

Public Good and Safety Use-Cases Subcommittee Meeting Summary

Texas Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Advisory Committee

Virtual Meeting // May 13, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon CST (Meeting No.: 4)

Chair: Jason Day

Committee Attendance: Angel Newhart, Ben Ivers, Ernest Huffman, Jason Day, Jeff Bilyeu

Summary:

The meeting began with an overview of the agenda, focusing on reviewing safety recommendations. The subcommittee initiated the discussion by presenting their views on the definition of Advanced Air Mobility. They examined existing federal and state definitions for AAM and aircraft. In previous meetings, other subcommittees had agreed not to recommend a separate definition for this subject. However, this subcommittee was informed that legislative experts suggested a clear definition for drones and eVTOLs. As a result, they decided to compile a document outlining the necessary changes in verbiage.

The recommendation to disallow certain uses of AAM was removed as a recommendation but will be considered as part of an educational campaign. The members concurred that specific laws for drones were unnecessary for activities already deemed illegal. The subcommittee also discussed the requirements for operating AAM at a part 139 commercial airport. They noted the need for filing documentation related to emergency response planning, leading to a modification in the recommendation for first responder training.

The subcommittee also addressed the recommendation about an information sharing work group (HB 2340, 2019), suggesting that it needs to be reestablished, updated with AAM technologies, and resubmitted to the legislature. The recommendation on data capture and analysis was removed, as the subcommittee believed there might be more effective mechanisms outside the scope of this committee. Given the cybersecurity and data risks associated with autonomous vehicles, the subcommittee recommended the establishment of a working group to investigate these issues.

Finally, considering legislative comments about advocacy, the subcommittee recommended creating a position at the OOG to promote the AAM industry.

Next Meeting: June 20, 2024, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon CST (Virtual)