

**Aviation Advisory Board Teleconference Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2019**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Ryan at 1:32 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Jim Dodson, Steve Strait, Lee Ryan, Mike Stedman, Gideon Garcia, Mike Reeve, Marilyn Romano, Frank Neitz, Bob Kaufman

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): Bob Hajdukovich, Dennis Parrish

DOT&PF: Commissioner MacKinnon, Deputy Commissioner John Binder, Southcoast Region Director Lance Mearig, Central Region Director Wolfgang Junge, Central Region Aviation Design Chief Luke Bowland, Fairbanks Airport Manager Angie Spear, Anchorage Airport Manager Jim Szczesniak, Lake Hood Seaplane Base Manager Tim Coons, Fairbanks Airport Division Operations Manager Theresa Harvey, Fairbanks Airport Public Affairs Manager Melissa Stepovich, Statewide Aviation Development Specialist Linda Bustamante

OTHERS: Tom George – Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), Jane Dale – Alaska Air Carriers Association (AACA), Kristi Warden – Director of Alaska Airports for the Federal Aviation Administration, and Adam White, Alaska Airmen Association (AAA)

AGENDA and MINUTES – Gideon Garcia moved to accept agenda, Steve Strait seconded. Gideon moved to adopt meeting minutes, Steve seconded. Motions passed unanimously.

Chairman Lee Ryan Remarks

Welcomed and thanked all for participating in the board meeting.

Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner MacKinnon discussed the status of the transportation board he is forming with members from all three of the department's boards (highway, aviation, marine). This type of board will provide him with advice and consultation collectively from all three modes of transportation. He was asked about the timing of the new board and said it will meet in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

The department is currently working on the FY21 budget that will include some reductions to the Highway and Aviation budget. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requested revenue options to include other revenue sources including airport landing fees and a fuel tax increase. The discussion about the divestiture of state owned and operated airports is a long term discussion that will involve communities, FAA approval, and the public. The Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program is an example of the state and municipalities working together to assist with the maintenance of a transportation asset.

Jim Szczesniak Anchorage International Airport Manager

Jim Szczesniak gave the board an update on activity at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. As one of the busiest cargo airports in the world, the airport is promoting the cargo transfer rights available in Anchorage to increase airport development. Three projects coming on line now are the FedEx expansion; a new warehouse in west airpark (first development in this area); and the Alaska Cargo and Cold Storage facility.

The airport has also issued an RFQ (request for qualifications) for a hotel that would be connected to the airport terminal.

DC Binder Statewide Aviation Update

- Airport Divestment – department is working through options to reduce maintenance at some of the state’s airports and potential transfer of ownership of some airports to local governments. Policies and procedures are being written to guide these efforts.
- Economic Impact Study – has been completed and posted on the website. Chairman Lee requested information be sent to congressional delegation.
- AIAS Airport Authority Study – the McDowell Group was awarded the contract to perform the study with a report due by October 31, 2019.
- Construction Projects – DOT&PF will be obligating \$200M in AIP (federal airport improvement program) funds in the next 6 weeks for numerous airport projects.

Board Chair Lee Ryan said the board will review previous airport revenue generation ideas and issue a resolution in the next 30-60 days with pros/cons of options they feel are viable today.

Board member Bob Kaufman asked about having a meeting with OMB Director Donna Arduin. Commissioner MacKinnon said he could assist with setting that up.

Lake Hood

Tim Coons was asked to review the management of Lake Hood’s waitlist program for float slips at Lake Hood. There are 325 float slips with 286 people on a waitlist. Lake Hood has two employees managing the day-to-day activities. The governance of Lake Hood falls under the Anchorage Airport Manager and the AAAC Board comprised of airline tenants.

Board member Steve Strait represents Statewide Membership Organizations that promote non-commercial aviation that includes user groups at Lake Hood. He requested a subcommittee to review Lake Hood policies and procedures and opportunities for creating efficiencies and providing recommendations. The committee members are Steve, Tim Coons, Gideon Garcia, and DC Binder (or his designee)

Wolfgang Junge talked about previous Lake Hood improvement projects including the bank stabilization project.

Public Comments

Tom George commented on the department’s airport divestment plans and if some airports are reclassified to “backcountry” that there be a suitable definition of what that means. He also asked that organizations such as AOPA, AAA, AACA, and RAF (Recreational Aviation Foundation) be included in the public involvement phase of divestment discussions.

Adam White mentioned that in the past, the Alaska Airmen's Association had supported a moderate fuel tax increase and felt it was an equitable way to increase revenue. Adam also mentioned that the CAP is losing funding in the current budget and that the Medallion Foundation is closing their office.

Angie Spear Fairbanks International Airport Manager

Angie Spear gave the board a quick overview of activity at the Fairbanks Airport.

Republic Parking app implemented for Transient Tie Down users on the East Ramp.

Here is a link to the app: <https://vats.municipalcitationsolutions.com/permits/>

Omni Logistics is building a new hangar that can house up to a 737. Groundbreaking spring 2020.

PFAS contamination projects include a work plan for fire pit decommission and remediation; working with Risk Management on residential claims; and preparing for water infrastructure construction project by working with College Utilities on water main installation and CEI for water service line connections.

The airport's Eastside Master Plan is in the final stages - <http://www.faicastsidemasterplan.com/>

Fai has received several land lease applications we are currently reviewing

ITB (invitation to bid) for baggage carts, ATM provided and News/Gift going out winter / spring 2019

Angie was asked about welcome signage at the airport for the upcoming AFN Convention and she confirmed there will be welcome signs and entertainment scheduled at the airport.

Board Comments

The Bethel Air Traffic User Group recently met and airport signage was one of the discussions. It was requested that runway half-way signs be considered for this airport.

Air carriers were advised that the Aniak Airport would be closed from September 14-17. DOT&PF is contacting the airport project contractor after this meeting to discuss alternative to closure.

USPS bypass mail is looking into alternatives for moving mail between Mountain Village and St. Mary's. Both the congressional delegation and local residents have been made aware of these proposed changes.

The board would like to meet next during the week of October 7th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.