Community Integration Working Group

Texas AAM Committee

Meeting #1, February 21, 2024

Agenda

- Opening remarks (Lead)
- Housekeeping (TXST)
  - File sharing
  - Working group operations
  - Committee overarching goal
- Review relevant research (TXST)
- Discuss potential communication initiatives
- Stakeholder interviews (TXST)
- Closing remarks (Lead)

Housekeeping

File Sharing

- 6 Texas AAM Committee SharePoint folders
  - General (additions reserved for Chair, Vice Chair, and TXST team)
  - <mark>Community Integration</mark>
  - Economic Impact
  - Funding
  - Infrastructure
  - Public Good and Safety Use-Cases
- Announcement email with a SharePoint link sent for any addition
- Email us at innovate@txstate.edu for questions about file access

Working Group Operations

- You can vote on final recommendations if
  - You are a full committee member AND
  - You attend 3 out of 5 working group meetings

- Email group lead Jim Perschbach (Jim.Perschbach@portsanantonio.us) or vice lead Amanda Nelson (Amanda.nelson@bristowgroup.com) with research requests and they will forward requests to TxDOT and TXST

Relevant Research

Topics

Overarching goal: Enhance Texas' leadership in AAM by **developing recommendations for the Texas Legislature** to accelerate and support the community integration and use of AAM (i.e., both crewed and uncrewed aircraft) in the State of Texas.

- Public education, outreach, and acceptance for ground- and air- communities
- Public entity support (e.g., resource provision to TX public entities on zoning, permitting, coordination with public works and planning groups, etc.)

Potential Communication Initiatives

1. Public education, awareness, and acceptance campaign
2. Policymakers, education, and community leader toolkit
3. Safety training website for recreational drone operators

Communication Planning

- Develop communication/public awareness campaigns
- Coordinate with TxDOT Communication team
- Set roles and responsibilities
- Establish clear regulations and guidelines

Public education, awareness, and acceptance campaign

- Information to cover:
  - Define AAM
  - Benefits of AAM – convenience, ground congestion, autonomous, air quality
  - How AAM fits into the transportation ecosystem
  - Address safety, noise, and privacy concerns
- Channels:
  - Social media
  - Websites
  - School curriculum
  - Town hall meetings and workshops
- Relevant link:

STEM LEARNING: Advanced Air Mobility: What is AAM? Student Guide (nasa.gov)

Notes

Communication barriers:

- there's a lot of negative perceptions about AAM
- there are concerns about safety issues that are unrealistic

Ways to define AAM:

- Aircraft that are highly automated and electric
- Outside of all the acronyms, what we're really doing is taking a mode of transportation and making it quieter and zero emissions. We're adding another transportation option

Policymakers, education, and community leader toolkit

- State policy-makers
  - Develop regulatory frameworks - Safety standards, certification requirements
  - Create funding mechanisms – Research, Development, Deployment
- Educators (K-12, Technical and Community Colleges, and Universities)
  - Develop curriculum for certifications, training, and degree programs
  - Relevant link: [Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) STEM Toolkit (nasa.gov)](nasa.gov)
- Local officials
  - Oversee zoning and regulate land use for AAM infrastructure – vertiports, charging stations
  - Support demonstrations and test flights for the public

Recreational drone operators safety training website

- Create website to inform recreational drone operators about safe AAM operations:
  - o   Permitted areas
  - o   Altitude restriction
  - o   Safety protocols

- Relevant link:

FAA Recreational Drone Training & Safety Test (TRUST) | UAV Coach

Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder Interviews

- Committee volunteers
- Key topics/questions
- Other recommendations for interviewees

Closing Remarks

Next Meeting Dates

Community Integration Meeting 2: **March 20, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

Full Committee Meeting: **March 27, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**