

Transcript

Texas Advanced Air Mobility Advisory Committee Meeting // 12-14-2023

Dan Harmon

0:04

So good morning.

0:05

I'm going to start in just a second.

0:06

I'm making sure we have a quorum here of the appointed members, both in person and online.

1:23

Good morning, everyone.

Mark Ozenik

1:25

Morning.

Dan Harmon

1:25

Good morning, Sir.

1:29

We're going to start here in just a minute.

Tan Parker

1:32

Great.

Dan Harmon

1:46

So I'm going to turn this on.

1:54

Good morning.

1:56

I'm Dan Harmon and welcome to the kickoff meeting, initial meeting of the Texas Advanced Air Mobility Advisory Committee as established by the 88th legislature of the Texas, I'm sorry, 88th Texas Legislature.

2:15

So somehow, General, can everybody hear me?

2:19

Everybody hear me Good online.

Tan Parker

2:20

We're good.

Dan Harmon

2:21

All right, great.

Tan Parker

2:22

Great.

Dan Harmon

2:24

So first of all, please silence your cell phones.

2:26

And for those online, make sure you're on mute if you are not actually speaking.

2:34

So for the benefit of those people here, I have to do the obligatory Safety Brief.

2:40

If there's a fire out the door that you came in, we will muster up everybody in the parking lot.

2:47

If there is a medical emergency, please dial 911 the address 6260 E Stanley Lane or just run out and tell the person at the security desk.

3:06

So, and then if there is the unlikely event that we have some sort of weather event I will lead you into the interior of the building where we are shelter in place until it passes for anything else follow the directions of staff or security or the announcements as they come over the PA system.

3:26

Please if you are there are three sign in sheets in addition to the one you had to do coming in which we didn't expect.

3:33

If you are a member please sign in with the information on there if you are a member of the public or if your text dot or Texas State staff.

3:40

So, with that, again, I am Dan Harmon, I am the Director of the Aviation Division, and I will be your staff sponsor on behalf of TxDOT working with us in the Strategic Projects Division.

3:52

Zeke Rayna over there is sort of the volunteered co-host.

3:59

He just doesn't know it.

4:01

And then on my staff I have Daniel Bagwell, Dan Bagwell, he works for me.

4:07

He is going to be part of the administrative and logistics point of contact for you guys as we move forward.

4:13

Not that I'm not interested, I am.

4:14

I'm going to be working with him.

4:16

But you know for a lot of this stuff just e-mail stuff, make sure that he and I are on it.

4:20

I also want to introduce Andres Cavallos from Texas State.

4:25

He's going to be the program manager.

4:27

Texas State will be doing the administrative support for this committee.

4:34

For those of you that were on the Urban Air Advisory Committee a couple of years ago or last, well last year, I guess technically we had Texas TTI provide the administrative support and do the ultimate deliverable report.

4:50

Texas State is going to be taking that role.

4:51

If you want to introduce your team real quick?

Andres Carvallo

4:54

Yeah, Andres Carvallo, professor.

4:57

I'm hearing Fellows and drill and Director of here that you may want to learn about is we have 14 laps and 883.

5:07

Two of those laps are linking to mobility, both vertical and horizontal.

5:12

Then we have a team that'll just have them go around. Dr. Rebecca Davio is my Co-PI.

Rebecca Davio

5:18

Good morning.

Molly Allred

5:24

I am Molly Allred.

5:25

I'm a student at Texas State.

Matt Pantuso

5:28

Matt Pantuso, Staff member at the Institute for Government Innovation.

Michael Seaborn

5:36

Michael Seaborn.

5:37

I'm a student at Texas State.

Khan Mortuza

5:39

I'm Khan Mortuza.

5:41

I'm also a student at Texas State. And that's part of the team now here today.

Andres Carvallo

5:46

There are 6 faculty involved in both the expertise in aviation research and then communications plan that we are also in charge of creating and then finally the report.

5:58

And then there are another six students involved.

6:01

Thanks for having us.

Dan Harmon

6:03

Thanks for being here.

6:04

OK.

6:05

And then I have various staff around the room who you will get to know sooner or later.

6:10

But I want to make sure that Keith Rodell was in the back there is from our SLA, our state legislative affairs.

6:17

He's he's going to be my guardian Angel sitting on my virtual folder to make sure that I follow the statutes involved and don't stray from the from the swim lanes.

6:26

That is his sole purpose in life.

6:28

Otherwise he's got a shock power on me that you can't see to make sure I don't do anything wrong.

6:35

So that being said, what I'd like to do is I'm going to take roll for those members here and online so that we can make sure that you're here and we have a quorum and all that.

6:44

Please.

6:45

As I introduce you, one of these guys going to give you a microphone, or online, just chime in just two, two seconds of who you are, who you represent and make sure we're saying your name right.

7:02

So with that, Dan Dalton, are you on?

Dan Daldon

7:08

Morning, everyone.

7:09

I'm Dan Dalton.

7:10

I am the Vice President of Global Partnerships at WISK Aero.

7:14

And so I'm responsible for all commercial and government partnerships at WISK.

Dan Harmon

7:23

Grant Guillot. I believe he's online.

Grant Guillot

7:29

Hey, I'm sorry.

7:32

Yeah.

7:33

Let me see if I can turn mine camera on.

7:37

Hey, Grant Guillot, I am the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs had Drone Up and excited to be here.

Dan Harmon

7:46

Thank you, George Kivork , George Kivork .

8:05

OK.

8:06

Ben Ivers, I saw you online.

Ben Ivers

8:09

Hello.

8:10

Yes, good morning.

8:11

Ben Ivers with the Boeing Company.

8:13

I am the Director for Autonomous Systems Regulatory Affairs based out of Washington, DC and a former member of the UAM Advisory Committee.

8:22

Nice to see you all again.

Dan Harmon

8:25

Thank you, Brent Klavon, good morning.

Brent Klavon

8:29

Brent Klavon , ANRA Technologies Chief Strategy Officer.

8:33

And like Ben, this is my second go around.

8:36

I have the pleasure of serving on the previous committee.

8:38

Thank you.

Dan Harmon

8:41

Thank you, Sir.

8:42

Angel Newhart.

8:54

Angel Newhart, Jim Perschbach .

Jim Perschbach

9:06

Hi.

9:06

Jim Perschbach with Port San Antonio, which is not a port but is in San Antonio, was on the Urban Air Mobility Committee and happy to be here.

Dan Harmon

9:17

Thank you, Sir.

9:18

Kendal Prosack .

Kendal Prosack

9:21

Hi, Kendal Prosack .

9:22

I lead local policy and community affairs at Wing on Demand, drone delivery operational in Dallas.

Dan Harmon

9:32

Michael Sanders,

Michael Sanders

Mike Sanders.

9:37

I'm up from A&M, Corpus Christi, and I'm the executive Director at the UAS test site, one of the seven test sites in the US.

Dan Harmon

Hey, Sir. Tom Swyer,, sure did that right.

Thomas Swoyer

9:54

You did that exactly right.

9:56

Good morning.

9:56

My name is Tom Swyer.

9:57

I'm the founder and president of Grand Sky Development Company, which is a 217 acre UAS business and Aviation Park.

Dan Harmon

10:04

Thank you, Sir.

10:07

Nathan Trail.

Nathan Trail

10:11

Good morning, everyone.

10:12

My name is Nathan Trail.

10:13

I'm the Senior Director of International, State and Local Policy at sub Colonel, which is a Hyundai company.

10:18

Nice to see everyone.

Dan Harmon

10:22

Thanks, Sir.

10:23

I have John Ackerman on here.

10:24

I've been notified that John is going to be resigning.

10:26

He's taking another job out of state, So we'll be looking to replace him on the board as soon as we get a appropriate nominee from the Commercial Airports Association.

