

Board Report:

FAA Updates, Massachusetts Statewide Airport System Plan Update & Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Use for Obstruction Removal at Airports

Monday July 22, 2019

Presented to:

■ Board of Directors

Presented by:

■ Aeronautics Division

➤ Dr. Jeff DeCarlo

Massachusetts Statewide Airport System Plan (MSASP)



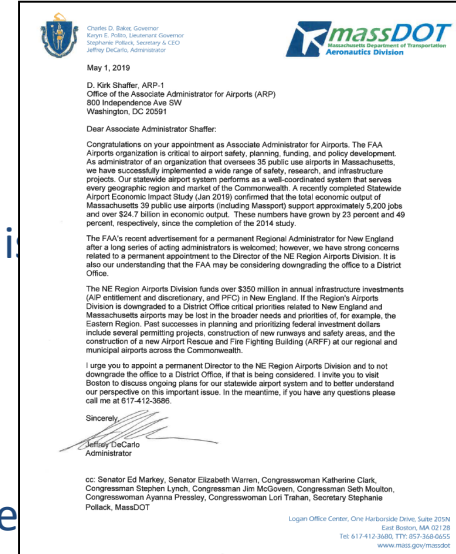
- The Aeronautics Division will update its previous Airport System Plan that was published in 2010
 - provide an analysis of each public use airport
 - evaluate air transportation needs for the next 20 years
 - identify opportunities to integrate aviation into broader Commonwealth transportation, land use, and environmental objectives
 - serve as a planning tool to guide future airport funding decisions
- The project is expected to begin in the fall and be completed within 18 months



Advocacy: Sustaining FAA N.E. Region



- FAA recently considered downgrading the N.E. Region (NER) Airports Division to an Area District Office under the auspices of the FAA Eastern Region Office in New York
- MassDOT, along with Massport initiated an active letter writing campaign to FAA to ensure that a permanent Regional Administrator is retained here to advocate for our NER airports
- With support from other state DOTs across the N.E. region who expressed similar concerns, we were successful in those efforts
- FAA Associate Administrator, Kirk Shaffer has just announced that after careful deliberation, the FAA has decided to appoint a new permanent FAA Regional Administrator to the N.E. Region



FAA Update: Congressional Workshop

- The FAA N.E. Region held a workshop in April to talk about challenges within the National Airspace System
- Invitees included State DOT directors, congressional staffers and FAA senior leadership
- The interactive workshop provided information that could be used as a resource to assist congressional staffers in answering intricate constituent questions



Congressional Workshop - Topics of Discussion

Economic Impact and Benefits of Aviation	Airport Development & Funding
Flight Standards	Aviation Safety/Airport Noise
Aircraft Certification	Air Traffic Initiatives
STEM Aviation and Space Education	Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

USDOT/FAA Announce \$477M in Infrastructure Grants – MA Airports benefit from FAA FY2019 Third Round AIP Program Funding



Airport	Project Description	Date of Announcement	Grant Amount
Beverly Regional	Update Airport Master plan	6/24/2019	484,830
Beverly Regional	Rehabilitate Runway 16-34	7/9/2019	1,318,403
Fitchburg Municipal	Reconstruct Runway 14-32	6/5/2019	13,832,100
Barnstable Municipal	Update Airport Master Plan	6/24/2019	904,015
Martha's Vineyard	Acquire ARFF Vehicle	6/5/2019	655,444
New Bedford Regional	Install Perimeter Fencing	6/24/2019	106,290
North Adams – Harriman & West	Install Perimeter Fencing & Conduct Wildlife Hazard Assessment	6/5/2019	131,855
Orange Municipal	Light Obstructions	6/5/2019	53,550
Plymouth Municipal	Remove Obstructions	6/5/2019	154,800
Provincetown	Install Perimeter Fencing	6/5/2019	329,670
Provincetown	Construct Taxiway & Conduct Environmental Mitigation	6/24/2019	1,917,000
Provincetown	Construct Taxiway	6/24/2019	62,302

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Use for Obstruction Removal at Airports



- (UAS) otherwise known as drones are a faster, safer way to obtain important project data with added flexibility and lower costs than traditional data collection
- The Aeronautics Division will expand the use of drones to conduct aerial surveys to identify runway approach and departure obstructions at MA public-use airports
- Through the use of electro-optical, infra red (IR), multi-spectral, and light detecting and ranging (LIDAR) sensors; drones provide the capability to perform accurate obstruction analysis and inspections, while reducing risks to workers in hazardous locations
- Drones can collect data on obstructions such as trees and invasive vegetation for environmental permitting and vegetation management projects
- UAS allow users to process data in-house, validate that data using software tools, and use the obstruction profiles and maps in a GIS format that can be accessed through the internet and exported to other compatible programs