



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of Airports Safety and
Standards

1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 22, 2026

Dear Industry Stakeholder:

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) Office of Airports, Office of Airports Safety and Standards, Airports Engineering Division (AAS-100) invites comments on and recommendations for draft Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5390-4, *Vertical Flight Aircraft Infrastructure Design*.

This new AC combines and updates the guidance in AC 150/5390-2D, *Heliport Design*, and Engineering Brief 105A, *Vertiport Design, Supplemental Guidance to Advisory Circular 150/5390-2D, Heliport Design*, into a single document addressing the planning, design, and construction of facilities serving vertical flight aircraft. Based on FAA research into the performance of various vertical flight aircraft, the draft AC advances performance-based guidance for facilities serving helicopters and powered-lift aircraft. Upon final publication, this AC will replace both documents.

Key elements of the draft include (but are not limited to):

- **Document organization.** Groups guidance into Standards, Recommended Practices, Design Considerations, and Requirements to clarify the distinction between FAA design standards, discretionary recommendations, and obligations arising from existing statutes and regulations.
- **Consolidation of heliport categories.** Eliminates the Transport Heliport category while retaining distinctions for hospital heliports and vertiports where specialized guidance applies.
- **Heliport geometry.** Updates landing area dimensions based on aircraft landing scatter research. Touchdown and liftoff area sizing accounts for rotor diameter across aircraft lifting-device configurations. The draft also revises final approach and takeoff area load-bearing provisions for powered-lift aircraft.
- **Approach paths.** Updates guidance to accommodate different aircraft performance and environmental conditions, including a maximum approach surface slope of 15:1 for powered-lift aircraft.
- **Air traffic control considerations.** Updates design considerations for separation between on-airport helipads and runways, including aircraft separation and wake turbulence effects.
- **On-airport aiming points.** Expands guidance for aiming points as an alternative to dedicated on-airport helipads under specified conditions. Aiming points provide a marked location and visual cue for approaching vertical flight aircraft.
- **Downwash and Outwash Caution Area.** Introduces an operational area, informed by FAA research, to protect people and property where aircraft downwash or outwash might meet or exceed 34.5 miles per hour.

Draft Review and Comment Submission

Your review of and input on the draft AC will help the FAA improve the quality, clarity, and usability of the final document. Please submit suggestions, questions, and differing views on the proposed guidance, and please provide a reasoning and justification for each comment.

To ensure proper consideration, please submit comments using the provided comment matrix in Excel format. Do not embed edits or comments in the draft AC or submit the matrix as a PDF. Comments submitted in other formats or after the deadline may not be considered.

Submit comments by **January 11, 2027**, for consideration.

Please send your completed comment matrix to vertiports@faa.gov.

Virtual Industry Day

The FAA will also host a Virtual *Vertical Flight Aircraft Infrastructure Design* Industry Day on **November 10, 2026**, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. EST. This session will discuss key elements of the draft guidance and address questions from industry partners to support their review.

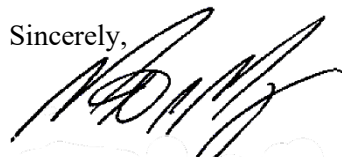
Submit Questions. To help the FAA prepare for the discussion, please submit questions in advance by **November 2, 2026**. Participation in Industry Day does not replace submission of written comments using the comment matrix.

Register for Industry Day. Please use the following link to register and receive more information:

- https://faavideo.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Hfsp0EWFTEWaLW_IFroNyA#/registration

Thank you for your assistance in developing this guidance.

Sincerely,



Michael A.P. Meyers, P.E.
Manager, Airports Engineering Division, AAS-100
Enclosure