10:36

Sergio Saenz.

10:45

Sergio. Jeff Bilyeu,

Jeff Bilyeu

10:56

Good morning. I'm Jeff Bilyeu.

10:56

You, I'm the aviation director for Brazoria County, Texas, Airport manager for Texas Gulf Coast Regional Airport.

Dan Harmon

11:03

Thank you, Sir.

11:04

David Fields, Good morning, everybody.

David Fields

11:10

David Fields, I'm the city of Houston's Chief Transportation planner.

11:13

I previously served on the UAM and appreciate coming back again this time.

Dan Harmon

11:16

Thank you, Sir.

11:20

Ernest Huffman.

Ernest Huffman

11:24

Hello, everyone.

11:25

I'm Ernest Huffman with North Central Texas Council of Governments.

11:27

And I'm Manager, Aviation Planning and Education Program area.

Dan Harmon

11:32

Thanks, Sir.

11:32

Welcome, Gus Khankarli.

Gus Khankarli

11:37

Good morning.

11:37

Gus Khankarli, I'm the Director of the Department Transportation with the City of Dallas, served on the UAM and appreciate the opportunity to serve on this one.

11:45

Thank you.

Dan Harmon

11:48

Thank you, Sir.

11:49

Kimberly Williams.

Kimberly Williams

11:53

Hi, Good morning.

11:55

Kim Williams, I'm the Chief Innovation Officer for Houston Metro, the Regional Transportation Authority here in Houston.

12:02

I was on the Urban Air Committee.

12:04

So good to be back with you all.

12:05

Thank you.

Dan Harmon

12:09

Thank you, ma'am.

12:09

Jason Day.

Jason Day

Good morning, everybody.

12:13

Jason Day, Director of UAS for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Dan Harmon

12:18

Thanks, Jason.

12:22

Maruthi R. Akella.

12:39

If you're not, please mute your meet yourself.

12:44

If you are not talking to us, please.

12:50

Ahsan Choudhuri

Ahsan Choudhuri

12:53

Hi.

12:53

Good morning.

12:53

This is Ahsan Choudhuri.

12:54

I'm a professor of aerospace engineering and assistant VP and the founder of YouTube Aerospace Center.

13:00

I had the privilege to chair the last year's committee.

13:04

Thank you and good to be back again.

13:05

Thank you.

Dan Harmon

13:07

Thank you, Sir.

13:08

Brent Skorup.

Brent Skorup

13:12

Good morning.

13:12

I'm Brent Skorup, senior research fellow at the Mercadis Center at George Mason University in Arlington, VA, and looking forward to to participate in this committee.

Dan Harmon

13:25

Welcome.

13:25

Thank you, Sir.

13:26

Andrew Chang.

Andrew Chang

13:30

Hi, Good morning.

13:30

I'm Andrew Chang, Managing Director at United Airlines based in Houston.

13:35

I lead our corporate development group as well as our corporate venture Capital Arms, United Airlines Ventures.

13:42

With me I have Stan Tran as well.

Dan Harmon

13:47

Thank you, Sir.

13:48

Kate Clark.

Kate Clark

13:50

Good morning.

13:51

Kate Clark, Chief Government Affairs Officer for Helicopter Association International.

13:55

We represent all things vertical flight.

Dan Harmon

13:59

Welcome.

14:00

Thank you, Sir.

14:01

Amanda Nelson.

Amanda Nelson

14:03

Hi everyone.

14:04

Amanda Nelson, I'm the Director of Strategic Relationships for Bristow Group.

14:09

Bristow's the global leader in vertical flight solutions, had the pleasure of serving on the last iteration of this committee and looking forward to this go around.

14:17

Thanks everyone.

Dan Harmon

14:19

Thank you, ma'am.

14:20

And lastly, Mark Ozenik.

Mark Ozenik

14:23

Good morning, everyone.

14:24

This is Mark Ozenik.

14:25

I'm the founder of HeliFlite, which is the nation's leading provider of regional helicopter transportation, the ultra-wealthy.

14:33

I'm also chairman of Rotorcraft Newco, which is an acquisition and operating platform in regional helicopter transportation and para public helicopter transportation.

14:42

I look forward to working with everyone.

14:43

Thank you.

Dan Harmon

14:45

Thank you, Sir.

14:46

And at this time I'm going to go ahead and Sir?

Cameron Walker

14:51

I'm a member, yes.

Dan Harmon

14:59

And I missed the last.

15:05

OK, sorry.

15:05

I'm just sorry Sir.

15:12

And now that I've hopefully that's the last, well, I'm not going to say the last mistake I made today because I'm sure there will be more.

15:22

With that, I'm going to turn it over to Senator Parker for some opening remarks from the folks that drafted the legislation that is, that brought this board into life.

15:37

Senator,

Tan Parker

15:40

Well, good morning. Thank you so much for the invitation and the opportunity to be with all of you.

15:44

I want to thank first of all, all of you for all the hard work and support that made this legislation possible.

15:52

I want to thank my good friend who's on the line, Representative Cook, who helped us get this legislation across the goal line in the Texas House.

16:02

And I want you to know that I couldn't be more excited about what this means for the future of Texas.

16:07

This is an enormous economic opportunity, as we all know for the state.

16:11

And when we look at these amazing new mobility options for Texans, the prospects are just spectacular.

16:20

So the jobs that will be created, the innovation that this will will derive, I should say, from this effort will be truly extraordinary.

16:31

I want to encourage us to be very thorough.

16:33

And I know, Dan, you made those comments at the top of the call as we do a statutory deep dive over everything that's on the books today and then to fully understand what needs to be done going forward.

16:46

And certainly Representative Cook and I are committed to the long haul, to continuing to be your legislative sponsors and partners and future sessions as well.

16:58

But the opportunity for our state could not be more spectacular.

17:02

Whether or not you're a startup organization, whether or not you're a well established aerospace company, the prospects are just wonderful for our state.

17:13

You know, I always want to see Texas lead.

17:15

I want to see Texas be first in every category of human endeavor and certainly we talk about air

mobility and vertical flight and all the things that we'll be doing as we work to transport people and services.

17:30

I said people and products and so forth across the state.

17:34

That will be really the template for North America and the world.

17:38

I want to always make certain that Texas is best position to make the opportunities come to life to benefit our workforce, to benefit our citizens.

17:48

And I wanted to make certain that we are second to none.

17:52

And we make certain that this effort thrives and really spawns lots of new industry, lots of new creativity that will be great for everyone involved.

18:02

So I just appreciate all of you the time, the commitment that you'll make.

18:07

My door is always open to you along the way.

18:11

Dan, if you or anyone on the team has any questions or wants our perspective as the author of the legislation of the same thing we'll apply to Representative Cook, you let us know.

18:21

But again, we're at your service.

18:23

I want to thank you for all that you do and look forward to a great and productive day and wish you all an extraordinarily blessed Christmas and holiday season.

18:32

And thank you for getting underway with this terrific effort.

18:36

So God bless and thank you again for all that you do.

Dan Harmon

18:41

Thank you very much, Senator.

18:43

Appreciate you being here today for this.

Tan Parker

18:46

My honor,

Dan Harmon

Thank you, Sir.

18:49

Representative Cook, the floor is yours Sir.

David Cook

18:53

Thank you, Dan.

18:53

And again I just want to reiterate what the Senator has already expressed.

18:58

A lot of the comments I had intended to share are very similar to the the Senators comments.

19:02

And I I first want to say thank you to Senator Parker for taking the lead and picking this, this issue up in the in the Senate this past session.

19:12

And it's been great to work with with the Senator on this legislation and many other pieces.

19:17

And we look forward to working together with this committee to to really like you said take a deep dive into the necessary regulations that need to be identified by this committee.

