

Community Integration Subcommittee

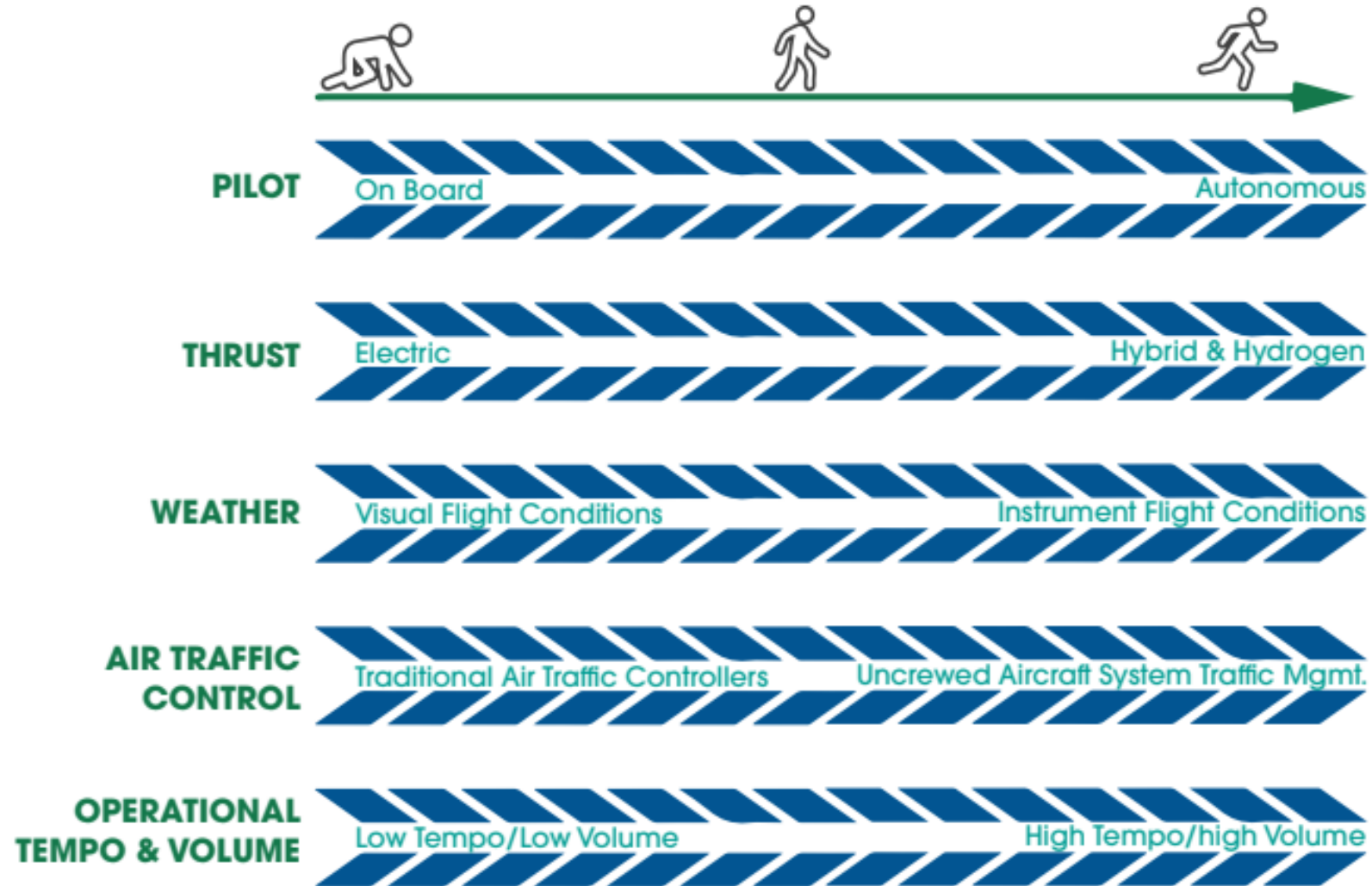
Texas AAM Committee

Meeting #5, June 12, 2024

Legislative Tips

- Consolidate recommendations as much as possible so they can be easily remembered and communicated (10-15 recs total)
- Ask for what you want, but asking for it will not necessarily make it happen
- Desired outcomes need to be clearly specified
- King's coin - if you take money from the king, you are now the king's man
- No state agency can lobby
- Advocacy for the industry is better handled by a trade association
- An economic impact study can help show the ROI for the state, with the importance increasing as the investment amount increases
 - It's best to have this information available in November 2024 when bills get filed
- Be careful "opening up" statute because you never know what changes will be made on the floor

CRAWL, WALK, & RUN PHASES OF AAM



Recommendations

1. Leadership

- a) AAM Definition
- b) AAM Advisory Committee
- c) AAM Office (TxDOT)
- d) AAM Position (OOG)
- e) State Agency Information Sharing

2. Statewide AAM Plan

- a) Statewide Economic Impact
- b) AAM Workforce Development
- c) First Responder Training
- d) Mitigation of Cybersecurity Risks
- e) Statewide Airspace Infrastructure
- f) Uniform Standards
- g) Electrical Infrastructure

3. AAM Research and Development

Leadership

Recommendation: Clarify AAM definition and designate key industry and state points of contact to lead and coordinate the development of AAM in Texas.

