

Aeronautics Report

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SHIELD Initiative

Strategic Hub for Innovation, Exchange, & Leadership in Defense: Advancing the Defense Sector in MA



- In October 2025, the Healey-Driscoll administration signed Executive Order #648 establishing SHIELD
- The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech) has initiated a SHIELD Working Group and is hosting a series of SHIELD Days or workshops to deep dive into key topics and ecosystem opportunities
- All executive department offices will review existing and planned initiatives to identify opportunities to create new economic growth for defense sector organizations in Massachusetts
- The working group shall prepare a written final report summarizing its findings

Statewide Aviation System Plan Update

Embracing innovative technologies to support an efficient & sustainable transportation system 4



- First-of-its-kind statewide aviation system plan integrating newly emerging technologies with a division's strategic plan
- Focused on airport standards, environmental compliance, economic growth, public outreach, and multimodal transportation integration
- Aligned and integrated with the Massachusetts 2050 Transportation Plan
- A supplemental Update to the 2019 Airport Economic Impact Study is underway to facilitate proposed Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) legislation
- The project stakeholder Kickoff Meeting is scheduled for April 2026 and will take 18 months to complete



MassDOT Aeronautics – State Regulated Airspace Reviews

MA General Law (MGL) Chapter 90 Section 35B and Code of MA Regulations (CMR) 702

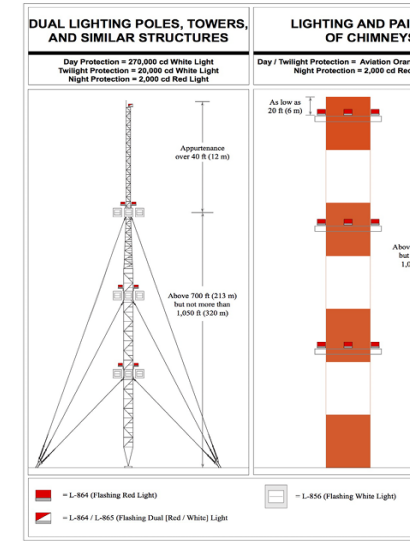
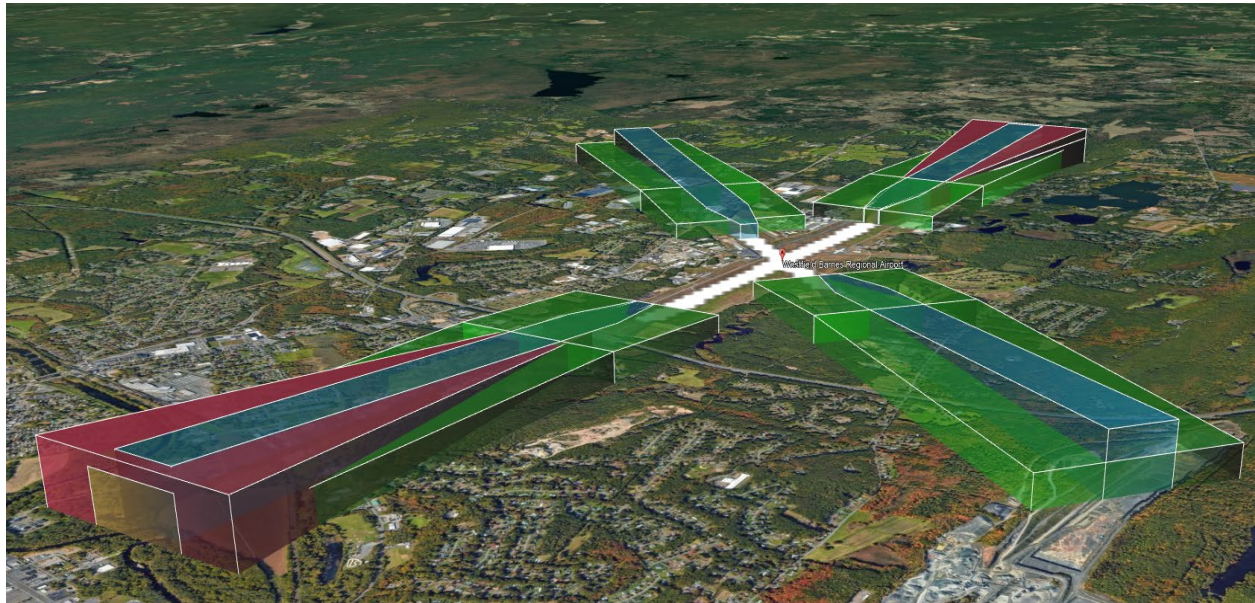


Figure A-13. Painting and/or Dual Lighting of Chimneys, Poles, Towers and Similar Structures

- Airspace Reviews are submitted online by proponents and reviewed by the Aeronautics Engineering Division
- Four main categories for basis of determinations – Permit required, Permit not required, Permit with exception, Permit not granted
- Aeronautics received over 100 cases to review in 2025. On airport cases generally have over two dozen points to review

2026 Geo Week Annual Conference & Trade Show

Exploring how data, maps & technology deepen our understanding of the world

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- **National Model for Integrating Drones & Digital Systems:** Presented "A New UAS Data Management Ecosystem," establishing MassDOT's Drone Program as a scalable, replicable national model for modernizing infrastructure/asset management through advanced UAS integration
- **Industry Validation & Strategic Partnerships:** Secured strong positive feedback from vendors regarding our solution's design flexibility, leading to active inquiries for integrating their advanced hardware & software with MassDOT
- **Continuous Innovation & Future Proofing:** Monitored emerging breakthroughs in AI-powered feature extraction & digital twins to maintain our technical edge & ensure MassDOT is prepared for the next generation of geospatial tools

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- **Superior Data Governance:** Demonstrated a UAS data & geospatial product digital delivery & governance solution benchmarked as superior to peer DOT & current vendor offerings
- **Actionable Intelligence Across Sectors:** Highlighted our ability to transform secure aerial data into actionable intelligence to optimize management across highways, rail, aeronautics, & emergency response
- **2026 ESRI SAG Award:** MassDOT Aeronautics won a "special achievement in GIS" SAG award for Geo-technical Information Systems from ESRI for outstanding achievement for the creation of the MassDOT "Data Hub"



Thank You