19:28

And you know, I just really want to just want to emphasize and stress the importance of getting those specifics enumerated so that we can get them into legislation and get it done, get it drafted, you know, prior to the next session.

19:43

And so, you know, really the thing that I want to emphasize in addition to what the Senator has already said is just really, really just encouraging this committee as I was thinking about maybe a good way to say it is, is with the individuals that we have on this committee and on this call.

20:00

There's a lot of expertise in this industry and and I know I can speak for myself, I have 0 expertise in this industry.

20:07

So we are completely reliant upon you to identify those things.

20:10

But I want to encourage each of you to look at this as a vertical take off so that we can get up quickly at this committee and have a smooth landing with deliverables that Senator Parker and I can get into legislation.

20:22

I really would encourage you to to get us specifics by October 1st so that we can actually get stuff drafted and I'll be ready for the pretty 89th session and I too want to be a part of Texas leading in this industry and and we're leading but we're not you know we're not there and that's why we're back again this session in the 88th and and having this committee re established and and I look forward to the to the work that's been it's going to be done.

20:50

I want to say thank you to Dan and his team and everybody at TxDOT for taking the taking the lead and being willing to you know get this important industry move forward.

21:01

This is an excellent opportunity for for for Texas and you know for the world quite frankly.

21:06

But to take advantage of that airspace that's underutilized at the moment.

21:11

And you know there's lots of lots of different challenges and competing interests here with regard to you know, you know, making sure we have, you know, public safety involved.

21:20

But you know, I I'd like Senator Parker said I'd look at the the, you know, the the exciting potential benefits like economic development and public private partnerships and all those things that I know this committee will touch on and and I just want to say that I'll, I'll be available my chief of staff Sarah Trott is there in person today.

21:39

So feel free to visit with Sarah and and we will, we will be monitoring this, but we're going to stay out of your way.

21:45

We know you're the experts and we'll just, we'll be monitoring and watching and listening.

21:51

But we want you guys to do the do the heavy lifting and give us what we need, give us our marching orders and we'll take the take the next step.

21:59

But just want to say thank you, get the vertical take off, have a smooth landing and let's get this across the goal line and look forward to working with Senator Parker next session to get it done.

22:08

So thank you all very much and Merry Christmas.

Dan Harmon

22:12

Thank you very much, Sir, for being here with us today.

22:14

Thank you for your for your work on this legislation, both you and the Senator.

Tan Parker

22:19

Dan, if I may just quickly, Dan, if I could for a second, I'm just going to share that two members of my staff are there today as well if folks would like to visit with folks on my team.

22:29

Just as Representative Cook mentioned, Nick Eastwood and Caleb Humphrey are there as well.

22:34

So if you need anything today or in the future, don't I hesitate to reach out to them as well as myself directly.

22:40

Again, thank you so much.

Dan Harmon

22:44

Thank you, Sir.

22:46

OK And with that I've got a few administrative housekeeping remarks to kind of kick this off and and and down the road before we do election of the chair and vice chair.

23:00

So first of all like I mentioned that we are here as text out as committee support myself and Dan, so I'm a fixed wing aviator but he is a Rotary support ski driver.

23:12

So you know between the two of us we can figure this out.

23:15

I hope at least the transitional part.

23:21

My staff in the aviation division is here to help provide the technical expertise as needed.

23:28

You know certainly from our our point of view from airport infrastructure that's what we do primarily.

23:34

And also you know from from a legislative point of view of you know trying to you know negotiate some of the things that we can't the art of the possible of what we can and can can do as far as funding things and stuff like that.

23:47

You know of trying to help with some of those discussions of how funding works and and how things have to be you know how things should be worded in order to get the right flavor of things.

23:58

So we stand ready to help you with that.

24:00

We bought on Texas State as I mentioned to do the, the part of the logistics, but certainly to help with the deliverable and research.

24:10

So one of the things I'll be asking you know will be as we're looking today is if there are things you know, we'll talk about the heavy lift.

24:18

Our role is to make this, you know, being a volunteer to do this as as painless as possible.

24:24

We want to make sure that you know, we don't place a burden on you.

24:27

There is going to be some work involved, There's going to be some, you know, discussions, there's going to be some, you know everything that goes into that.

24:33

But we're here to help capture that, capture those discussions and turn them into a deliverable that kind of builds upon what the Urban Air Advisory Committee did and continue that work over the next year.

24:48

That's a little less than a year I guess to to you know, provide a deliverable that the legislature can use to try to make you know something happen.

24:58

And I think that's, you know, I want, you know, if anybody has had discussions with me, you know, one of the things I'll bring up when it comes to a A is everybody wants something done, but nobody knows what something looks like.

25:09

And so no, well, I'm sure you guys know what something looks like.

25:14

But the point is what does something looks like?

25:16

What is something, What does it look like?

25:18

How do we capture that and how do we put that in the language that the legislature can use to make this, you know, make decision making.

25:25

So, So you know that's as we go down the road, you know that what something is you know that's definable that's actionable, that is reasonable that is deliverable and and feasible.

25:37

You know it's kind of what the charges to to the group.

25:41

So that being said, there's a couple things I'll say one is if it sounds like I'm doing this in the formal nature, whenever we have a forum I have to to treat it as a pub Texas public meeting.

25:52

So if there's if there's any decision making or if there's going to be a meeting where there's a forum, we have to do a public posting, give notification make it open to the public.

26:00

When you have working groups that are less than a core, which I presume you will, those don't have to be public meetings, those are working group meetings.

26:07

But you know just bear in mind that anything that's discussed it's is open to open records request.

26:15

You know because if this is a public statutory advisory committee the other thing is timeline.

26:23

So in this there's there's two important timelines here.

26:26

2 important dates.

26:28

One is January 1st of 2025 that's when this group no longer exists it it it statutorily sunsets on that date.

26:38

The other is November 1st of 2024 which is when we are we are that y'all are are supposed to deliver a report to the the state legislature.

26:51

You know, that's the deliverable, the report with recommendations.

26:55

That being said, although it's November 1st, I will have to take this to our Commission no later than the last Commission meeting which will be in October of the, you know, last probably third week of October 2024.

27:11

But because it's Commission, they're going to want to see it probably 30 to 60 days.

27:16

So you know backing that up of of where we need to be.

27:19

Now I know that a lot of work was done in the UAM, so we're not looking you know, hopefully not looking to replicate that work instead of building on you know, and so but but we are here to help capture your discussions, capture the recommendations, you know put them into, put them into a deliverable product.

27:41

But also if there are questions you have or you know some sort of, you know, research that you need done, you know reasonable amounts of research to answer a question, you know that that you got, you know, now that being said, that you guys hold a lot of the data that probably answers most of the questions.

27:58

But if there are things you need us to capture or research, that's part of what we're here for.

28:03

But we need to make you know if you have a question or you have something that you want bring it

to us and we will send it to them to go out and try to get for the next meeting or for the groups that's for everybody that's a member.

28:20

So there's there were three different sign in sheets or if you count the one TxDOT required but that one's for members.

28:27

Please put any contact information you want us to use and then you know preferred name and whatever that on there so that we can make sure we do for the members of the public.

28:40

If for people that are on the call or people that are here that are not staff or members.

28:48

If you were wanting to stay kind of on the contact list of agendas and meeting notices and things like that.

28:55

Please, please let us know that too, so that we can make sure that we put you on the list of of notified notify folks when there are meetings because there's a lot of interest in this.

29:09

And then deliverables, we talked about the deliverables.

29:11

So, So what I'm going to do is next is go into the selection of chair and vice chair.

29:22

After that, I'm going to turn the meeting over to the chair, let them make some remarks and then we probably need to have a discussion about some organizational items.

