

Public Good and Safety Use-Cases Subcommittee Meeting Summary

Texas Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Advisory Committee

Virtual Meeting // February 15 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Meeting No.: 1)

Chair: Jason Day

Committee Attendance: Brent Skorup, Cameron Walker, Dan Dalton, Ernest Huffman, Gus Khankarli, Jason Day, Jeff Bilyeu, Michael Sanders

Summary:

The meeting agenda included opening remarks, housekeeping, the introduction and discussion of use-cases, and closing remarks.

The subcommittee chair addressed the current state of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) use in public safety. This included a discussion about the Texas Public Safety UAS working group with representatives from state and local government agencies. The chair also talked about responsibly sharing the airspace, especially during emergency response, as well as the different ways in which the Department of Public Safety currently uses UAS.

Uncrewed traffic management was another focus topic and was seen as a complex issue. The chair also recognized that collaboration and awareness between public and private entities was a vital aspect of public safety, as well as awareness and education for police officers, firefighters, and members of the public who use UAS.

Fire and disaster response were the main use cases discussed by members of the committee. Potential roadblocks to UAS use in fire response were discussed, including drone interference with helicopters and the communication challenges between people and drones during fire events in rural areas. Use for disaster response included the use of drones to provide preliminary disaster response and to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of helicopter operations.

Airspace deconfliction and training/awareness were the main points of concern for the subcommittee. They discussed the development of standard UAS training for peace officers in the state of Texas as a potential recommendation.

Next Meeting: March 21, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (Virtual)