

**Aviation Advisory Board Teleconference  
Emergency Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 2020**

**Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Ryan at 1:57 p.m.**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**DOT&PF:** Commissioner John MacKinnon, Deputy Commissioner John Binder, Division Operations Manager Troy LaRue, Communication Director Meadow Bailey, Development Specialist Linda Bustamante, Southcoast Region Director Lance Mearig, Southcoast Region PIO Sam Dapcevich.

**FAA:** Kristi Warden, Director Alaska Region Airports, Rodney Clark, Deputy Director Alaska Region Airports.

**OTHERS:** Suzanne Downing, Must Read Alaska; Senator Murkowski's Representative Anne McInerney; Jane Dale, Director Alaska Air Carriers Association.

**AGENDA -** Steve Strait moved to accept agenda, Bob Kaufman seconded.

**Chairman Lee Ryan Remarks:**

After the State of Alaska received notification that Ravn Air was reducing 90% service to rural communities, Chairman Lee Ryan scheduled an emergency meeting of the Aviation Advisory Board to provide the Governor an assessment of the immediate impacts to rural Alaskans.

Board members provided the following comments:

Not having Ravn will be a huge impact in the Y-K region.

Communities and air carriers will work together to identify the level of service they need.

State of Alaska is keeping airports open in order to provide essential services. Local communities have implemented limitations on passenger travel.

Federal programs such as Essential Air Service and Bypass Mail will continue and provide support to aviation. The US Postal Service is working on a plan to service communities Ravn no longer flying to.

There is capacity in rural Alaska to continue mail and freight service to Ravn communities serviced by the "air taxi" (Part 135) side of the airline. There is concern for long term passenger service.

It was recommended the board form a task force as needed and work with tribal leadership to address long-term needs.

The board submitted the following statement to the Governor's office:

Today, the Governor's [Aviation Advisory Board](#) held an emergency meeting to address the immediate needs of communities impacted by the reduction in service from Ravn Air. The board is working on solutions and is confident that the immediate need for service can be met by the air carriers currently serving rural communities. When the ban on non-essential passenger travel is lifted, communities and air carriers will need to come together to identify long-term transportation needs. Until that time, freight, mail, food and essential supplies will continue to be delivered.

Aviation is essential in Alaska, 82% of communities are located off of the road system and rely on aviation to access to our supplies, health care and emergency services. The board will continue to meet to address the need for long-term passenger service in rural Alaska. As Alaskans, we are in this together and we are committed to finding solutions together.

**Meeting adjourned 3:14 p.m.**