29:36

I don't know that everybody's prepared to have a discussion of breaking up into work groups yet or whatever.

29:41

But certainly I open up to the chair to, you know, talk about if you want, if there's things that you guys specifically want to do out of the gate or if you want to set this up for, for our next meeting.

29:54

But what I would like to know before we leave today is if there's something that you guys want for research materials prior to the next meeting or to come to the next meeting at least a month, what you want to have the next meeting.

30:10

And we can work on the day doodle poll or something like that.

30:13

But certainly we want to make sure that we get, you know, the next full meeting whether it's virtual or you know or in person.

30:21

We don't care to get, you know, organize and get down the path to where you want to go.

30:27

Certainly you know if you break up into work groups we can help support those two.

30:31

They're standing by to support. So as of this morning for the chair position.

30:43

Oh and then oh sorry.

30:45

And then after that I have it set for for for committee member comments.

30:50

If anybody wants to take two to three minutes to make comments, general comments, I'd ask to keep the comments 2 to 3 minutes just you know out of the for for time concerns and then we'll open it up for public comments because this is a public meeting, we'll open it up for public comments.

31:08

If you're a member of the public and wants to make a comment, again please two to three, keep it 2 to 3 minutes on point and also identify who you are and what organization you represent or of yourself just so that we can capture that that data.

31:22

Again anytime we're doing a public meeting I'm going to treat it like it is in fact a full blown formal meeting.

31:29

So sorry, that seems a little rigid, but I just want to make sure that we don't get run afoul of the law in any way because I'm a bureaucrat and that's what I do.

31:43

So with that, as of this morning, those who have indicated an interest in the chair position would be Dan Dalton.

31:55

Michael Sanders has said he would be chair or vice chair.

31:59

Thomas Sawyer, Tom Sawyer, Nathan Trail and Ahsan have all indicated they would be interested in being chair.

32:10

So at this time, I'm just going to go down the list as I have it.

32:13

If any of you would like to stand up and give 2 minutes on why you'd want to be chair and then we'll open it up for voting.

32:20

Unless there is what I'm calling for.

32:23

Is there anybody else that wants to throw their hat in or nominate somebody for the position of chair, online or here in person, and have to be a member to nominate somebody who looks at the senator and the Congressman?

32:43

I guess we accept that too, Representative.

32:48

Sorry.

32:50

OK, Sir.

32:53

Yes, Sir.

Cameron Walker

32:55

Cameron Walker's My name are off members that they're seeking either the number one or two spot on the on the committee are they all signed in now today? They are all here yes yes Sir. Thank you.

Dan Harmon

33:14

So with that, I will, if nobody has any other further nominations, then I will ask

33:24

Mr. Dalton to take the floor and the floor is yours for the next couple of minutes to for your elevator speech, Sir.

Dan Dalton

33:32

Thank you very much.

33:34

So, Dan Dalton again Vice President, Global Partnerships at WISK, where we're actually developing an electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft that is fully autonomous.

33:44

We are doing that because we believe that's how it scales, the industry scales is through autonomy.

33:51

WISK itself is actually based in California, but we have about 700 people around the world now and we are back.

33:58

We are a fully owned subsidiary of the Boeing Company.

34:01

And the reason that that's really important is because it allows us to bring in not just experience from other states where we've done similar activities to this, but it actually allows us to bring in global perspective.

34:12

So my colleague Ben Ivers was served last year, had a great time on this organization and looking forward to working with him this year.

34:19

I think as you look at that global capability that Boeing and now WISK bring to this, I think there's a lot of opportunity that you know, I'm a recovering aerospace engineer, so I do apologize, but I think my math is about 28 weeks is what we have to basically move this forward and get these deliverables done.

34:35

I think it's going to take a lot of previous experience in doing these types of state and local engagements to really help drive that forward.

34:42

I think Texas absolutely has the opportunity to be a leader.

34:45

As we look at the entire infrastructure across the US aviation infrastructure that is not just in the air of course, but in the on the ground.

34:54

There's a huge opportunity for us to be able to be leaders here in Texas.

34:58

So I myself commercially rated pilot based over there down the street, I absolutely have a personal

motivation to see AAM come to fruition because as we all know the roads are getting worse and worse in terms of traffic.

35:10

And so how is there an opportunity for us to really move that needle forward.

35:14

And I think Texas absolutely has that opportunity and I think this is the board that can actually do that.

35:20

I think the deliverables I always tell my team we're looking when we do something in 24, we're always looking for what how that sets us up for success in 25.

35:28

I think this team could actually do that but it's gonna it will be work and then I'm looking forward to that work.

35:34

I am happy to bring all the resources that I have at Whisk to to bear on this including my entire team and any other team members that I need to to really drive this.

35:44

So looking forward to your vote as as chair.

Dan Harmon

35:47

Thank you very much.

35:52

OK.

35:54

Mike Sanders who's you can do one, one for both chair and vice chair if you'd like.

Mike Sanders

35:59

Sure, Yeah.

36:01

Good morning.

36:02

Mike Sanders.

36:02

I'm up from Texas A&M, Corpus Christi.

36:05

As I said previously, I'm the Executive Director of the Lone Star UAS Center of Excellence and Innovation.

36:11

We are one of seven FAA designated UAS test sites.

36:15

We've been a test site now going on our 11th year.

36:18

I've been the Executive Director starting my 6th year.

36:22

We work very closely with NASA and the FAA Next Generation office on what was the UTM, UAS Traffic Management project where we were one of two host cities for the event TCL four in 2019.

36:38

And I'm currently working on my 4th either evaluation or demonstration with the next Gen office.

36:44

That really talks about the some of the fundamental issues with advanced air mobility.

36:50

So I have a a degree of intimacy with thoughts that are going on within both NASA and the FAA next generation office.

37:02

As a UAS test site, we you know I think the value that we bring is that we have some unique authorities as a test site and so we're able to achieve things and help support the the larger vision.

37:15

And then the reason why is I I was on the last committee, I felt like there was a need to serve and so I offered my services either as the chair or vice chair.

37:26

And I I think fundamentally we all agree that Texas is positioned to be the state that leads not only the nation but the world in advanced air mobility.

37:36

And if and fundamentally it starts right here with everybody in this room.

37:42

And so I I believe that with my whole heart and I'm I've dedicated myself for the my remaining years and and the working world to try to make that happen in the state of Texas.

Dan Harmon

37:57

Thank you Sir. Tom Sawyer for chair.

Tom Sawyer

38:04

Good morning.

38:05

I didn't realize we were chair or vice chair.

38:07

The I volunteered to be a part of this committee because I feel pretty strongly about advanced air mobility and most importantly about the infrastructure and the infrastructure which is going to be required to make it really operational.

38:23

I'm aircraft agnostic.

38:25

I'm technology agnostic, but I believe very strongly in infrastructure that's required to make all this work and it's not insignificant infrastructure from power to delivery to how remove people's safety, things like that.

38:37

And I gained that experience through our development in North Dakota called Grand Sky Grant.

38:43

Sky is 217 acres where we focus on delivering the infrastructure that empowers the UAS operations.

38:49

We currently run about anywhere from 5 to 10 large UAS operations a day, all beyond line of sight.

38:56

We have an approved system with the FAA then the companies get a 91113 to operate into that.

39:02

So we're immersed deeply in the regulatory requirements to empower aircraft to go.

39:08

I believe strongly in research and I believe strongly in the applicability of it.

39:13

But I'm also a practical person when it comes to getting infrastructure on the ground because it has to be economically sustainable for it to work.

39:22

We can subsidized things for quite some time, but ultimately we have to make this economically viable.

39:27

So my experience comes from working with the North Dakota legislature on how to create an enabling legislation that allows the sustainability of the economics of various activities.

39:38

And I think North Dakota has a very strong UAS ecosystem.

