

# On the Approach



*Dr. Jeffrey DeCarlo Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Aeronautics Division Administrator.*

## *Administrator's Message*

Greetings from the MassDOT Aeronautics Division! As we anticipate the beginning of the spring construction season, there are lots of exciting things to report. This month, I'd like to mention just a few of our efforts.

First, we are making real progress on our new IT project management software system (Aurigo Masterworks) that will improve our business operations and planning, and directly benefit each of our airports, and the Commonwealth. Next, the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) and the NASAO Center for Aviation Research and Education have announced new low cost, high value training and education resources that are available by way of new membership options. Finally, the MassDOT Aeronautics Division took the lead for the Commonwealth in a national drone pilot proposal effort, known as the Presidential Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program (UAS IPP).

### **AURIGO MASTERWORKS PROJECT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:**

The Aurigo Masterworks Project management software upgrade is progressing extremely well, and the installation and the initial user acceptance testing is slated for completion by the end of June 2018.

After that, we will begin to utilize the software internally to accomplish rigorous testing and evaluation to identify any final bugs or issues that may exist. We will also do some limited training for a small, initial cadre of users that are members of our steering committee. This external user group will help us evaluate the software from the airport user perspective, before we roll out the software training and operational use to all of our Commonwealth public-use airports.

By mid-Summer, we will start training for all for all appropriate airport users, including airport managers, staff and resident engineers that will be utilizing the system. The goal is that by next fall we will have a fully operational system accessible to all, which will improve our situational awareness and ability to optimize airport project execution.

### **NASAO and the NASAO CENTER FOR AVIATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION:**



The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) predates the FAA, and provides value in several ways including advocacy. NASAO provides one voice for state aviation organizations and airports with the FAA, other federal agencies, as well as our federal and state legislators. In addition, NASAO is extremely valuable to state aeronautics organizations through networking, the sharing of best practices, and a shared understanding of our U.S. airports from a systems perspective. NASAO is ideally suited to represent all sizes of airports, including the mid-size commercial airports and the smaller regional and general aviation public-use airports that all state aviation organizations, including MassDOT Aeronautics Division serves. In addition to the core NASAO

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*The Aeronautics Division's mission is to promote aviation throughout the Commonwealth while establishing an efficient integrated airport system that will enhance airport safety, economic development, and environmental stewardship.*

## *Administrator's Message (Continued)*

organization, a separate non-profit sister organization known as the NASAO Center for Aviation Research and Education affectionately known as “the Center” was created in the 80's. I have the privilege to serve as the Chair of that organization. The mission of the Center is as follows:

Through this research arm, the states and the NASAO organization are provided with a more responsive framework to:

- Address the future demands created by a changing aviation environment.
- Assume a leading role in the development and implementation of a new technology to serve growing aviation requirements.

### ***In order to execute the mission, the focus areas of the Center are as follows:***

The NASAO Center will be involved in all phases of the aviation industry by:

- Conducting research.
- Holding seminars, and conferences.
- Publishing proceedings, books, working papers and policy papers.

It also provides management training and technical assistance to all levels of government and the aviation industry. The International Aviation Art Contest is coordinated annually in the United States by the Center staff.

The Center has been largely underutilized over the past few decades. Still, there have been some successful ventures including the NASAO sponsored art contest, and a small scholarship program. However, there is much more that needs to be done to promote aviation research, training opportunities and industry outreach. These initiatives could provide a huge value to the member states, our airports, the aviation community, and the next generation of aviation leaders.

The NASAO Center for Aviation Research and Education will announce new membership options, including a la carte training offerings. The NASAO Center for Aviation Research and Education will also reach out directly to state aviation associations and airports in the very near future to let you know about some of the excellent education and training offerings.

## **UAS IPP**

In late October 2017, the President asked USDOT (through the FAA) to create a UAS Integration Pilot Program (UAS IPP) to foster mutually beneficial partnerships with government, UAS operators, and other stakeholders to accelerate the safe integration of UAS into the National Airspace System (NAS).

The IPP will test and evaluate frameworks for integrating UAS within the NAS, operations within and across jurisdictions, operations below 200 feet, and the possibility of extending operations to 400 feet at the US DOT Secretary's discretion. The UAS IPP will inform future policy development to help expand this flourishing industry, and will enable the FAA to more rapidly authorize UAS operations that currently require special permission.

