



SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRPORTS WINTER/SPRING 2020

Findings and Recommendations



Finding 1 – UAS Research/Air Mobility Systems

The Subcommittee is extremely interested in the Airport Technology Research Program's involvement in UAS research—both from the perspective of their beneficial use at and in the vicinity of Airports and from the perspective of managing the safety and security risks associated with unauthorized use of these and in the vicinity of airports. We also recognize the growing interest in advanced air mobility systems (AAM)—also known as urban air mobility systems. AAM, like UAS, represent a new class of aircraft that will need to share use of airspace on and in the vicinity of airports. In both cases, there is a need to ensure ongoing research is effectively coordinated across multiple FAA research portfolios, across federal agencies (e.g., risk mitigation of unauthorized UAS operations), and across a number of external stakeholders.

Recommendation 1

The Subcommittee recommends allocating time during each of its semi-annual meetings for discussion these emerging vehicle types and the ongoing research associated with them. We also recommend that the Airport Technologies Research Program look to the Subcommittee to provide airport stakeholder input and insight into its UAS and AAM research activities.

Finding 2 – Airport Pavement Research

The Subcommittee remains committed to the FAA's global leadership in airport pavement research and has been highly supportive of the Airport Technology Research Program's efforts to expand its testing and research capabilities with a pavement materials testing lab. The airfield pavement experts on the Subcommittee agree that understanding how new types of pavement materials and additives can enhance both rigid and flexible airfield pavements.

Recommendation 2

The Subcommittee recommends setting aside time during our Summer 2020 meeting to discuss how the focus on emerging pavement materials and additives can be increased in airfield pavement research.