39:42

The state has certainly contributed largely to that, but the private sector now has even doubled and tripled down on some of that infrastructure.

39:49

So I look to serve, if you I will support anybody that's elected Chairman.

39:55

I'm interested in working with this.

39:57

I kind of have an administrative and organizational bent in my head, but I would be happy to support anybody that wins.

40:03

Thank you.

Dan Harmon

40:06

Thank you, Sir.

40:07

Next up, I believe the next two are all online Nathan trail.

Nathan trail

40:15

Thank you.

40:16

I'll be quick because I think I'm going to remove myself from the chair.

40:20

Vice chair running for the reason of I will likely be on paternity leave for one if not two of the meetings.

40:27

So I look forward to being an active participant, but just out of respect for everyone's time, I might not be able to be on all of them.

40:34

I'll be on as many as I can, but like I said, I'll be on paternity leave.

40:38

So want to be respectful and I'll remove myself.

40:41

But again, we'll be a very active and willing participant and really encouraged by this, the work of this group and looking forward to support whomever is elected, the chair and vice chair.

Dan Harmon

40:56

OK, Sir.

40:57

OK, I'll pull you off of the list then.

40:59

And lastly will be Ahsan Chaudhary.

Ahsan Chaudhary

41:03

Hi, good morning.

41:05

I'm Ahsan Chaudhary.

41:06

As I say that I'm professor of Aerospace engineering at University of Texas at El Paso.

41:11

I founded YouTube Aerospace Center and I'm currently associated Vice President.

41:17

YouTube Aerospace Center employed nearly 280 people with close to \$150 million budget really focusing on aerospace and defense system research.

41:28

My expertise in aerospace and defense research and as well as economic development.

41:33

So I lead UTEP and El Paso's \$40 billion proposal to EDA's Build back better program.

41:39

I'm also the finalist of the \$160 million NSF innovation engine program.

41:45

So I chaired the last year committee and I explained that my vision for Texas is really be the state for unmanned, sorry uncrewed aerial system as well as really advanced and mobility concept.

42:02

It is real to prepare our state to text the lead.

42:06

The way I view this that we have to optimize 3 things all we have to ensure that as technology rolling and implementation starts, we have to ensure that we optimize safety.

42:16

We have to also make sure that we take advantage of this new industry and we have to really take advantage and optimize our advantage in technology innovation.

42:26

So the second piece and the third piece is that every zip code in El Paso, so every zip code in Texas needs to benefit from this new modality of transportation.

42:35

It is real, it is coming.

42:37

We want to make sure that this big step get connected through this new paradigm of transportation, and at modality and really every, every citizen, every resident of Texas can get benefit from them.

42:51

So I'll focus on really building on the work we did last year, really put together a road map that will ensure that this new modality of transportation is safe.

43:01

Second, we be the technology leader of Advance Air Mobility, the number two.

43:07

Third, that the massive community and commerce benefit from this, this program.

43:12

OK, thank you so much.

Dan Harmon

43:16

Thank you, Sir.

43:17

OK.

43:17

At this time there are 22 voting members that are present online or here in person.

43:24

So what I will do is I will open up the floor.

43:27

We'll do this all and do this pretty simply.

43:29

I will mention the name you guys vote, we're going to do hands or raise your hand on teams.

43:39

We will count that, if there is no person gets more than 50% then we're going to go back and do a run off with the top two.

43:48

Is that cool with you guys?

43:50

Good.

43:51

Cuz I'm trying to follow the Robert's Rules of Order thing.

43:54

Not real good at this.

43:56

All right.

43:57

So at this time all who are in favor of Dan Dalton please raise your hand, and if you're online, raise your virtual hand.

44:21

Yeah that's yeah.

44:22

Use the Can the Raise your hand function on Teams, please.

44:26

That makes it a lot easier.

44:42

OK.

44:45

All right.

44:46

You can put your hands down.

44:48

Group.

44:48

Yes, Sir.

44:50

Hey, Dan, this is Ben Ivers.

44:51

I think Teams is misbehaving for me.

44:53

Can you raise my hand or log my hand raised for Dan Dalton.

44:57

Thank you.

44:58

OK, will do.

44:59

All right.

45:02

And if you for some reason you can't just signify like that, please.

45:08

OK.

45:08

So next would be Michael Sanders.

45:13

All in favor of Michael Sanders.

45:15

Raise your virtual or real hand or sound off, OK?

45:36

Yes, Sir.

45:39

Chair only.

45:40

Chair only.

45:40

Yes, Sir.

45:46

All right.

45:48

Good.

45:49

OK, Please lower your virtual or real hands.

45:54

Next up is all in favor of Tom Sawyer.

46:11

I'm not doing the counting, so don't look at me.

46:13

I've got staff for that.

46:15

All right, Please.

46:17

Lower.

46:21

And lastly is going to be Ahsan Choudhuri.

46:24

All in favor of Ahsan Choudhuri, please.

46:28

Raise your hands, Virtual or in person, or sound off.

46:40

OK, I'll go back to my staff here.

46:45

Do we have do we have more than 50% of the 22 voting members for one person?

46:57

So more than 11 votes for any single person, 22 voters.

47:17

We have to go back and look at the hanging chads.

47:25

Some of you are old enough to remember that.

47:27

Some of you are like, what?

47:28

What's he talking about?

47:44

And OK, open by better than 50% vote.

48:03

You are the chair of the AM Committee for All right.

48:15

And so for the vice chair position, there was Michael Sanders and Jason Day were the two persons who had shown interest.

48:25

So at this time, Jason, are you?

48:27

Do you want to say anything or?

Jason Day

48:30

We all make this real easy.

48:31

So I sent an e-mail.

48:35

Send an e-mail saying I would be happy to step up if nobody else wanted it.

48:38

But this gentleman would do a much better job than I think I could represent public safety better as a committee member.

48:45

So I would draw my nomination.

Dan Harmon

48:47

OK, Well, in that case, I only have one person interested in being the vice chair.

48:52

Does anybody object to having Michael Sanders as the chair or vice chair?

49:02

OK, then he would your new vice chair, Michael Sanders of Lone Star.

49:10

So at this time,

49:11

Mr. Chair, I'm going to turn the mic in the schedule over to you.

49:14

You guys want to come up and take your binder and you are now the floor, the mic, the gavel, It's yours.

49:30

Here.

49:30

I'll put the this up here if you want to follow along.

49:36

All right.

49:38

That's a good thing.

Dan Dalton

49:40

That'll be me over there.

49:41

All right.

49:41

Yeah.

Dan Harmon

49:41

You can either stand up or you can.

49:43

Or leave your chair.

49:44

We're there.

Dan Dalton

technology, there we go.

49:57

So you know I pretty much summed up my thoughts on this.

50:00

I think there is a great opportunity here and when again when we at West look at Texas, there is, it is not only a huge opportunity as it relates to us as a company, but it's also a huge opportunity for us to bring these mobility solutions to the people that need them.

50:18

And so that is great, it sounds great pie in the sky type stuff.

50:22

So then what does it really look like to actually make that happen And that is what I really hope to drive here this over the next 28 or so weeks.

50:30

And so I may be excited to start meeting quite frequently.

50:35

We'll see what the Vice Chair says, but I really do want to see us be leaders in this and I think there's a lot of a lot of good stuff a great cross section of of the population that we need to actually make this happen whether it's academia, industry, government.

50:51

So really looking forward to it.

50:53

Mr. Vice Chair, your thoughts.

Michael Sanders

50:55

Yes, thank you.

50:57

Happy to serve and I truly believe that we are on on the cutting edge and and have a a real opportunity to make an impact not only within the state but within the nation and internationally as well.

51:11

So looking forward to it.

51:13

Thank you for your trust.

