



Florida Department of Transportation

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JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

October 3, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg,

At the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) we take great pride in our ability to attract, identify, and implement innovative solutions to grow and maintain our state's robust transportation system. This commitment is especially important as our state continues to experience record growth, leading the nation in net migration and new business formations. Thanks to the leadership of Governor DeSantis, Florida continues to invest in transportation at record levels, recognizing the direct link between high-quality infrastructure and economic growth.

Given Florida's unprecedented growth, FDOT is working to identify new opportunities to keep our supply chain moving and the nearly 23 million residents and 137 million visitors who travel to the state annually. Just as Florida led the nation in supporting the commercial space industry and developing connected and autonomous vehicle technology, a new opportunity has emerged and has promise—Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) systems.

As I am sure you are aware, AAM is an air transportation system primarily utilizing electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft to move people and goods or provide services. When first introduced to AAM two years ago, Florida took an immediate interest by establishing an AAM Working Group comprised of over 50 stakeholders to evaluate the feasibility of AAM utilization in the state.

Last month, Florida released a report detailing our efforts, equipping our public and private sector partners to embrace AAM as soon as the technology is ready to launch. Unfortunately, Florida faces one roadblock to begin putting our plans into motion: the continued delay of your Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). While the FAA publicly acknowledges that *2028 is an acceptable timeline* to finalize these remaining requirements, America's competitors, like France, are outpacing the U.S. in effectuating this emerging technology *now*. Perhaps this is a deliberate delay by the Administration to allow France the spotlight of deploying this cutting-edge technology at the 2024 Summer Olympics. No one can know for certain given the FAA's absent sense of urgency surrounding the topic.

As our global competitors continue to prioritize the enhancement of their air transportation systems and surpass the United States in the use of AAM, I implore you to act with a heightened sense of urgency on the finalization of these guidelines. For a country with an established record of leading in the aerospace sector, your Agency's lack of initiative seeks to damage it and is



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detrimental to the growth of an industry that can truly revolutionize our nation's transportation options.

I've enclosed a copy of our report in the hope it may spark interest in the FAA finishing this critical work. In the meantime, Florida will *continue* to lead the way. We encourage USDOT and the FAA to cut through the red tape and do the same.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JWP", is centered below the text "Regards,".

Jared W. Perdue, P.E.
Secretary

cc: Polly Trottenberg, Acting FAA Administrator