

MARYLAND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

John Slaughter, University of Maryland

Maj. Michael Tagliaferri, MD State Police

Ashley Sharp, MD Department of Labor (Designee)

Dr. Yolanda Wilson, College of Southern Maryland

Greg Pecoraro, City Council, Westminster, MD

Andrew Moore, Frederick Municipal Airport

Dr. Elizabeth Powell, University of Maryland

John Gilstrap, MD Department of Commerce (Designee)

Robert Sager, MD Office of the Attorney General (Designee)

Darius White, MD Department of Planning (Designee)

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT)

MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (MAA)

Drew Morrison

Ashish Solanki

Staci Gorden

Theodore Eyler

OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Colter Menke, MD Department of Commerce

Ricardo Benn, MD Department of Commerce

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Anthony Tezla, AECOM

Regan Beck, AECOM

Suzanne Murtha, AECOM

Abhishek Cauligi, Johns Hopkins University

Michael Gagne

Katia Veraza, Vertical Aviation International

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

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WELCOME – John Porcari

Mr. Porcari called the meeting to order. He made brief welcome remarks and informed the Council that the Governor's Office had recently appointed him as Chair of the Maryland Advanced Air Mobility Council. He then conducted the roll call.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Upon request for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 28th Council meeting, it was so moved by Mr. Pecoraro, seconded by Dr. Wilson, 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).
- There was a request for follow-up information from the June 30th meeting guest speaker Thea Wurzburg of Beta Technologies. AECOM will reach out to her again to request the follow-up information.
- Some Council members have reported having difficulties accessing the Council's SharePoint site ([MarylandAdvancedAirMobility - Home](#)). AECOM will continue to troubleshoot issues for Council members seeking assistance with gaining access to the site.
- There was a request for updates to [Senate Bill 370](#) and a legal review as it relates to:
 - A) Updating the legislation to include elements of [AUVSI's AAM Prepared Model](#)
 - B) Researching potential liability issues for the state for civil rights violations. What have other states done to address civil rights issues?
 - C) Researching police use of drones (local, state and in other states) for private property surveillance. Does state law preempt local law?
 - D) Researching potential privacy issues for Drone as First Responder Programs. This program is currently in use in Frederick, MD.
- There was a request (via Microsoft Teams chat) to research how drones are used for worksite inspections. Other states have implemented this to support worker protections.
- There was a request to research potential planning and zoning issues. The intent is to glean insight and information from other planning entities such as the [Maryland Municipal League](#), [Maryland Association of Counties](#), etc.
- There was a request to research what other states are doing in terms of zoning and land use, infrastructure, licensing, traffic management, and public outreach campaigns.
- There was a request to begin planning outreach and education campaigns that target both the general public and elected officials.

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- There was a request to integrate the Department of Commerce's policies and programs for recruiting specific industries to Maryland into the final AAM Report and Recommendations.
- Reading material was recommended by Mr. John Slaughter (via Microsoft Teams chat): Article on public perceptions of electric air taxis. https://aerospaceamerica.aiaa.org/industry-must-improve-public-perception-of-electric-air-taxis-panel-says/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=rasa_io&utm_campaign=newsletter
- A follow-up meeting was requested from Ms. Ashley Sharp (via Microsoft Teams chat): She would like to set up a meeting with AECOM and the broader Department of Labor team to discuss workforce development strategy and how best to formulate the right partnerships to support other state agencies in building a career pathway.

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

- Interviews with Council members
- Interviews with Industry Representatives
 - [DroneUp](#) – UAS Traffic Management
 - [Aerium](#) – Workforce Development and Planning
 - [Sierra Nevada Corporation](#) – UAS Operations, Powerplants, Military Use Cases
 - [Joby](#) – Original Equipment Manufacturer

Report Status

The draft report is available on the SharePoint site: [Maryland Advanced Air Mobility Report- Council delivery 20250723.docx](#). Council members can review the report and may leave comments directly in the document.

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

- Government Roles and Responsibilities
This section defines broadly what the roles are for the major players in the advanced air mobility industry.
- AAM Policy and Approach Alignment
This section describes the overall philosophy that should be applied to policy development and alignment in order to make Maryland a welcoming and supportive environment for the advanced air mobility industry.

Sub-sections include:

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- Public Safety, Security, Cybersecurity, and Privacy
- Facilitate Public Engagement and Understanding
- Licensing, Registration Requirements, and Traffic Management
- AAM Facility Siting, Land Use, and Zoning
- Transportation, Intermodal, and System Plan Integration
- Workforce Development
- Economic Development and Partnerships

Next Steps

- Weekly Working Group Meetings – Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
- Report development will now focus on outreach and public engagement

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Katia Veraza of Vertical Aviation International asked about the appointments process for members of the Maryland Advanced Air Mobility Council.

Councilmember Moore of Frederick Municipal Airport reiterated discussion points from the meeting, specifically regarding economic development, business use cases, and creating smooth pathways for the end users.

Councilmember Griffin reiterated the importance of communities in the business model. She commented that educating communities and including them in the discussions is key. She also encouraged the group to begin thinking about specific industries that the state would like to bring to Maryland and build a plan for making this location more attractive.

NEXT STEPS – John Porcari

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 or colleagues participate in the working group sessions.

Future Council meetings are scheduled as follows:

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

Mr. Porcari encouraged any Councilmembers who wanted to have further discussions or have any additional suggestions to reach out to him.

Upon request for a motion to adjourn, it was so moved by Andrew Moore, seconded by Greg Pecoraro, and approved unanimously.

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The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.