Dan Dalton

51:16

So with that any questions before we dig into kind of the logistics?

51:22

Excellent.

51:22

All right.

51:23

So first thing on the list is the meeting schedule.

51:27

I personally would love to see us all have a great vacation and holiday period here and then get right to work if that's all right.

51:34

So I am recommending maybe the second or third week of January if if that works for folks and we

would reassemble, you know, great to have folks in person if you're able to make it, but obviously we'll do virtual as well.

51:48

But really trying to drive that forward as soon as possible.

51:52

So unless there's any objection, we'll start looking at the second or third week of January.

51:59

Awesome.

52:00

Great.

52:00

Yeah.

52:00

Let's go ahead and do that, if you wouldn't mind.

52:03

All right.

52:04

From there.

52:04

I think that at a minimum we should meet quarterly, but I actually feel like the working groups.

52:11

And the reason for that is if we do break down into working groups, I want to give folks time to be able to actually do that on a monthly cycle.

52:18

I mean we also have day jobs I realize.

52:21

So if there is a way to kind of have a quarterly quorum of this group meet, but then the working groups then breaking out and actually meeting between those periods, that would be fantastic.

52:34

And I would love to hear kind of what the members think in terms of what working groups would really be important to this.

52:40

I know we we've got tasks next, but I do kind of want to see what are the kind of main veins of of interest that folks have from the members.

52:49

So I don't know if any members want to kind of just raise their hands or kind of identify specific areas.

52:55

I know one of the in conversations with folks one of the key areas was making sure that the regulations support innovation and drive this forward.

53:03

So how we make that happen that's one theme I know that was discussed.

53:07

Another thing that was discussed was how we make sure that there are opportunities again on the funding side as as best we can finding those ways that there's opportunities for funding to drive that innovation from the state level, whether whether it be solely state solely industry, public, private partnerships, something like that.

53:27

So what are those opportunities that exist in that realm?

53:31

Are there other areas that some of the members wanted to specifically make sure we identify?

53:35

Ernest, please.

Ernest Huffman

53:41

So while I don't think Texas will be the first state or locale that has an operation in advance their mobility, but I think where we can have our first or our real impact in, in leadership of this technology is in the workforce development place and in the manufacturing of these aircraft.

53:57

So I think if we focus our willpower and our IP on that workforce training the pilots training the the technicians training those folks who are going to utilize these aircraft, that's their first way to get our communities involved.

54:11

And then also great opportunity will be to establish that academic, those academic institutions that are training these folks, giving them the education that's needed because that's not being done anywhere in the world.

Dan Dalton

54:25

That's a great point.

54:29

Excellent.

54:29

Let's go.

54:30

So Ernest, thank you.

54:31

That is absolutely.

54:32

I'm so glad you raised that because that is critical.

54:35

I mean for at least from our perspective the training of individuals in high voltage aviation applications, all these new forms of battery technologies that are coming down the pipe, all of those are critically important.

54:46

So, yeah, thank you for raising that online,

54:56

Mr. Trail.

54:56

Congratulations by the way.

Nathan Trail

55:00

Thank you very much.

55:02

Yeah.

55:03

Just agree with Dan, a lot of the, the points that you raised earlier and and certainly the workforce development.

55:09

Just one more thing I might offer is I think it would be great if we could identify some ways to foster, call it community integration, but but also just working with localities.

55:20

I think there's a real, there's a lot of great work being done at the state level, but I think the state can really guide a lot of the educational outreach and public acceptance at the local level.

55:29

And that's not only from you know, public acceptance but also letting localities know the type of kind of zoning ordinances that they need kind of identifying maybe even like some noise characteristics that were in there Yet.

55:42

I I just want to make sure, you know obviously operations will happen across county and and city lines and we just want to make sure that we have kind of a harmonized understanding of what that means.

55:51

So, to some degree, you know, call it community integration, local government engagement, I think if this committee could kind of work and really provide some leadership on that, that would be really helpful.

Dan Dalton

56:03

Yeah, no, absolutely.

56:05

You obviously have a lot of experience in this as well.

56:08

So, so Supernal, we're friends in the industry especially.

56:12

I mean we will absolutely compete over cup holders someday, but who's got the better cup holder.

56:17

But at the same time, we believe it's really important for us to be collaborative in these early days because that's the only way we actually see this, this whole industry rising up.

56:27

So totally agree with you and and would love to have your experience for any time that you can dedicate to this group.

56:34

We would love to have your experience in that too.

56:36

So and same goes for George, if you ever does sign on.

56:38

So yes, Sir?

Cameron Walker

Thank you Mr. Chair

56:41

Cameron Walker, Permian Basin Metropolitan Planning Organization.

56:44

I I would like us to sort of look at at the overlap of where public health care can can also tie in with with what we're doing.

56:54

Just a example that comes to mind for me it's maybe far fetched but out where we are there, there are a lot of what are called man camps.

57:03

So and they're they're specifically built at at locations for large group housing, for well field service and and if there's a medical need that can be taken care of by that drone visit just like the cheeseburger that can get dropped in someone's driveway, then that that would that would go a long way for public safety and and not only the oil field area obviously.

57:26

But that's the example I can think of.

57:28

Thank you.

Dan Dalton

57:30

Yeah, that's a great one.

57:32

There are so many applications and I think it's really you've had on a key point which I know I just will agree to too.

57:38

This is an AAM board, so it is not just you know the future of electric vertical takeoff and landing.

57:44

It is absolutely including the drones as well and the opportunities that those bring.

57:47

I think the years that this state has put into developing that capability and that infrastructure for the entire US, we should capitalize on that and leverage that as best we can.

57:57

So thank you.

58:00

All right, thanks.

Mark Ozenik

58:02

Mr. Chair, may I have a comment,

Dan Dalton

excellent.

Mark Ozenik

58:06

Mark Ozenik. I'd like to second the comment on the working group that looks at the public, private sector and a way to get this infrastructure put into play.

58:18

I think that's extremely important.

58:20

Years ago I was on the North Texas Commission, which was a Dallas Fort Worth based organization that promoted DFW Airport.

58:28

And there's a great history and lessons learned how DFW Airport became one of the leading airports not only in the nation but in the world.

58:37

And that was through a strong public, private effort that brought the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth together.

58:44

So there's lessons learned in that.

58:46

And I think if we look back on history and kind of learn from that, that would help us formulate a pretty strong feasible plan on how to get infrastructure put into the state of Texas.

58:57

So that's one thing.

58:59

The second thing is I'd like to see an operator group out of this committee and maybe Amanda from Bristow.

59:06

I know I've been an operator of helicopters for 25 years.

59:10

I've done it safely and made money at it.

59:12

And so, I think that's key, that's a key element of of how advanced air mobility will become a reality, right.

59:22

So we have a number.

59:24

We have WISK you know obviously leading our our committee but as a manufacturer.

59:30

But I think it'd be very beneficial to have an operator's perspective, you know what markets, what methods, what price points and that feeds the infrastructure, right, because the infrastructure is not going to be for free.

59:43

So my two cents.

Dan Dalton

59:47

No, absolutely.

59:48

And I think I would actually add a little bit more to that.

59:51

So not just from an operator's perspective, but also from an operations perspective as well, I think.

59:57

And that ties into how do we make sure that, you know, GA airports across Texas can tap into this new future capability.

1:00:05

Obviously there's gonna be a lot of opportunity as it relates to the hubs.

1:00:08

But there are hundreds if not thousands of of GA airports depending on how you look at a sectional here in Texas and how can we help to make sure that they can also take advantage of this.

1:00:19

So I would say, yeah, totally agree operator with operations as well and that pulls in all the local GAA airports, their FBO's that type of stuff.

