

**MARYLAND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025
UMD UAS Research & Operations Center**

OPEN SESSION

MARYLAND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY COUNCIL (The Council)

John Slaughter, University of Maryland
Maj. Michael Tagliaferri, MD State Police
Ashley Sharp, MD Department of Labor (Designee)
John Porcari, former Deputy Secretary, U.S. Dept. Of
Transportation and former Secretary, MD Dept. of
Transportation
Yolanda Wilson, College of Southern Maryland
Greg Pecoraro, City Council, Westminster, MD
Andrew Moore, Frederick Municipal Airport
Darius White, MD Department of Planning (Designee)

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT)

MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (MAA)

Joe McAndrew
Ashish Solanki
Staci Gorden
Theodore Eyler

OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Colter Menke, MD Department of Commerce

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Anthony Tezla, AECOM
Regan Beck, AECOM
Thea Wurzburg, Beta
Allison Swint, St. Mary's County Government
Kellie Hinkle, St. Mary's County Department of Economic
Development
Bonnie Green, The Patuxent Partnership

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

WELCOME – Ashish Solanki

Mr. Solanki called the meeting to order. Mr. Solanki then conducted the roll call.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

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Upon request for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2nd Council meeting, it was so moved by Mr. Pecoraro, seconded by Mr. Porcari, and approved unanimously.

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

No additional agenda items were recommended by Council.

GUEST SPEAKER– Thea Wurzburg, Beta Technologies

Beta is an advanced air mobility company, based in Vermont. Ms. Wurzburg spoke about the advanced air mobility industry broadly, what the state of Maryland can do to prepare for advanced air mobility, and future plans for Beta Technologies specifically.

Key Takeaways:

Maryland’s robust aerospace and defense industries offer the opportunity for the state to be a leader in the AAM space. There are a number of areas the state can focus on to ensure success:

- Investment in enabling infrastructure and leveraging existing airports
- Zoning & ordinance guidelines for local governments
- Community education & engagement
- Workforce development

Best practices for AAM policymaking or use cases include:

- Identifying key airports in your state that can support advanced air mobility through charging infrastructure
- Joining multi-state collaboratives that work on building consensus on key AAM policy issues
- Taking advantage of what other states have already done. Example-- For land use/ zoning issues pertaining to AAM, Florida has put together a useful guidebook.
- Looking at how to integrate AAM into existing aviation training programs and how to support workforce development programs.

To incentivize AAM operators to come to Maryland, she recommends focusing on the initial charging infrastructure, but also on battery thermal management systems for regulating the thermal conditions of a battery system in order to improve performance, safety and lifespan.

Dr. Yolanda Wilson asked if there were any institutions that already have a curriculum in place for training technicians and/or mechanics on electric aviation? Ms. Wurzburg did not think that there were any examples currently, but said that Beta has a workforce development team that is focused on conducting training for pilots and maintainers. They are currently strategizing on the best way to provide this information to aviation training programs so they can integrate it into their curriculums. She said she would follow up with more information.

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Ms. Sharp requested that Ms. Wurzburg share specific types of training that is needed for jobs in electric aviation, so that she and her colleagues at the Maryland Department of Labor can facilitate workforce development opportunities and build career pathways and partnerships. Ms. Wurzburg explained that the workforce development team at Beta is focused on a specific skillset right now for their manufacturing facility (example: advanced composites professional background). But there will be other skillsets needed once the aircraft are operating in various locations. She said she would follow up with additional information.

Members of the public asked follow-up questions to Ms. Wurzburg pertaining to the anticipated requirements for certification for electric aircraft maintenance. She responded that they were still figuring out the specifics for certifications.

Ms. Wurzburg said she would share her presentation slide deck with Council members.

Mr. Porcari also requested additional information on two topics that Ms. Wurzburg mentioned in her presentation:

- [The Michigan AAM Activation Fund](#)
- [The Florida Land Use and Zoning Guidebook on AAM](#)

WORKING GROUP UPDATE– Anthony Tezla

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

During this portion of the meeting, AECOM facilitated discussion and the Council provided input on the following topics:

- Report Structure (Options 1 and 2)
- Working Group Schedule
- File Sharing

Working Group Meetings - Weekly Sessions:

- Tuesday, July 15 @ 10am
- Tuesday, July 22 @ 10am
- Tuesday, July 29 @ 10am (follows virtual AAM Council Session)
- Tuesday, Aug 5 @ 10am
- Tuesday, Aug 12 @ 10am
- Tuesday, Aug 19 @ 10am

Information sessions with potential AAM industry stakeholders:

- UAS operators / potential UAS operators

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- Aeromedical Industry
- RAM industry leaders (suppliers / operators)
- UAM
- Infrastructure

Mr. Tezla encouraged Council members to send him the contact information of potential guest speakers for future working group meetings.

Council Sharepoint Site

- [MarylandAdvancedAirMobility - Home](#)
- AECOM will send an email granting you access to the site
- From the home page, you can navigate to the draft working report, list of findings, list of recommendations, meeting notes, and the meeting calendar
- Ms. Wurzburg's presentation has been uploaded to the Sharepoint site.

In addition to serving as a resource hub for Council members, this Sharepoint site will eventually become a tool to collect and share information with AAM Councils in other states.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Kellie Hinkle from the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development made comments regarding how her agency had been focused on land use from the perspective of the airport, but not from the perspective of the user of the technology. As they move forward with their comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance changes, they will take this into consideration.

NEXT STEPS – Ashish Solanki

On June 27, the Council's Initial Findings Report was shared with the Governor's Office. The Council, with AECOM's support, is now focused on drafting the Final Recommendations Report.

AECOM will incorporate the feedback received today and make further revisions to the documents.

The Working Group will hold working sessions weekly in order to further develop the report content and recommendations for the final deliverable due in November 2025. Those who are interested and available are welcomed to attend. Council members may also choose to have a designee participate in the working group sessions on their behalf.

Future Council meetings are scheduled as follows:

- July 28 @ 1 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

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- August 25 @ 1 p.m. – Hybrid Meeting @ Talbot County Community Center

Upon request for a motion to adjourn, it was so moved by John Slaughter, seconded by Yolanda Wilson, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.