



# Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

February 23, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

## Detailed Minutes

### Introduction

An Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee (AAAC) meeting was held on February 23, 2022, from 12:00 PM to 2:30 PM EST. This meeting was held virtually and livestreamed due to the COVID-19 emergency.

### Designated Federal Officer Opening Remarks

Mr. Jay Merkle started the meeting by welcoming the audience and reading the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) opening statement. After reading the opening statement, Mr. Merkle then discussed the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Merkle proceeded to ask for a motion for approval of the October 27, 2021 meeting minutes. There were no objections and the motion passed.

Mr. Merkle then turned the meeting over to Deputy Administrator, Mr. Bradley Mims. Mr. Mims iterated the significance of the committee's name change and highlighted a milestone of 1 million airspace authorizations through the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC). Mr. Mims finished his remarks by thanking the AAAC for all of their hard work on their recommendations for Gender Neutral Language for the Drone Community. He informed the committee that their work has acted as a major instigator for the FAA's current initiatives on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access. After finishing his remarks, Mr. Mims turned the meeting back over to the DFO.

Mr. Merkle concluded his remarks by highlighting a few recent accomplishments since the last meeting. He highlighted that the first means of compliance for category 2 and 3 small drone operations over people were just accepted. The recommendations the committee provided related to the Remote Identification and Operations Over People rules contributed to the agency's ability to implement these rules. Mr. Merkle emphasized the success of The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST), and updated the public of the status of the recent solicitation for new AAAC members. He then turned the meeting over to the AAAC Chair.

View the DFO's remarks (link is timestamped for DFO Opening Remarks):

<https://youtu.be/xRRI-LDedoA?t=628>

### AAAC Chair Opening Remarks

AAAC Chair, Captain Houston Mills, began his remarks by welcoming everyone to the first ever AAAC meeting and expressing his eagerness to lead the committee in its expanded role integrating drones and advanced air mobility operations into the national airspace system. Capt.



# Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

February 23, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

Mills thanked the scheduled presenters for their hard work in preparing their recommendations. He then turned the meeting over to the DFO to brief the committee on roles and responsibilities.

View the AAAC Chair's remarks: (link is timestamped for AAAC Chair Opening Remarks):  
<https://youtu.be/FvFtxYGsnew?t=683>

## Overview of AAAC Roles and Responsibilities

**Presenter:**

**Jay Merkle, DFO and Executive Director, FAA UAS Integration Office**

Mr. Merkle began the overview of AAAC Roles and Responsibilities by stating the objective of the committee to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and to respond to specific taskings received directly from the FAA. He then discussed the composition and evolution of the committee, before touching on the basic Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) guidance for members to abide by.

He then turned the meeting over to the Jay Kinser to present the FAA's response to Task Group #11's recommendations on Acceptable Level of Risk White Paper.

View the Overview of AAAC Roles and Responsibilities: (link is timestamped for Overview of AAAC Roles and Responsibilities):  
<https://youtu.be/FvFtxYGsnew?t=838>

## Response to Task Group #11: Acceptable Level of Risk White Paper

**Presenter:**

**Jay Kinser, Manager, Strategic Programs, FAA UAS Integration Office**

Mr. Jay Kinser began the presentation by providing a brief background on the Acceptable Level of Risk White Paper, which was provided to the FAA at the October 2021 committee meeting, and thanking the AAAC for their recommendations. Mr. Kinser specified that at this time, the FAA would be providing interim responses, and acknowledged that the anticipated BVLOS ARC report would have some implications on the FAA's final responses.



# Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

February 23, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

The FAA concurred with all but one recommendation. Mr. Kinser specified that the FAA would provide final responses at the June 2022 AAAC meeting, following the release, review, and incorporation of the BVLOS ARC report findings.

There was a brief discussion following the presentation.

The AAAC eBook provides the official interim report of the FAA's response to Task Group #11's Acceptable Level of Risk White Paper and presentation.

View this presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for FAA Response to Task Group #11: Acceptable Level of Risk White Paper presentation):

<https://youtu.be/FvFtxYGsnew?t=1098>

## Task Group #12: Integrating UAS Operations into K-12 Curriculums Recommendations

### Presenters:

**Paul Hsu, Chairman, HSU Educational Foundation**

**Brian Wynne, CEO, AUVSI**

Mr. Paul Hsu opened the presentation by taking a moment to recognize the diverse and experienced members and subject matter experts that make Task Group #12. He then presented a comprehensive list of organizations providing UAS- and aviation-related education programs, before sharing a video of some of the existing programs using drones for STEM learning. Mr. Hsu proceeded to turn the presentation over to Mr. Brian Wynne to present Task Group #12's recommendations.

