

Board Report:

Westfield-Barnes Air Show Support, Martha's Vineyard Airport Control Tower VISTA Siting Study, Drone Safety Day & Aircraft Registration Update

May 17, 2023

Presented to:

■ **Board of Directors**

Presented by:

■ **Aeronautics Division**

➤ **Dr. Jeff DeCarlo**

Westfield-Barnes Air Show Support

- Westfield-Barnes Airport hosted its International Air Show on May 13 – 14, 2023 for the first time since 2017
- MassDOT Aeronautics deployed airspace awareness tools and sensors to the airport to provide airspace safety support to the Air National Guard, airspace coordinator, and airport staff
- The team worked collaboratively with the 104th Fighter Wing Security Forces, State and Local law enforcement, FAA tech services and support personnel from partner MITRE
- The Aeronautics team was in place during the air show and will continue to test the advanced safety technology throughout May 2023



Martha's Vineyard Airport New Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) Project

- The Martha's Vineyard Airport was awarded project funding by the FAA to construct a new air traffic control tower to replace its current antiquated tower
- The first step in the process is to select 3-4 potential locations for the new tower
- The FAA developed a virtual model of the airport that renders a virtual view from the tower cab
- Each location is thoroughly evaluated to determine the best location, height, and orientation of the structural members
- A preferred location has been chosen by the airport and it is awaiting additional information from the FAA before moving forward
- The estimated cost for the tower is between \$20M to \$25M



Drone Safety Day

- The MassDOT Aeronautics Drone Operations Program participated in the FAA Drone Safety Day on April 28, 2023
- The day was focused on promoting a safety culture with a priority of addressing any safety concerns
- This focus on safety promotion is a pinnacle of the Drone Operations Program Safety Management System
- In addition, the Drone Team focused on integrating drones safely with existing MassDOT and MBTA ground safety measures
- Best practices were captured, and they will help continue safe drone operations



Aircraft Registration Program



Background:

- Aircraft in Massachusetts for 60 or more days in a calendar year must register with MassDOT, unless the aircraft is registered with another state or territory of the United States
- Airport Managers forward a list of based aircraft to MassDOT on Mar 1st and Sep 1st annually
- In October, Aircraft Renewal Registration Forms are sent to all registered aircraft owners - due Jan 1st
- Annual fees are variable and are based on the Maximum Certified Takeoff Weight (see schedule)
 - Status – In 2022 MassDOT registered 1,725 aircraft, and generated approximately \$285K in revenue
 - In 2023 MassDOT registered 1,600 aircraft and collected \$307,100 in revenue including reclaimed prior year fees

Maximum Certified Takeoff Weight (pounds)	Registration Fee Aircraft Acquired on/or before June 30	Registration Fee Aircraft Acquired on/or after June 30
0 - 2,000	\$100.00	\$50.00
2,001 - 3,500	\$165.00	\$82.50
3,501 - 12,501	\$230.00	\$115.00
Over 12,500	\$300.00	\$150.00

