

**MARYLAND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025**  
**TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER, 10028 OCEAN GATEWAY, EASTON, MD 21601**

**OPEN SESSION**

**MARYLAND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY COUNCIL (The Council)**

John Porcari, Chair (former Deputy Secretary, U.S. Dept. Of Transportation and former Secretary, MD Dept. of Transportation)

Shannetta Griffin, Maryland Aviation Administration (*virtual*)

John Slaughter, University of Maryland (*virtual*)

Maj. Michael Tagliaferri, MD State Police

Dr. Yolanda Wilson, College of Southern Maryland (*virtual*)

Greg Pecoraro, City Council, Westminster, MD

Andrew Moore, Frederick Municipal Airport (*virtual*)

Dr. Elizabeth Powell, University of Maryland (*virtual*)

Colter Menke, MD Department of Commerce (Designee)

William Lindsey, MD Office of the Attorney General (*virtual*)

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT)**

**MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (MAA)**

Ashish Solanki

Staci Gorden (*virtual*)

Keiva Rodrigues (*virtual*)

Robert Sager (*virtual*)

Theodore Eyler (*virtual*)

**OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

Vincent White, Maryland Department of Transportation (*virtual*)

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Anthony Tezla, AECOM

Regan Beck, AECOM

Suzanne Murtha, AECOM

Mason Sisk, Assoc. for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems Int'l. (AUVSI) (*virtual*)

Stephen Connolly, West Virginia Department of Transportation (*virtual*)

Tombo Jones, Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (*virtual*)

Rex Purdue, Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (*virtual*)

Scott Denny, Virginia Department of Aviation (*virtual*)

Jason Schronce, North Carolina Department of Transportation (*virtual*)

Micah Risher, Easton Airport Manager

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Jeffrey Lankford, Easton Airport Business Manager  
Clay Stamp, Talbot County Manager  
Anthony Pucciarella, Alaris Pro (*virtual*)

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

**WELCOME** – John Porcari

Mr. Porcari called the meeting to order. He made brief welcome remarks and conducted the roll call.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**

Upon request for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, it was so moved by Mr. Pecoraro, seconded by Mr. Moore, and approved unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS / FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

- Weekly Working Group meetings have been scheduled for Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Sessions will focus on a particular aspect of advanced air mobility and/or feature a guest speaker from the industry. If Council members have suggestions for guest speakers or meeting topics, please send them to Anthony Tezla ([Anthony.Tezla@aecom.com](mailto:Anthony.Tezla@aecom.com)).
- Resource Posted in Teams Chat -- Research Papers from Advanced Air Mobility Multi-State Collaborative: <https://nasao.org/page/advanced-air-mobility-multistate-collaborative>
- Schedule meetings with Maryland Municipal League and Maryland Association of Counties in order to strategize on best practices for Public Outreach Recommendation #5 (*Create working group to develop and oversee outreach*)
- Add working sessions topics to weekly emails / website / Sharepoint site

**INDUSTRY PRESENTATION #1** – Mason Sisk, Assoc. for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems Int'l. (AUVSI)

Mr. Sisk's presentation included an overview of AUVSI and its work in various states, as well as a summary of the organization's AAM Prepared Framework. The AAM Prepared Framework aims to prepare states and localities for the future of advanced air mobility. This initiative focuses on educating lawmakers across the country on the benefits of advanced air mobility. The AAM Prepared Framework is the foundation for the model legislation that the organization has been advocating for in various states, including California, Texas and Florida. As part of his presentation, Mr. Sisk outlined five strategic recommendations for advancing AAM in Maryland.

**INDUSTRY PRESENTATION #2** – Scott Denny, Virginia Department of Aviation

Tombo Jones, Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership  
Rex Purdue, Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership

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This group presented an overview of Virginia's AAM Strategic Plan and two pilot projects – Smart Airspace Project (larger AAM aircraft) and the Stafford-Warrenton-Winchester Project (smaller AAM aircraft and drones). Through the Smart Airspace Project, NAVOS Air and Virginia Tech are working on establishing the initial cell of an AAM network of Vertiports in Virginia. Collaborating with private industry, the Stafford-Warrenton-Winchester Project is testing and analyzing drone operations in and around three Northern VA public use airports.

The Commonwealth is also working with organizations like the Virginia Municipal League and Mitre Corporation on a public outreach campaign. The AAM Program manager will be meeting with planning and zoning administrators across the Commonwealth to educate local government on current drone laws, the state's AAM strategic plan, and model zoning ordinances that they can use to make better decisions in their municipality.

Other projects that the VA Department of Aviation is funding include:

- Drone as First Responder Program – the program works with local law enforcement and fire to provide equipment to local municipalities.
- Installation of three-phase electrical power and broadband connectivity – the project provides power at public-use airports to prepare for Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) vehicles.