- a) AAM Definition
- b) AAM Advisory Committee
- c) AAM Office (TxDOT)
- d) AAM Position (OOG)
- e) State Agency Information Sharing

Leadership

AAM Definition

Define AAM and its component elements in statute.

Options to be discussed using existing Texas, Federal, and AUVSI definitions as a starting place.

Leadership

AAM Advisory Committee

Direct TxDOT to continue and expand the AAM Advisory Committee, in part to support the development of the Statewide AAM plan.

Leadership

AAM Office (TxDOT)

Create an office at TxDOT to provide technical support for AAM infrastructure at Texas airports, with a particular focus on electric and autonomous AAM aircraft needs.

Leadership

AAM Position

Create a position at the Office of the Governor to increase adoption and awareness of Texas on the national and international stage to attract investment in autonomous vehicles including AAM technologies (through demonstration day coordination, conference booths and presentations, etc.).

Leadership

State Agency Information Sharing

Reestablish working group from legislation (HB2340 2019, Sec. 418.055) and include members of the AAM community in the group.

Statewide AAM Plan

Recommendation: Create a statewide AAM plan that addresses these topics, at a minimum:

- a) Statewide Economic Impact
- b) AAM Workforce Development
- c) First Responder Training
- d) Mitigation of Cybersecurity Risks
- e) Statewide Airspace Infrastructure
- f) Uniform Standards
- g) Electrical Infrastructure

Funding amount: \$4,000,000*

*An additional \$2M for the Statewide Airspace Infrastructure is also requested

Statewide AAM Plan

Statewide Economic Impact

Plan requirement: Estimate the economic impact of AAM in Texas, similar to other AAM leader states, with a particular focus on electric and autonomous aircraft.

Statewide AAM Plan

AAM Workforce Development

Plan requirement: Direct TWC, THECB, TSTC, and TEA to develop an action plan detailing requirements to educate the workforce required to support a robust AAM industry in Texas, with a particular focus on electric and autonomous aircraft.

Mitigation of Cybersecurity Risks

Plan requirement: Establish a statewide working group to evaluate cybersecurity and data risks posed by autonomous vehicles including AAM technologies and develop strategies to minimize risks. The working group shall include representatives from state and local public safety agencies, NIST, CISA, and industry.

Statewide AAM Plan

Electrical Infrastructure

Plan requirement: Estimate the required electrical generation and transmission capacity for the different implementation phases of AAM in Texas (crawl, walk, run, and soar) and evaluate the use of other fuel sources.

Statewide AAM Plan

Statewide Airspace Infrastructure

Plan requirement: Develop an AAM Airspace Integration System plan to augment the FAA's Air Traffic Control system, including but not limited to:

- i. Proposed operator,
- ii. System capabilities and architecture,
- iii. Phased implementation, and
- iv. Data exchange mechanisms between public and private third-party system operators.

Funding: \$2 million

Uniform Standards

Plan requirement: Identify ways to encourage the use of consensus-based vertiport standards and support uniform planning and zoning language related to powered-lift aircraft, autonomous aircraft, electric aviation, and other advances in aviation technology across the state.

Statewide AAM Plan

First Responder Training

Plan requirement: Create a TDEM-led industry and agency working group to develop curriculum and a resource repository to assist first responders in dealing with AAM-related emergencies.

AAM Research and Development

Recommendation: Direct TxDOT to create a research program for state universities to support research and development for AAM technologies, products, and services in Texas (e.g., developing UTM systems, integrating autonomous aviation into the NAS) by providing matching funds for federal grants and require a minimum percentage of community or industry match.

Additional To Dos

- TxDOT to add an AAM member to the Aviation Advisory Committee when an opening occurs. AAM member should have a background in electric and/or autonomous aviation.
- Invite IWG to host a meeting in Texas.

Recommendation

~~Funding for AAM Infrastructure for Existing Airports~~

Recommendation: Increase available funding for on-airport and off-airport infrastructure to support AAM if the infrastructure meets public use/public good standard.

Who: TxDOT

Funding source: non-dedicated source as directed by the Legislature

How much: ? (current airport funding pot is \$15M/yr for 80 airports)

Timeframe: FY 28-29

Recommendation

~~Vertiports at Existing Airports~~

Recommendation: Modify Chapter 21 of the Transportation Code to enable existing airports and heliports to function as vertiports and increase available funding if the vertiport meets public use/public good standard.

Who: legislature

Funding source: N/A

How much: ?