which, the draft report would outline the range of recommendations that could be considered.

In creating recommendations, key determining factors (taken from the Executive Order) include:

- State assets related to the advanced air mobility industry
- Operation of advanced air mobility technologies
- Identification of opportunities and gaps
- Potential use cases
- Cost and necessary considerations for implementation

The Council meetings provide an opportunity for Council members to give feedback on the content in the draft report and provide input on additional topics/issues to be covered in the

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report. After each Council meeting, AECOM will update and/or revise the content accordingly for each iteration of the draft report. As the June 1 initial report deadline approaches, AECOM will drill down further on certain topics and flush out recommendations based on what the Council members are aligned on.

After June 1, Council members will still have opportunities to provide input on additional topics/issues to be covered in the final report. As the November 1 final report deadline approaches, AECOM will continue to drill down further on certain topics and flush out final recommendations based on what the Council members are aligned on.

Council members discussed the importance of having time to deliberate on the recommendations and review the technical data contained in the report. Hosting additional meetings and/or working sessions either in-person or virtual was discussed as an option to deliberate the content of the report.

There was consensus among the Council members regarding characterizing the recommendations in the initial draft report due June 1 as “preliminary findings” as opposed to “recommendations”. This would help alleviate some concerns about the risks associated with the Council making formal recommendations with limited information.

Deliverables / Timeline

- June 1, 2025: Submission of draft report, which will include a list of preliminary findings
- November 1, 2025: Submission of final report, which will include full list of recommendations.

NEXT STEPS – Ricky Smith

There will be a frequent meeting cadence between now and June in order to complete the initial draft report by June 2025. The consensus among Council members was that some meetings should be held in-person and some held virtually. Because this is a statewide initiative, there is value in hosting these Council meetings across the state. Public input will be solicited during a public comment period at future meetings.

Future meetings and focus areas are scheduled as follows:

- April 7 @ 1 p.m. – Easton Airport – Sections 1-3 of Report
- April 28 @ 1 p.m. – Virtual Meeting – Sections 3-5 of Report
- May 12 @ 1 p.m. – College Park Airport – Full Draft, Initial Recommendations Document

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Upcoming meetings will be promoted through community outreach tactics and partnering with the regional airports hosting the meetings. Council meeting information is currently posted on the AAM webpage.

Council members congratulated Mr. Smith on his new position as General Manager of Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Mr. Smith thanked Council members for their support. He explained that although he would be leaving his position as Executive Director/CEO of the Maryland Aviation Administration, he communicated with the Governor and offered to continue serving on the AAM Council as needed.

Upon request for a motion to adjourn, it was so moved by Councilmember Coker, seconded by Councilmember Porcari, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.