Mr. Wynne addressed the methodology used for forming Task Group #12's recommendations and provided a brief description of each recommendation, which includes making content and resources readily available, building connections for action and cultural transformation, and delivering aviation-specific curricula. He then turned the presentation back over to Mr. Hsu to provide a conclusion.

Following the presentation, there was a brief discussion period. Upon completion of the discussion, the DAC Chair entertained a motion to accept the recommendations and forward them to the FAA. The motion passed with no objections.

View Task Group #12's official report on Integrating UAS Operations into K-12 Curriculums Recommendations in the AAAC eBook.



# Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

February 23, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

View this presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for Task Group #12: Integrating UAS Operations into K-12 Curriculums Recommendations presentation):

<https://youtu.be/FvFtxYGsnew?t=3101>

## BVLOS ARC Update

**Presenter:**

**Jay Merkle, DFO and Executive Director, FAA UAS Integration Office**

Mr. Merkle provided the committee with a brief background on how the Beyond Visual Line-of-Sight (BVLOS) Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) was established. He revealed to the committee that the work of the ARC is nearly complete and that the FAA expects to receive the full report of the BVLOS ARC in the near future.

View the update (link is timestamped for BVLOS ARC Update):

<https://youtu.be/FvFtxYGsnew?t=5220>

## Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT): Urban Air Mobility (UAM) Policy Framework Considerations

**Presenter:**

**Seleta Reynolds, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Transportation**

Ms. Seleta Reynolds began her presentation by thanking the AAAC for their welcome. Ms. Reynolds shared that landing pads on all of Los Angeles' tall buildings sparked LADOT's thinking about advanced air mobility (AAM). She discussed the city's role in managing the public realm as an operator, regulator, and investor, and the importance of establishing these roles for the future of transportation. Ms. Reynolds shared that in 2018, the LADOT started a plan for AAM in Los Angeles, which involved working closely with both the public and industry and investing in research, before eventually publishing a city policy framework.

Ms. Reynolds concluded her presentation by asking the FAA to consider a tasking that acknowledges the FAA's role as an airspace designer, manager, and operator; acknowledges state, tribal, and local government to catalyze vertiport development, operation, and maintenance; and acknowledges desired outcomes heard among all stakeholders.



# Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

February 23, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

Mr. Merkle thanked Ms. Reynolds for her presentation, acknowledged her ask for a new tasking, and stated that he would need to consult with the necessary parties within various FAA Lines of Business before getting back to her with a response.

Following the presentation, there was a discussion period. View the discussion: (link is timestamped for LA DOT: UAM Policy Framework Considerations):

<https://youtu.be/FvFtxYGsnsww?t=5549>

## New AAAC Taskings

### Presenter:

**Jay Merkle, DFO and Executive Director, FAA UAS Integration Office**

Mr. Merkle, shared that the FAA is issuing a new tasking for the AAAC. The tasking presented by Mr. Merkle asks the AAAC to provide comments on the FAA's draft "Strategic Framework for Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Near-Term Operations."

The AAAC Chair accepted the new tasking and the recommendations report is scheduled for the next AAAC meeting in June 2022.

View the presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for New AAAC Tasking):

<https://youtu.be/FvFtxYGsnsww?t=7896>

## New Business/Agenda Topics

The AAAC Chair opened the floor to AAAC members to bring up any new business topics or agenda topics. Capt. Mills raised the first new business item, allowing AAAC members to share what they feel the AAAC should be thinking about in regards to future FAA taskings.

Topics for the FAA to consider for future taskings included:

- Mr. Jaz Banga brought up a call for participants to test the mechanics of remote identification in dense urban environments, specifically, San Francisco and New York City.
- Ms. Cathy Cahill raised a question regarding the future of UAS, especially larger UAS, given recent 5G developments and the known issues that spectrum causes for UAS.
- Mr. Samanta Roy suggested it may be good to develop a framework regarding a broad landscape to shape the conversation within the FAA and interagency, specifically, regarding how things are going to evolve from a safety/certification perspective, a community acceptance perspective, and an environmental perspective.



# Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

February 23, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

- Mr. David Carbon raised the topic of dangerous goods to add the Mr. Samanta Roy's list of considerations.

Capt. Mills then proceeded onto the next new business item. He asked the AAAC's thoughts regarding the impact of FAA certification process on advanced aviation. Mr. Chris Anderson iterated that the Durability and Reliability (D&R) Type Certification for UAS is currently stalled over a tricky policy issue and would like to see more smart minds working on it. Ms. Cahill agreed to that point, acknowledging that D&R is going to be significantly worse for larger UAS and iterated that we need to have a clear outline of expectations for these aircraft. Mr. Kenji Sugahara agreed to this point and expressed that Type Certificates are not the only way to integrate these aircrafts.

Lastly, Capt. Mills raised the possibility of an FAA tasking that focused on developing communication approaches that would answer the question of many prospective drone users, "How do I get started?" A brief discussion among the members ensued that brought forth some ideas on how the FAA can integrate this into a future tasking.

Ms. Shanetta Griffin, FAA Associate Administrator for Airports, shared with the AAAC that FAA's draft interim guidance on vertiport design would be posted in the near future to the Federal Register. Ms. Griffin prompted the AAAC members and the public to look for that Federal Register Notice and provide comments.

View the discussion (New Business/Agenda Topics):

<https://youtu.be/FvFtxYGsnew?t=8084>

## Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Mr. Merkle began his closing remarks by thanking all of the presenters, as well as those who help make the AAAC possible, and expressed that he is looking forward to working with the committee. He then turned the meeting over to Capt. Mills, who thanked the AAAC for their all of their hard work, thought, and leadership. Capt. Mills shared his hopes to meet with everyone in-person for the next AAAC meeting, should it be deemed safe to do so, before turning the meeting over to Mr. Gary Kolb.

Mr. Kolb, UAS Stakeholder & Committee Officer, asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

View the closing remarks (Closing Remarks and Adjourn):

<https://youtu.be/FvFtxYGsnew?t=8980>



# Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

February 23, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

## Appendix A: FAA Meeting Attendees

<b>Confirmed FAA/DOT Attendees (on camera)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Org.</b>
1. Jay Merkle	Executive Director, UAS Integration Office (DFO)	FAA
2. Bradley Mims	Deputy Administrator	FAA
3. Laurence Wildgoose	Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy, International Affairs and Environment	FAA
4. Billy Nolen	Associate Administrator, Aviation Safety	FAA
5. Shannetta Griffin	Associate Administrator, Airports	FAA
6. Claudio Manno	Associate Administrator, Security and Hazardous Materials Safety	FAA
7. Chris Rocheleau	Deputy Associate Administrator, Aviation Safety	FAA
8. Winsome Lenfert	Deputy Associate Administrator, Airports	FAA
9. Tim Arel	Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Air Traffic	FAA
10. Jay Kinser	Manager, Strategic Programs, UAS Integration Office	FAA
11. Peter Sachs	Strategic Programs, UAS Integration Office	FAA
12. Alexis Morgenthaler	Strategic Programs, UAS Integration Office	FAA
13. Gary Kolb	UAS Stakeholder & Committee Officer, UAS Integration Office	FAA

<b>Confirmed FAA/DOT Observers</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Org.</b>
1. Jessica Orquina	Acting Manager, UAS Integration Office	FAA
2. Tonya Coultas	Deputy Associate Administrator, Security and Hazardous Materials Safety	FAA
3. Sabrina Saunders-Hodge	Director, Research, Engineering, and Analysis, UAS Integration Office	FAA
4. Abigail Smith	Executive Director, Aviation Policy and Plans	FAA
5. Adrienne Vanek	Director, International Division, UAS Integration Office	FAA
6. Joe Morra	Director, Safety and Integration Division, UAS Integration Office	FAA
7. Martha Christie	Deputy Director, Safety & Integration Division, UAS Integration Office	FAA
8. Elizabeth Forro	Special Assistant, UAS Integration Office	FAA
9. Kamisha Walker	Management Assistant, UAS Integration Office	FAA
10. Jennifer Riding	Management Support Specialist, UAS Integration Office	FAA



# Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

---

February 23, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

DRAFT