

MEETING SUMMARY

Air Transportation Advisory Committee August 1, 2019

The Air Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) convened at 1 p.m. on August 1, 2019, at the City of Arlington Offices.

Voting Members in Attendance

Sharlette Wright, Chair, Cleburne
Regional Airport
Keith Barrett, Vice Chair, Caddo Mills
Airport
Judy Demoney, Midway Airport
Scott Gray, Denton Enterprise Airport
Ty Helton, City of Greenville
Eric Pratt, Mesquite Metro Airport
(Remote)
Ken Pyatt, SKY Helicopters, Inc.
Wayne Sanderson, Mineral Wells Airport
Paul Sichko, DFW Airport
Karen VanWinkle, Arlington Municipal
Airport

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Bobby Waddle, Chair Emeritus
Executive Board

Others in Attendance

Trent Ballard, City of Arlington
Bill Macke, TxDOT (Remote)
Chase Patterson, Denton Enterprise
Airport
Chris Whitfield, Lochner
Matt Massiano, Saab Sensis

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Natalie Bettger
Ernest Huffman
Dan Kessler
Lisa Key

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Orientation to Agenda
3. Officer Rotation
4. Approval of May 2, 2019 ATAC
Meeting Summary
5. Remote Tower Technology
6. FAA Contract Tower
7. Texas Funding Update
8. UAS Safety and Integration Task
Force Update
9. Airport Spotlight

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 expressed appreciation to the City of Arlington for hosting the meeting at Arlington City Hall, as NCTCOG's Conference Center is undergoing renovations.

3. Officer Rotation, Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

As the Committee rotates officers every 12 months, May marks the completion of one year's service for current ATAC Officers. Natalie expressed her appreciation to Sharlette Wright for her leadership as Committee Chair over the last year. She noted that as Keith Barrett was currently serving as Vice Chair, Keith would become the new Chair and that Christian Childs, Alliance Airport, had accepted the role of new Vice Chair. The Committee thanked Sharlette and Keith and welcomed Christian.

4. Approval of May 2, 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. Judy Demoney (M); Karen Vanwinkle (S). The motion passed unanimously.

5. Remote Tower Technology, Matthew Massiano, Saab Sensis Corporation

Saab Sensis is part of the Saab Group's Air Traffic Management program that developed the remote tower technology presented by Mr. Massiano. Rather than build an Air Traffic Control Tower, the idea is that multiple cameras can be placed in strategic locations in and around an airport to monitor operations from a space not necessarily located on airport property.

Operations are monitored from a Remote Tower Center that includes radar, flight data, airfield lighting control and other critical components that can be customized for individual airport needs. The system constructed for the Leesburg, VA, Executive Airport consists of high definition cameras, pan/tilt/zoom and infrared cameras, microphones, and "AirBlade" technology that can clean the camera lens remotely to mitigate rain, snow, hail, insects, etc. Gap Filler Cameras are placed in strategic locations such as runway or taxi blind spots.

The primary benefits of this technology include lower capital investments, a shortened site design and deployment schedule, remote tower operations, and easy maintenance. In addition, from the Remote Tower Center, the controller can track birds and drones, enhance visibility, create night vision, and record and replay operations for training purposes. Goals for this airport include, among others, improving safety, contributing to the special flight rules area near the Naval Air Station, and reducing arrival and departure delays for IFR operations. The aim is to continue remote tower operations at Leesburg Airport and receive FAA Remote Tower appropriations. Saab Sensis has demonstrated success with remote tower technology at multiple international facilities.

6. FAA Contract Tower, Abraham Oommen, FAA

Due to scheduling conflicts, Mr. Oommen was not available to present at this meeting.

7. Texas Funding Update, Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

The Texas annual funding comparison indicates that the State has received, to date, \$27,618,620 in funding. A comparison of the DFW region to the rest of the State demonstrates that our region has received far less in 2019 than received the previous two years. While several of our regional airports have received substantial non-primary entitlement (NPE) and Federal funding dollars, the region as a whole has received only 11% of that funding compared to the rest of the State. NCTCOG staff suggested that together, we develop a strategy to work closely with TxDOT to increase State funding before the next legislative session.

8. UAS Safety and Integration Task Force Update, Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

The UAS Task Force continues to address topical issues, develop outreach strategies to educate local governments and citizens, keep informed of legislative developments and seek responsible credentialed training. The Know Before You Fly workshops are being developed and host venues are being sought. Sponsorship opportunities have been established. The next UAS task force meeting is scheduled for September 24. NCTCOG staff expressed appreciation to the Committee for their contributions toward this effort and strongly encourages others to participate if possible.

9. Airport Spotlight, Wayne Sanderson, Mineral Wells Airport

The airport was recently renamed Mineral Wells Regional Airport. The airport is undergoing a transformation of sorts as some construction has already been completed and other upgrades are scheduled. A recent renovation of the Fuel Farm includes a newly installed cover for fuel truck loading areas with new lighting and new concrete parking pads planned for late 2019. The terminal has been renovated with new terminal signs, new furniture, and other interior improvements. The airport is also renovating an existing training facility, the North Texas Advanced Technology Center, scheduled for completion in 2019. This space can accommodate workshops, seminars, classroom training, etc. The first tenant will be Texas UASWERX that will offer UAS training and flight test areas, as they support commercial, institutional and military clients.

As Parker and Palo Pinto counties continue to grow, airport expansion is planned to include more hangars as warranted. As the area supports training at Fort Wolters and the City of restoring the historic downtown district, airport hangar demand will increase, along with operations.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Judy Demoney, Mid-Way Airport Manager, announced her retirement noting this would be her last meeting. As Judy has served on the Air Transportation Advisory Committee since 2012, and as Committee Chair from 2016-2017, we will certainly miss her leadership, foresight, contributions, and sense of humor.

As no other business was heard, the meeting was adjourned.