

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS: SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRPORTS
SUMMER 2014 MEETING
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ | AUGUST 12-13, 2014

The Subcommittee met August 12-13 in the Director's Conference Room at the FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center (the Tech Center) in Atlantic City. During the meeting the Subcommittee reviewed the ongoing progress Branch staff have made on the varied airport safety, planning, design, and pavement projects within the Branch's research portfolio. We also addressed a specific tasking assigned to the Research, Engineering, and Development Advisory Committee by Tech Center Director Dennis Fuller regarding emerging aviation research issues and opportunities.

The following section summarizes the Subcommittee's major findings and recommendations.

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunities Need to Be Provided for Airport Operators to Review Safety Data Developed as Part of the Airport Safety Database Project

Finding 1: The Airport Technology Program is currently engaged in the development of an airport safety database as part of RPD141. This database fuses information from the FAA's wildlife strike database as well as accident and incident reports from FAA and NASA databases. Subcommittee members would like to ensure mechanisms exist for airport operators to view and assess the data for their facilities. At the Summer 2014 Subcommittee Meeting, FAA staff reported that because the safety database relies on confidential safety reports from ASIAs and ATSAP, it cannot be released directly to airport operators. In response, the Subcommittee requested that a communication mechanism be established that would enable airport operators to determine how the safety database is being used by the FAA to develop safety and infrastructure recommendations for their airports.

Recommendation 1: The Subcommittee recommends that the FAA (1) identify a point of contact within FAA that airport operators can approach regarding data and findings/recommendations FAA has developed using the Airport Safety Database and (2) disseminate information to airport operators regarding this point of contact, a description of the Airport Safety Database, and how the FAA is using it.

Aircraft Braking Friction Studies

Finding 2. The Subcommittee was pleased to see that Branch staff were able to collect a limited sample of data for snow-contaminated pavements before the end of 2013-2014 winter season. These data are promising and suggest that the B727 braking friction test vehicle is able to collect reliable data regarding aircraft tire/pavement interactions. Branch staff also discussed their preparations for the data collection in the 2014-2015 winter season and was satisfied that staff had taken appropriate steps to

reduce manage schedule risks associated with the data collection effort this winter. The Subcommittee is interested to see the results of additional data collection efforts this winter season and will reassess Project progress at our Spring 2015 meeting.