Mark Ozenik

1:00:28

So you know that's a great point because we really do have, if you look at the United States, probably the best existing infrastructure through our general aviation airports.

1:00:40

And so, you know, maybe we look at how do we leverage that infrastructure that exists, how do we make it better and then where do we need additional kind of dedicated vertiport infrastructure and how does that play out, right.

1:00:54

Public, private, you know, real estate, eminent domain, commercial operations.

1:01:00

There are a number of different paths to go tail and down.

1:01:03

But that's that to me and I'm kind of volunteering for this too, right.

1:01:07

To be on that, that work.

Dan Dalton

1:01:09

See that too.

Mark Ozenik

1:01:10

I think that's really, really key.

1:01:12

And be happy to help out.

Dan Dalton

1:01:15

Excellent.

1:01:16

Yeah, great.

1:01:17

Thank you for already volunteering.

1:01:19

I had your name in there.

1:01:20

But yeah, now it's confirmed.

1:01:22

Other topics you think?

1:01:23

Yeah, please.

Jason Day

1:01:25

Yeah. Jason Day. Texas DPS.

1:01:26

I'm obviously here to represent public safety in the state.

1:01:30

We have been using the airspace low altitude for many years now.

1:01:34

So there, there definitely needs to be a focus on that engagement with public safety, fire police, EMS especially once we get into disaster response and figuring out mechanisms for these local, these small agencies to be aware of what what's going on in the AAM space, right.

1:01:53

We have the, the contacts and the power.

1:01:56

Yesterday I was up in Frisco meeting with Wing about airspace deconfliction, right.

1:02:01

But your Cedar Park through Leander, those those folks don't have those contacts.

1:02:06

They don't have that same opportunity.

1:02:09

And so when I was talking to their chief pilot, you know, it's like what can we do as a state to to help you And he's like airspace day confliction.

1:02:16

We need mechanisms to be able to talk to everybody.

1:02:20

The other big part I think we need to and this is kind of piggybacking on, on what was already said was the community engagement, right.

1:02:27

It was we went out to the Walmart, me and my, the captain of our US program and we just kind of sat there on the parking lot and we watched and everybody's coming to the the Walmart and watching these drones do deliveries and they're just sitting in their cars or or pulling up next to it all day long, right.

1:02:44

The but then that evening I go to an event where it's all technology people.

1:02:49

There's people doing AI stuff.

1:02:50

There's people doing, you know, different drone things.

1:02:53

And I'm like, hey, do you all know all this package deliveries going on?

1:02:56

They're like, oh, that's not real.

1:02:57

That's.

1:02:57

And I'm like you guys are in the technology sector, right.

1:03:00

So there's this this lack of knowledge out there about what's going on in the airspace in Texas and I think it drives a lot more innovation it getting into the with those STEM programs and all those leadership academies and things.

1:03:14

I think it's very important that we push this to the entire state.

Dan Dalton

1:03:19

Absolutely agree.

1:03:21

I love that anecdote that the technology folks didn't realize how real the technology was.

1:03:26

Can't even imagine that happening.

1:03:28

Yeah.

1:03:29

Yes, ma'am.

1:03:29

Online, Brent, please.

Brent Klavon

1:03:39

Well, congratulations to Mr. Chair and Mr. Vice Chair on your recent appointments.

1:03:44

I just wanted to plus one the previous comments regarding the infrastructure.

1:03:51

There's always a heavy emphasis on the physical infrastructure, the the ground based infrastructure such as airports and vertiports.

1:03:59

Also, there's a great amount of emphasis on the aircraft, all very important, but I think there's an element to the ecosystem that's underrepresented and I'll be happy to support raising and elevating the digital of the structure that's required to enable these activities.

1:04:15

And so I look forward to this committee and collaborating on on all these elements to include the digital side.

1:04:21

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Michael Sanders

1:04:24

Hey, Brent, thanks.

1:04:26

I'm going to triple what you've said.

1:04:30

I apologize if I'm mass splitting up front, but a critical component of advanced air mobility is a

concept in the next generation office called the infocentric Nas where infrastructure is provided not by air traffic services from the FAA but from third party service providers.

1:04:50

What Brent is talking about and some of the concepts is cooperative traffic management, where the providers of services for UAS are able to file flight plans strategically and tactically deconflict all uncrewed aircraft operations while safely integrating into the NAS where really it's in class, all classes of Class G airspace where traffic services are not being provided.

1:05:18

So this concept of infrastructure certainly includes the physical infrastructure of general aviation and non towered airports acting as intermodal, intermodal points or fair ports for lack of a better term.

1:05:35

Fair port is really a a collaport on steroids.

1:05:40

So there's this great opportunity, but without the digital infrastructure that brand is talking about to help service the and the requirements and the needs to do airspace deconfliction, we're gonna have missed a we're going to have missed a spot that we should probably have looked at.

1:05:56

My recommendation, Sir.

Dan Dalton

Wholeheartedly agree with that.

1:06:02

And it actually made me actually write down physical infrastructure.

1:06:06

So as folks in Texas know, our energy grid could use a little help and it's going to need a lot more help if we're going to start putting hundreds if not thousands of additional users on that grid.

1:06:18

So one of the ones that I want to kind of dig into is electrical grid and that kind of grid resiliency, security and that type of stuff.

1:06:25

And obviously there's already things that are happening.

1:06:28

They're moving forward quite quickly and and well here in Texas.

1:06:31

But I want to make sure that that that is accounting for this future capability.

1:06:37

You know it's always better.

1:06:38

Measure twice, cut once type thing.

1:06:40

Wanna make sure that the grid as they start looking out into the future, uh, their friends that are caught in other places are actually thinking about what it looks like to have this form of mobility become a part of the infrastructure here at UH in Texas.

1:06:53

Because it we've already talked to a number of airports that have said well it's either you folks or the charging cars because the grids are just not designed for this.

1:07:01

So let's start planning now and build out a a grid system that works for the entire state into the next decade and beyond again that will then invite and induce a lot of new opportunities for business and that type of thing.

1:07:13

So the physical infrastructure, electrical infrastructure especially.

1:07:19

Wow.

1:07:19

Well, we have no shortage of things to do.

1:07:21

That's good.

1:07:22

And I want to be mindful of everyone's time too.

1:07:25

Please.

David Fields

1:07:26

(David Fields:) Yep, I think you might be throwing it to me.

1:07:34

OK, well I'll jump in anyway.

1:07:36

So going back to a comment from 2 ago, there was a very appropriate recommendations to coordinate with police and fire.

1:07:45

I'd actually like to broaden that to basically municipal coordination with public works and planning and the groups that are on the ground building infrastructure locally and can bring in that community engagement.

1:07:59

Here in Houston, we have what's called Transtar, which is a coordination of all the regional transportation providers, city, the county, TxDOT or Metro or transit operator.

1:08:12

And there's definitely a a home for this type of mobility in that bucket as well.

1:08:19

I think we do ourselves a service to work with the infrastructure, the organizational structures we have and grow from there as opposed to be off to the side.

1:08:28

This is a great opportunity.

1:08:29

Plus I wanted to offer my congratulations to the chair and vice chair.

1:08:33

Thank you.

Dan Dalton

1:08:38

Thank you, David.

1:08:38

Those are great points.

1:08:40

And yes, absolutely.

1:08:41

I think the Muni, the municipalities absolutely need to be included in this conversation.

1:08:46

So, yeah, thank you.

1:08:48

Was there another question online? withdrew?

1:08:52

OK, All right.

1:08:54

So again, I wanna make sure that we're respectful of everyone's time.

1:08:58

Was there anything else from the committee members?

Amanda Nelson

1:09:01

Yeah, just one quick comment, Dan, congratulations by the way, from Bristow.

1:09:06

Fully agree with all of the comments on where we need to focus our work.