Lead participants for the UAS IPP are either state, local or tribal governments. MassDOT Aeronautics is the lead participant for the Commonwealth, and has used the UAS IPP as an opportunity to partner with private sector entities, such as UAS operators or manufacturers, to accelerate safe UAS integration.

There is strong competition for the 10 awards, with over 149 applicants. Advantages of winning include the tracking of flexible airspace rules that should attract industry, and possible funding later. The period-of-performance is expected to be three-years, and the awards are expected to be announced by May 7, 2018.

MassDOT Aeronautics plans to create a world-class UAS (drone) ecosystem for government, industry & academia. MassDOT Aeronautics will manage & operate the test ranges to facilitate economic development and advance the state-of-the-art for UAS. In addition, Aeronautics will lead the development of a comprehensive drone program that includes 42 team members, including state and local agencies, companies large and small, and academia. ➔

## *Aeronautics Division Statewide Vegetation Management Program*

*By: Nate Rawding (Environmental Analyst III- MassDOT Aeronautics Division)*

As in prior years, MassDOT Aeronautics has again teamed with Stantec, Inc. led by Randy Christensen, and Erica Kidd, to work with airports statewide on the vegetation maintenance program.



**Figure 1: Randy Christensen and Erica Kidd, Stantec, Inc. oversee work performed by Northern Tree at New Bedford Regional Airport.**

After completing updates to Yearly Operational Plans (YOP) at five (5) airports: Lawrence Municipal Airport, New Bedford Regional Airport, Marshfield Municipal Airport, Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport and Harriman-and-West (North Adams) Airport, three contractors were selected to assist with vegetation maintenance needs.



**Figure 2: The Crew from North-Eastern Tree at Marshfield Municipal**

## *Aeronautics Division Statewide Vegetation Management Program (Continued)*

*By: Nate Rawding (Environmental Analyst III- MassDOT Aeronautics Division)*

At Marshfield Municipal Airport, a six man crew from North-Eastern Tree worked over the course of two weeks in February to “drop and lop” woody regrowth in the runway approaches. A challenging marshy terrain, frigid temperatures, and tall marsh plants were some of the obstacles faced – and successfully conquered by the North-Eastern Tree crew.

At North Adams, work was carried out by a crew from Northern Tree Service, and involved the use of three excavators with forestry mulching attachments to mow regrowth in the vegetation management areas. After completing the work at North Adams, the Northern Tree crew then moved their equipment to New Bedford Regional Airport to work on clearing vegetation regrowth in approach surfaces Runway 5-23 and around the runway’s lighting system.



**Figure 3: Northern Tree using three excavators with forestry mulchers at North Adams Municipal Airport**



**Figure 4: Vegetation Control Services (VCS, Inc.), crew members with Erica Kidd from Stantec, and Project Managers Nathan Rawding and Owen Silbaugh from MassDOT Aeronautics**

## *Aeronautics Division Statewide Vegetation Management Program (Continued)*

*By: Nate Rawding (Environmental Analyst III- MassDOT Aeronautics Division)*

Work at Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport was completed by Vegetation Control Services, Inc. in January this year, and is planned to start at Lawrence Municipal Airport in spring 2018.

MassDOT Aeronautics Planners and Environmental staff will continue to work with airports, consultants, and contractors to keep airport conditions safe for pilots and passengers. If you have any questions about the VMP program, or vegetation management needs at your airport, please contact Nate Rawding at [nathan.rawding@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:nathan.rawding@dot.state.ma.us) or at 617-412-3636 or Mike Garrity at [michael.garrity@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:michael.garrity@dot.state.ma.us) or 617-412-3690. ➔

## *Welcome Rudy Giannandrea to the MassDOT Aeronautics Division Family*

*MassDOT Aeronautics Division welcomes the newest addition to our Aeronautics family*

*By: Sara Lagblam (Airport Engineer - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)*

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Aeronautics Division is pleased to present to you the newest addition to the MassDOT Aeronautics Division family, Mr. Rodolfo (Rudy) Giannandrea! Rudy joined the Finance team on April of 2018, but he is no stranger to the Aeronautics Division. Prior to joining the Aeronautics Division staff, Rudy was a contractor for MassDOT; and was assigned to the on-going Masterworks project. At the Aeronautics Division, Rudy will be assisting Kevin Moran our Director of Administration & Finance. He has been hired as an Accountant III for the Division.

Rudy has 17 years of finance experience working at State Street Cooperation. He also has experience working for Blue Cross Blue Shield as a project analyst for their IT team.

