

Board Report:

Airspace Reviews for Construction Projects, FAA Wildlife Hazard Management Program, & Massachusetts Air and Space Museum

Monday April 13, 2020

Presented to:

■ **Board of Directors**

Presented by:

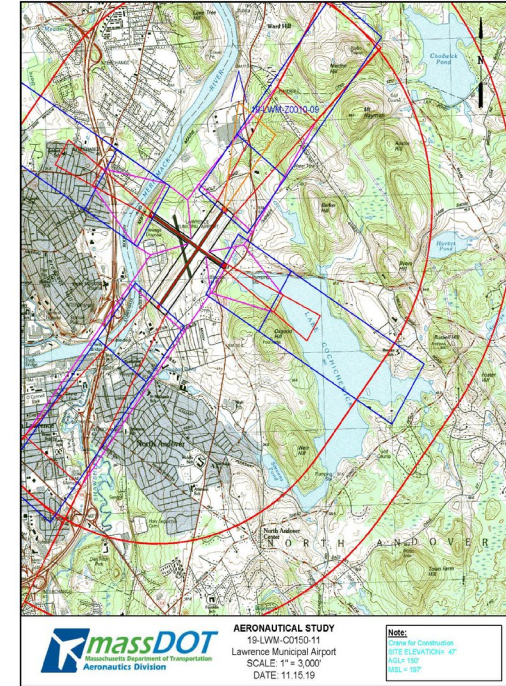
■ **Aeronautics Division**

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Airspace Reviews for Construction Projects



- In accordance with MA General Law (Chapter 90, Section 39B) all construction projects over 30 feet in height, within two miles of an airport require the proponent to file an Airspace Review
- The FAA has similar regulations to determine obstructions to air navigation and communication facilities and recommends appropriate Obstruction Marking and Lighting procedures for all potential hazards to flight operations
- Project reviews include buildings, communication towers, electric transmission lines and rooftop solar panels. The analyses also include the cranes needed for use in building the projects
- On average, Division receives 10 to 20 requests a month. However, this can surge to over 40 reviews when companies such as Eversource need to replace transmission poles from Hyannis to Plymouth that will affect multiple airports. Only 5 Airspace Reviews were reviewed and approved in March 2020, due most likely to construction project slowdowns.



Airport Wildlife Hazard Management

- FAA has long recognized the threat to aviation safety from wildlife strikes
- Aircraft collisions with birds and other wildlife are a serious aviation and economic concern
- FAA and MassDOT require airport sponsors to maintain a safe operating environment at airports by developing Wildlife Hazard Assessments (WHA) & Wildlife Hazard Management Plans (WHMP) to promote safety
- The Wildlife Hazard Management Plan identifies the specific actions an airport will take to mitigate the risk of wildlife strikes on or in the vicinity of the airport property



Airport Wildlife Hazard Management

- FAA Advisory Circulars define the standards for wildlife site visits, assessments, and hazard management plans for airport personnel
- The Division's environmental staff work closely with FAA, airport managers, and state wildlife agencies to develop, and conduct WHAs, and WHMPs to minimize risk to the flying public
- These recommendations include grassland and habitat management, reducing or eliminating food sources, excluding birds from perching/loafing areas, fence repairs and installation of new perimeter fencing as necessary



Massachusetts Air and Space Museum

- The Air & Space Museum opened this February in Hyannis after a decade of planning/fundraising that began in 2007
- Museum exhibits and artifacts will provide educational opportunities for the public and more importantly, the elementary and secondary schools across the State and the New England Region
- The museum will serve as a basis for STEM and lifelong learning as well as a platform for workforce development
- Initial exhibits will include an 86-inch screen for remote control drone simulation, two flight simulators, aircraft replicas and several virtual reality experiences
- There will also be exhibits focused on the history of women in aviation, the Coast Guard and the role of Massachusetts – past and present – in air and space

