

JOINT PUBLIC MEETING
of the
MICHIGAN STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
and the
MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

March 24, 2016, Aeronautics Administration Building, Lansing, Michigan

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Todd A. Wyett, State Transportation Commission (STC) Chairman
Angelynn A. Afendoulis, STC Commissioner
Ron J. Boji, STC Commissioner
Michael D. Hayes, STC Commissioner
George K. Heartwell, STC Commissioner
Charles F. Moser, STC Commissioner
Rick Fiddler, Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) Chairman
Russ Kavalhuna, MAC Vice Chairman
Pete Kamarainen, MAC Commissioner
Roger Salo, MAC Commissioner
J. David VanderVeen, MAC Commissioner
Captain Joe Gasper, MAC Commissioner, Michigan Department of State
Police Designee
Brigadier General Len Isabelle, MAC Commissioner, Michigan
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Designee
Kevin Jacobs, MAC Commissioner, Michigan Department of Natural
Resources Designee
Laura J. Mester, MAC Commissioner, Michigan Department of
Transportation Designee

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Kirk Steudle, Director, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
David Brickey, Assistant Attorney General, Transportation Division
Frank E. Raha, STC Commission Advisor
Phil Browne, Deputy STC Commission Advisor
Jack Cotter, Commission Auditor, Office of Commission Audits
Mary Fedewa, Executive Assistant, Office of Commission Audits
Michael Trout, Executive Administrator, MDOT Office of Aeronautics
Judy Baker, MAC Commission Assistant
Matt Brinker, MDOT Aeronautic Specialist
Steve Cook, MDOT Engineer of Operations and Maintenance
About 40 to 45 people were in the audience; a sign-in list is attached to the
official minutes.

I. WELCOME

Chair Wyett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

- ***Michigan State Transportation Commission – Todd Wyett, Chairman***

STC Chair Wyett welcomed everyone and noted the joint meeting was last held two years ago. Then each STC commissioner introduced themselves.

- ***Michigan Aeronautics Commission – Rick Fiddler, Chairman***

MAC Chair Fiddler welcomed everyone and then each MAC commissioner introduced themselves.

- ***Michigan Department of Transportation Director’s Report – Kirk Steudle***

Director Steudle welcomed everyone and started with a current traffic deaths update. He then discussed the Governor’s Executive Order 2015-8 regarding formation of 21st Century Infrastructure Commission. The 27-member advisory board is charged with assessing the current state of transportation, water, sewer, energy, and communications assets, and making recommendations by November 30, 2016. MDOT will be represented on the commission.

II. **PRESENTATIONS**

- ***Office of Aeronautics Report – Michael Trout***

Mr. Trout discussed aeronautic funding changes resulting from legislation enacted in December 2015 (PA 258-263 of 2015); and meteorological evaluation tower regulation enacted in March 2016 (PA 28 of 2016). He also gave an overview of pending State and federal legislation and its impact to Michigan. He then provided information about the MAC Annual Report to the Governor and other reports available on the MAC website (www.michigan.gov/aero). In addition, he highlighted upcoming aeronautics events around Michigan.

- ***Unmanned Aerial Systems Report – Matt Brinker and Steve Cook***

Mr. Brinker started the presentation talking about the history of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and advances that have made them more popular. He then discussed the federal UAS Registration process and gave an overview of pending Michigan UAS legislation. Then Mr. Cook presented information about the possible use of UAS to benefit State transportation. The primary goals are to increase safety, save money, and increase efficiency. A research project to study the benefits is in progress, Phase I was completed in July 2015, Phase II will start in April 2016. A report about Phase I (“Evaluating the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Transportation Purposes”) can be found on the MDOT website, www.michigan.gov/mdot [search for “RC-1616”].

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Topic: Michigan Flyer Drop-off Point at Detroit Metro –

Joe Sontag, citizen

Mr. Sontag expressed his impression that the current system is less safe and segregates persons with disabilities.

Fred Wurtzel, Past President, National Federation of Blind of Michigan

Mr. Wurtzel noted that the ground transportation center (GTC) is 200 yards from the airport and is close to loud diesel aircraft engines, which makes it hard for a person who is blind to use their hearing to aid them in navigation. [This drop-off point has been in place since

September 2014.] The airport has since set up second stop only for persons with disabilities, which he believes violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) because it segregates persons with a disability.

Karla Hudson, citizen

Ms. Hudson is a frequent user of the Michigan Flyer. She noted that separate is not equal and that persons with disabilities should not have to identify that they have a disability. She also felt that other airports across the country treat persons with disabilities much better.

Ody Norkin, Michigan Flyer

Mr. Norkin noted that the Michigan Flyer is a private sector business. He provided each commission member a packet of information. He thought the original spot [prior to September 2014] was to be just for buses, but cars were also allowed to park there and that's what he believes caused the issue.

Brian Sadek, Wayne County Airport Authority

Mr. Sadek provided each commission member pictures of the drop-off locations. The original bus drop-off spot was moved to the GTC in order to separate personally-operated vehicles from buses. The new optional drop-off spot is closer for people to use, but is not a requirement for those with disabilities. He stated that both drop-off locations meet accessibility regulations. He invited commission members to visit and tour the area.

Donna Rose, citizen

Ms. Rose stated that she is part of a lawsuit, "Paul Palmer and Donna Rose vs Delta Airlines and WCAA." She noted the buses must first stop at the GTC and then stop at Door 402, so persons with disabilities must wait on the bus. She also talked about the lack of public transportation to get from the airport to Detroit or other areas in Michigan.

STC Chair Wyett noted that the State Transportation Commission sent a letter to the Wayne County Airport Authority in September of 2014, and he asked MDOT staff to follow up on the drop-off point topic.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING**

With no further business being before both commissions, STC Chair Wyett declared this meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m. and noted that each commission will hold separate meetings after a short break.

V. **REGULAR PUBLIC MEETINGS OF BOTH COMMISSIONS TO FOLLOW**

- The STC met in the Commission Conference Room following this meeting, their minutes can be found on the Internet at www.michigan.gov/transcommission.
- The MAC met in the Auditorium following this meeting, their minutes can be found on the Internet at www.michigan.gov/aero.

Signature on File

Frank E. Raha, III
STC Commission Advisor