Additionally, he worked for National Grid, where he implemented a new utility rate system. Most recently, Rudy worked for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services as a business analyst; his job duties included development of the MassHealth connector website as well as helping in implanting the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Rudy's skills are perfectly aligned with the Division's organizational objectives. His experience, knowledge, and abilities will help MassDOT Aeronautics optimize day-to-day operations, while also adding IT project management skill sets to our work.

Rudy currently lives in Braintree with his wife and three children. In his free time, Rudy enjoys coaching and playing soccer. We welcome Rudy to his newest assignment and we are excited to have him be a part of our aviation family. If you wish to reach Rudy, please do so at 617.412.3602 or [Rodolfo.Giannandrea@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Rodolfo.Giannandrea@dot.state.ma.us) ➔



## Aeronautics Division's New Airspace Request Form

By: Sara Laghnam (Airport Engineer - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has been working together with other state agencies to redesign its websites. The goal is to provide one website that makes it easier for you to find the information you need.



Additionally, the Aeronautics Division's Airspace Review Request form has also been updated. You can now fill out the request form directly from our website, which then submits into our new Masterworks database. To learn more about our Airspace Review process please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-aeronautics-airspace-review>

### How to request

Online:

<https://aero-massdot.masterworkslive.com/Modules/MSTAERO/AirspaceReviewRequest.aspx>

### What you need

Make sure you have the following information available before you fill out the online request form:

- Sponsor and sponsor's representative information including name, company name, address, phone number, and e-mail address
- A detailed project description including the FAA

Obstruction Evaluation Number if you have one

- Name of the Nearest Airport and location of the city of the proposed construction
- Latitude and Longitude coordinates in NAD 83 or NAD 27 of the proposed construction

The site elevation above mean sea level (MSL), the maximum height of proposed construction above ground level (AGL), and the maximum elevation of the proposed construction above MSL — these elevations are required to be in feet.

If you have any questions regarding our Airspace Requests please email me at [Sara.Laghnam@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Sara.Laghnam@dot.state.ma.us) →

## 2018 International Art Contest State Winners

By: Sara Lagblam (Airport Engineer - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)

The judging for the 2018 International Aviation Art Contest by the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) is now complete on the state level! The Aeronautics Division Staff were overwhelmed with the amazing submissions that were received this year!



Figure 5: Aeronautics Division staff judging Art Contest

This year's theme for the Art Contest is "Flight into the Future". We received entries from three different age groups; group I ages 6-9; group II ages 10-13 and group III ages 14-17. We chose first, second and third place winners for each category. The state winners will receive recognition and a certificate; we also forward the top three entries to Washington, D.C where they compete in a national competition. A national winner for each category is then selected to compete in the International level.

We would like to thank all of the students for their submissions and encourage them to continue in the future.

Here are the first place winners for Massachusetts:

**Category I (age 6-9) 1<sup>st</sup> Place-  
Edward Hwang from Fiske  
Elementary School**



### 2018 International Art Contest State Winners (Continued)

By: Sara Lagblam (Airport Engineer - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)



**Category II (age 10-13) 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Daniela Diaz from KIPP Spirit Middle School**



**Category III (age 14-17) 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Amber Lawson from Plymouth South High School**



## Upcoming Events

Date	Location/Time	Event
June 9, 2018	Chatham Municipal Airport (9am - 3pm)	<b>Chatham Airport Open House</b> A Day of Planes, Trains and Automobiles! Join the Chatham Municipal Airport for their 5th Annual Open House. This event is family friendly, and there is no charge for attendance. Event contact : 508-945-2363
August 11, 2018	Plymouth Municipal Airport (10:00am - 3pm)	<b>2018 Plymouth Airshow &amp; Open House</b> The Plymouth Air Show will be a spectacular event! An airshow with local and regional performers to be confirmed. On the ground there will be kids activities, airplane ground display, exhibits and airplane & helicopter rides. It is held bi-annually to connect the Plymouth Airport community to the town of Plymouth and the surrounding areas. Tickets are a \$10 donation to the Plymouth Aero Club (kids 10 + under: free with adult). Event Contact: 2018airshow@plymouthairshow.com



We're on the web!

[www.mass.gov/massdot/aeronautics](http://www.mass.gov/massdot/aeronautics)



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Published by  
 Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
 Aeronautics Division  
  
 Logan Office Center  
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 Suite 205N  
 East Boston, MA 02128  
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