

Public Good and Safety Use-Cases Subcommittee Meeting Summary

Texas Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Advisory Committee

Virtual Meeting // March 21 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon CST (Meeting No.: 2)

Chair: Jason Day

Committee Attendance: Ahsan Choudhari, Angel Newhart, Brent Skorup, Ernest Huffman, Jason Day, Jeff Bilyeu

Summary:

The meeting began with opening remarks, followed by summaries from various subcommittees. The discussion then moved to the potential use cases for public goods, training and standardization, community outreach plan, and AI & cybersecurity concerns, followed by closing remarks.

The subcommittee discussed the feasibility and barriers for various public good use cases. These included inspecting critical public and private infrastructure, agriculture, ranching, and construction sites, and the use of drones for delivering essential supplies during disasters and emergency and accident reconstruction. The subcommittee also addressed the need to mention what drones will not be used for referencing Texas Government Code 423.

The subcommittee discussed training and standardization next. The need for basic standardized training for all public safety/first responder organizations for the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) during disaster response was emphasized. The subcommittee also mentioned having a funding mechanism for responding to AAM incidents or accidents and consideration of who would oversee, manage, and build the framework for funding and education initiatives. The possibility of creating a new position at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) or the Office of the Governor (OOG) was also considered.

Community outreach was also discussed, with suggestions to hold AAM-related public events in major locations of the state, similar to the FAA Drone Safety Day. It was proposed to encourage STEM programs to send a representative to committee meetings, and to have an exhibitor at medium to large aviation/innovation events to educate on Texas AAM initiatives.

The subcommittee also stressed the importance of establishing standards and safeguards to address cybersecurity risks and security concerns. Finally, the need to come up with Texas' AAM definition was emphasized.

Next Meeting: April 18, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon CST (Virtual)