AAM WORKING GROUP REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUGUST 2023

Photo Source: Eve Air Mobility

Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) is an air transportation system primarily utilizing electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft to move people and goods or provide services in an urban or regional setting. Advancements in AAM will greatly benefit Florida, offer tremendous value to communities, exemplify resiliency in transportation options, build upon our robust supply chain, enhance safety, develop cutting-edge technology, and provide expanded experience for our workforce. Innovative efforts like this are exactly why Florida continues to be a national leader in transportation.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Aviation Office (AO) has taken a leading role in integrating AAM in Florida. FDOT AO has completed numerous work products to build a foundation of knowledge within the state to advance the industry, including the FDOT AAM Roadmap, FDOT Minimum Standards and Gap Analysis, and FDOT Airport Compatibility Considerations. Since there is a significant interest in AAM across Florida, the FDOT AO also established an AAM Working Group in 2022 composed of 50 stakeholders from various agencies including FDOT officials and consultants, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), local governments, and other industry stakeholders. The Working Group developed a report which examines the different roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments and provided recommendations based on those roles.

The Working Group participated in four meetings to discuss the necessary steps for the successful integration of AAM into the state's transportation system. These meetings were designed to allow for concentrated discussions from a variety of perspectives to identify critical steps for the successful integration of AAM. The meetings worked to establish a baseline of AAM trends; identify challenges; develop an initial risk assessment; facilitate discussion to further define the critical path for AAM integration; review and offer comments on the work product; and define next steps of engagement opportunities for advancing AAM in Florida.

The Working Group identified four key areas of focus for the implementation of AAM: Public Education and Community Engagement; Infrastructure and Zoning; System Planning and Access; and Airspace and Safety. Recommendations were developed for each area of focus and grouped based on the categories: Legislative, Regulatory, Advisory, and Local Government. The 18 recommendations from the Working Group are summarized in the following table and will be undertaken over the next few years.

FDOT's AO is in a unique position to facilitate the integration of AAM in the state and the recommendations in the Working Group's report reflect the broad, intergovernmental aspects of this emerging industry. FDOT is utilizing the report's contents to inform decisions and actionable steps to integrate AAM into the state's transportation system. A follow-on Implementation and Outreach Plan is being completed by FDOT AO and will take into consideration the suggested timelines to organize the recommendations into actionable steps. The Working Group will continue to advise FDOT in the next phases of AAM planning for the state.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

AREA OF FOCUS	RECOMMENDATION	CATEGORY
Public Education & Community Engagement	Develop public education and outreach guidebook for local governments.	Advisory
Public Education & Community Engagement	Lead statewide education campaign for local decision-makers.	Regulatory
Public Education & Community Engagement	Lead statewide public awareness campaign for the general public.	Regulatory
Public Education & Community Engagement	Designate a subject matter expert for AAM within FDOT.	Regulatory/ Legislative
Infrastructure & Zoning	Publish guidance and best practices for local governments to consider with respect to zoning and infrastructure for vertiports.	Advisory
Infrastructure & Zoning	Publish guidance on electrification and grid capacity to give local governments the information needed to make informed decisions.	Advisory
Infrastructure & Zoning	Host tabletop exercise of what vertiport development looks like from beginning to end, using existing FDOT and FAA rules, regulations, and procedures.	Advisory
Infrastructure & Zoning	Conduct review of airport hazard area regulations and update as appropriate.	Legislative
Infrastructure & Zoning	Establish pilot program for early entrants, which could involve state partnerships with cities, airports, eVTOL operators, and vertiport developers.	Regulatory
System Planning & Access	Conduct a cross-department review of how the state can utilize AAM for public good and develop a report for the necessary supporting infrastructure.	Advisory
System Planning & Access	Conduct a statewide review of public assets, including heliports, park and ride facilities, transit stations, and other state-owned assets which could be used to support AAM.	Advisory
System Planning & Access	Incorporate AAM into state transportation planning documents.	Advisory/ Legislative
System Planning & Access	Conduct review of existing Florida rural economic development initiatives and determine if any are applicable and could support AAM.	Regulatory
System Planning & Access	Explore the idea of a plan to bring AAM to rural or underserved communities.	Legislative
Airspace and Safety	Review and continue to update Rule 14-60 to account for vertiports in the airport licensing/registration and inspection process.	Regulatory
Airspace and Safety	Provide information for local governments which contains a general framework of airspace and aeronautical factors as they relate to AAM vertiport development.	Advisory
Airspace and Safety	Resolution supporting updates to federal rules to support eVTOL integration into the National Airspace System.	Legislative
Airspace and Safety	Increase Florida legislative support to ensure adequate funding to FDOT to support AAM.	Legislative

*Recommendations are grouped by Area of Focus, and are not listed based on priority or timeline order.