

Infrastructure Subcommittee Meeting Summary

Texas Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Advisory Committee

Virtual Meeting // May 9, 2024, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm CST (Meeting No.: 4)

Chair: Cade Clark

Vice Chair: Mark Ozenick

Committee Attendance: Amanda Nelson, Brent Skorup, Cade Clark, Cameron Walker, Ernest Huffman, Jeff Bilyeu

Summary:

The meeting agenda included a summary of the full committee meeting, legislative tips and comments, and discussion and refinement of the infrastructure recommendations.

The subcommittee was provided with legislative tips to aid in the revision of the recommendations. The legislative experts advised consolidating the recommendations into specific requests, where possible, for ease of communication and recall. They emphasized that while it is important to articulate what is needed, there is no guarantee that these needs will be met.

The subcommittee was introduced to the concept of the “King’s coin”, which suggests that if the state funds certain initiatives, it will inevitably have some influence over their execution and maintenance. The experts further clarified that state agencies are prohibited from lobbying, making it unrealistic to expect them to play an advocacy role. They also advised that any changes to statute should be proposed with caution, as unforeseen modifications could occur once statute is opened for discussion.

Following the legislative tips, the subcommittee deliberated on how to consolidate the existing infrastructure recommendations without losing specificity through overgeneralization. After extensive discussion, certain recommendations were modified, removed, or included as ideas for the final report. This led to the subcommittee agreeing on one recommendation related to electrical infrastructure and another concerning the funding of AAM infrastructure.

The subcommittee also explored the potential for expanding the aviation budget or establishing a separate AAM budget. It was noted that while this should be considered, there is currently no specific request for additional funding.

Next Meeting: June 13, 2024, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm CST (Virtual)