1:09:10

I also just think what I'm hearing from the bill sponsors is that we, we really need to remain focused and be specific in our recommendations.

1:09:20

So I just wanted to highlight that I know that that was a challenge in the last iteration of the group too.

1:09:24

There's so much to focus on in this industry and it's not just about developing the market, but providing the necessary recommendations to our legislators to incentivize and push forward.

1:09:34

And then really want to highlight and just double click on the public affairs, community outreach, public education with firefighter communities, with first responder communities, all of those as well.

1:09:46

And maybe a focus toward building a, a funding pathway for a really strategic public affairs campaign within the state of Texas.

Dan Dalton

1:09:57

Yeah, I like that.

1:09:57

Mandy.

1:09:58

Thank you very much.

1:09:59

Yeah, we'll add that one as, yeah, I think there's some natural flow that's starting to build out here.

1:10:05

And then absolutely agree with deliverables and staying focused it's really easy to get distracted so we will we will if we ever forget that please please remind us. So OK, let's what I'm please oh hey there. Nick Eastwood with Senator Parker's office.

1:10:25

What I'm gonna say is generally with these sorts of working groups, it's important to keep the end consumer in mind being the legislature.

1:10:32

And so I think having your goal be informing and educating a a group of individuals who probably have very little understanding of this industry in the space and breaking things down into sections sort of as you've done.

1:10:44

But focusing on what statutorily or funding or mechanisms from which the state government can help impact the industry and education and workforce and infrastructure.

1:10:55

But really focus on that end consumer and that end customer in mind because I think it's really easy to get really broad and speak to, oh, the general public and like generally we need these things.

1:11:04

And at the end of the day, that's not really who this, the consumer of this report is.

1:11:07

The consumer is the members and their staff.

1:11:08

And so as much as you can narrowly tailor the recommendations and your focus and your conversations about, you know, how does the state fill this role to help advance this industry.

1:11:18

And you know what statutes and what sources of funding need to be pulled down to to make this industry more viable in the statement to sort of remove any barriers and and promote the industry writ large.

1:11:31

So thank you for, for bringing bringing that up as well.

1:11:34

Absolutely great point.

1:11:36

And again, another thing that we should constantly remind ourselves of is who who ultimately by October 1st or September we'll see who ultimately is going to be receiving the recommendations and driving this.

1:11:49

Yeah, we have to make sure we keep that that customer set in mind.

1:11:52

So thank you.

1:11:55

Online.

1:11:58

Yeah.

Brent Skorup

1:11:58

Just briefly you know an an issue I I think you know where they where this committee is airspace policy, airspace access.

1:12:09

You've got a very complicated area of law and policy here and and how the state can complement federal law and policy while also protecting state interests and and the interests of municipalities and and residents and and then as well what possible ways forward for allocation of airspace in what's protecting the interests of existing airspace users while complimenting federal law policy about competitiveness and and airspace access.

Dan Dalton

1:12:48

Yeah that always an interesting topic right.

1:12:52

You know, how do you make sure that, you know, you're making sure that access exists but at the same time not preempting the FAA.

1:12:59

So happy happy to discuss this and make this an area of of focus for the team.

1:13:05

I think also, you know, you actually made me think of another one which was going back to kind of community integration, the existing aviation population, right.

1:13:12

Who are those folks, not just community integration and education on the ground but in the air.

1:13:16

So how do we make sure that all the Part 120 ones, the part 130 fives, the Georgia pilots, how do they kind of fall into or how do we educate and provide them with a little bit of a sense of assurance that it's not just a bunch of wackadoos who are flying aircraft out there that would many of us come from aviation backgrounds and and that there's there's a way to coexist I would say.

1:13:37

So yes, Sir.

Jason L. Day

Quick comment.

1:13:41

I think it would probably be beneficial for the entire group and maybe a little controversial, but to engage GFA and see if they had any representatives that wanted to attend the meetings either in person or virtually so that we had that connection so they could know what's going on in Texas as well as we don't have to recreate the wheel because they could be that resource.

1:14:02

IO North Dakota's already done this or whatever, we can use them as that, that resource.

Dan Dalton

1:14:09

Excellent.

1:14:10

The VICE chair has already offered to pull them in.

1:14:13

So excellent.

1:14:17

Anyone else in the room or online?

1:14:21

Fantastic.

1:14:22

All right, so next steps, which my team hates hearing that term.

1:14:27

So what I think we should do is I think myself and the vice chair will kind of go back and look at the summation of all these ideas and how we might be able to organize them.

1:14:38

And then we will send out an e-mail to the committee members and notifying kind of making sure that we have captured the scope correctly.

1:14:47

And then when we do meet again in January, I think would be great to be able to allocate or assign individuals to those individual kind of working groups.

1:14:56

And then kind of look at what specific deliverables we can provide to the state in this time frame that we'll actually move the needle forward.

1:15:04

And again, set us up for success starting in 25, So work for you folks.

1:15:09

Great.

1:15:10

And there's multiple Dans on frequency, which is kind of funny, but you know, yeah, 1-2, I'm happy to be 3.

1:15:19

It's fine.

1:15:20

Excellent.

1:15:21

So with that, I am good.

1:15:23

Vice chair, anything you would like to.

1:15:25

OK, fantastic.

1:15:26

Anything else from committee member comments?

1:15:31

OK Public comments.

1:15:32

Yes, ma'am.

1:15:33

Hello.

1:15:33

Good morning, everyone.

Beth Kegel

1:15:40

Good morning, everyone.

1:15:40

I'm Beth Kegel.

1:15:41

I'm with HNTB Corporation.

1:15:43

And Dan, it's good to meet you in person actually for the first time.

1:15:48

Just wanted to offer as an engaged member of the public as it as it relates to this particular committee.

1:15:54

We've done a lot of work nationally in the area of state frameworks, public engagement, master planning for airports and the advanced air mobility space.

1:16:03

I'm out of Florida, but I'm a national practice consultant for the firm.

1:16:07

And I'm also here with Carlos Swanke, who's here locally in Austin, but super excited about what's happening here in Texas.

1:16:13

Texas is leading.

1:16:15

And I think with the work that's being done by this committee, it's going to take things to a whole new level and looking forward to being supportive and actively engaged as a public participant with what's happening with this committee.

1:16:27

Thank you.

Dan Dalton

1:16:29

Thank you.

1:16:29

Thanks for being here online, Scott.

Scott Stoffman

1:16:35

Sure.

1:16:35

Hi, Scott Stoffman, Senior Manager for Government Affairs for the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International or AUVSI.

1:16:42

Happy to be here and happy to see a number of our members participating in the committee had the benefit of being able to participate as an interested member of the public very heavily last round of this committee and I look forward to being able to do that again.

1:16:54

We just launched our state public education campaign called AAM prepared around advanced their mobility and we'd be happy to bring that work to the table.

1:17:03

We had a lot of our industry members participating and pulling into the authorship of that documentation.

1:17:10

It's around a lot of the work that's already been done in states around the country as well as what are potential legislative actions that can be taken by states to be ready for advanced their mobility.

1:17:20

That covers a lot of things that have been discussed as areas of interest.

1:17:23

So happy to be an interested member of the public and participate where I'm allowed.

1:17:27

Thank you.

Dan Dalton

1:17:29

Yeah.

1:17:29

Thank you very much, Scott and thank you for being a national leader in driving how states can understand this future technology.

1:17:36

AAM and prepared is a fantastic way resource really to be able to understand where the future opportunities are.

1:17:43

And so thank you to AUVERI for driving that.

1:17:47

All right.

1:17:48

And with that, I think we will adjourn.

1:17:50

Thank you all very much.

1:17:51

Really appreciate the extra time and looking forward to serving you.

1:17:55

Thank you.