

Aeronautics Division Report to the MassDOT Board

January 17, 2024



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Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport – Taxiway B5

Construction of a new Taxiway to promote economic development at the Airport

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- MassDOT awarded Westfield-Barnes a \$1.2M grant to construct a new taxiway identified as B-5
- The construction will open (4) new hangar development parcels and accommodate large business jets
- The project required mitigation from Mass Wildlife to transplant host plants listed as threatened/endangered
- The Taxiway was completed on-time and before the end of the paving season

Cape Cod Gateway Airport – CARES Grant Projects

Three projects funded through the CARES Act to spur economic development

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- **Extension of Mary Dunn Way – \$5.3M**
- **Remodeling of the Airport-owned Fixed Based Operator (FBO) Building – \$1.9M**
- **Reconstruction of T-Hangars – \$3.4M**

K-UAM Confex: World Economic Forum AVIATE Initiative

2023 Annual Korea Urban Air Mobility Conference and Exhibition

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- Administrator DeCarlo Keynote Speaker on the new WEF AVIATE Initiative that focuses on Advanced Air Mobility autonomy and automation
- AVIATE: Advancing AViation Innovation and Autonomous Technology for Everyone.
- More complex operations are going to require greater automation
- Public acceptance remains a huge hurdle to realizing the benefits of autonomy
- Increased autonomy will have profound social and economic impacts

Demonstrating a “Drone in a Box”

Remote Incident Response/Daily Inspection Drone Capability

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- The Drone-in-a box system can be launched remotely to perform missions and return to the box for automatic recharging to proceed with its next mission
- MassDOT developed a pilot program to test the Drone-in-a-box system and understand its capabilities and limitations. Aeronautics conducted public demos on the system December 7th and 8th at the Lynn UAS Test Site
- The Lynn event was attended by Secretary Tibbits-Nutt and MassDOT leadership, the NER FAA administrator, and by representatives from other state agencies

Thank You