Virginia is one of the founding members of the AAM Multi-State Collaborative.

**INDUSTRY PRESENTATION #3** – Jason Schronce, North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Division of Aviation

Mr. Schronce presented an overview on North Carolina's AAM initiatives. The NCDOT Division of Aviation is actively engaged with local planning partners to fund grants for projects that analyze land use and zoning for AAM. The goal is to have a final report on planning, land use and zoning for AAM.

Currently, NCDOT has installed one beta charger at a general aviation airport in the state. An important lesson learned --- engage with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and try to find value-added partnerships.

NCDOT has a very established research program with universities. They partnered with the universities and set aside funding for University Transportation Center of Excellence for Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). It is a collaboration between NCDOT and North Carolina A&T, NC State University and Elizabeth City State University. Through this initiative, they are funding projects related to workforce development and regional air mobility.

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There are other projects including feasibility studies for different regional corridors, including a multi-state corridor study with the state of Georgia. NCDOT is also working on an AAM Guidebook for public airports.

**INDUSTRY PRESENTATION #4** – Stephen Connolly, West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) Mr. Connolly presented on West Virginia’s AAM activities. The state is a member of AUVSI and participates in the AAM Multi-State Collaborative. Mr. Connolly and staff toured Beta’s Vermont facility last fall. West Virginia has two Beta chargers located at airports and is looking to expand so they have an actual grid of coverage once the eVTOLs are in use.

The Bill Noe Flight School is the flight school at Marshall University, located at the West Virginia Yeager International Airport in Charleston, WV. The school has five satellite campuses throughout the state. The school offers A&P aircraft mechanic training, and they are currently developing their AAM UTM curriculum. They hope to have it completed and available to students in Spring 2026 or Fall 2026.

WVDOT has partnered with a company called Vets to Drones. The program engages individuals who have recently been discharged from the military and have skills in AAM or UTM and helps them transition into new careers in the private sector.

WVDOT is currently working with Mingo County to secure funding for AAM testing in that part of the state. In addition, they recently completed a comprehensive study of the power capabilities at all of their public use airports within the state. This enables them to identify which public use airports have the capacity to accommodate AAM.

**FINAL REPORT and RECOMMENDATIONS** – 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.

Progress Update

- Working Group Sessions
  - Public Informational Campaign Discussion 07-29-25
  - Public Informational Campaign Discussion 08-05-25
  - Presentation from Councilmember John Slaughter 08-12-25
    - A Roadmap to UAS Integration in Maryland (*presentation uploaded to the SharePoint*)
  - Presentation from Lisa Peterson with Aura Network Systems 08-12-25
    - Communications and airspace awareness technology (*presentation uploaded to the SharePoint*)

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- Aura has an integration lab at Frederick Airport
- <https://auranetworksystems.com/>
- Presentation from Glenn Ponas with Aerium and John Eberhardt 08-19-25
  - Nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the pipeline between students, educators, and the aerospace industry
  - <https://aerium.org>
- Report
  - Public Informational Campaign Section

Report Status

During this portion of the meeting, AECOM facilitated discussion, and the Council provided input on the public information campaigns sections and sub-sections of the report:

Sub-sections include:

- Strategic Objectives
- Campaign Design and Rollout
  - Communications Strategy
  - Municipal and County
  - Legislature
- Public Outreach Campaign
- Target Audiences and Stakeholder Engagement
- Engagement Methods
- Best Practices from Other Initiatives

The full list of draft recommendations is available for review in the meeting package that is distributed before each meeting as well as on the AAM Sharepoint site.

Next Steps

- Weekly Working Group Sessions: Tuesdays at 10 AM
  - Discussion on Workforce Development during working group session 08-26-25
  - Planning to hold a meeting with the Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, Maryland Higher Education Commission, and Maryland State Department of Education
  - Presentation from Tony Christiani with C-STARS (*Center for the Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills*) 09-02-25
    - <https://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/trauma/education/c-stars-center-for-the-sustainment-of-trauma-andreadiness-skills/>
  - Anticipated presentations from other members of the aeromedical industry
- Report

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– Workforce Development

**NEXT STEPS** – John Porcari

Future Council meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **October 6 @ 1 p.m. – Hybrid Meeting @ Hagerstown Regional Airport**

This meeting will focus on regional air mobility. ***Gov. Wes Moore has tentatively agreed to attend the meeting.*** Attendance by Councilmembers or designees is strongly encouraged.

Mr. Porcari encouraged Councilmembers to reach out if they would like to suggest updates to the draft report or the draft recommendations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**ADJOURN**

Upon request for a motion to adjourn, it was so moved by Mr. Pecoraro, seconded by Dr. Wilson, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.