



Leif Elder, UDOT Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs  
Utah Advanced Air Mobility Legislation  
Kentucky Aviation Task Force  
October 28, 2025

# Key Legislation

- [2021 S.B. 218](#) - Required **study** on development of AAM in Utah (lines 41-51)
- [2022 S.B. 122](#) - Established AAM **working groups** (lines 49-64)
- [2023 S.B. 24](#) - Reorganized AAM statutes, defined key terms (i.e., AAM system, vertiport, etc.), and authorized **drone registration**
- [2024 S.B. 135](#) - Addresses various **AAM policies** such as navigable airspace, vertiport operation, legality of flying aircraft
- 2024 Appropriation for **AAM Personnel and mobile command stations**
- [2025 S.B. 96](#) - Requires **community outreach** and public education campaign and **local government toolkit** and adds definitions related to traffic management

# 2021 S.B. 218 - Study

- [Utah AAM Infrastructure and Regulatory Study](#)
- Objective: Study implementing a statewide AAM system, including infrastructure needs, obstacles, limitations, benefits, funding, and statutory framework
- Phased Implementation over 30 years
  - **Phase 1:** Community engagement; infrastructure for traffic monitoring, weather, communication; Begin establishing funding sources
  - **Phase 2:** Expand infrastructure and traffic monitoring; Initial vertiport infrastructure
  - **Phase 3:** AAM long range planning; Clear network and authority for traffic management in urban areas; Expand vertiport infrastructure
  - **Phase 4:** Connect urban and rural communities; Make system more efficient / accessible

# 2022 S.B. 122 - Working Groups

## **Working groups met numerous times from 2022 to 2024**

- Drone Operators
  - Regulations addressing drone package deliveries
  - Comments on UDOT drone registration rules
- Local Government
  - Requested a toolkit to support model ordinances and practices
  - Supported need for community outreach
- Air Traffic Control
  - Discussed how AAM aircraft might be integrated in Utah airspace
- eVTOL OEM
  - Discussed how OEMs could work with the state
  - Discussed federal regulations such as Part 135 aircraft registration and how the state can support AAM aircraft

# 2023 S.B. 24 and 2024 S.B. 135 - AAM statutes

Utah's AAM statutes are as follows:

- Primary definition section [72-10-102](#)
- AAM related parts of Title 72, Chapter 10 Aeronautics and Space Act
  - [Part 7 Unmanned Aircraft -- Drones](#)
  - [Part 8 Law Enforcement Use of Unmanned Aircraft](#)
  - [Part 9 Unlawful Use of Unmanned Aircraft](#)
  - [Part 10 Safe Use of Unmanned Aircraft](#)
  - [Part 11 Navigable Airspace Leasing](#)
- Subsection [72-10-109](#)(3) - Requires **registration** for UAS and AAM aircraft used for commercial operation
- Subsection [72-10-110](#)(4) - **Rulemaking** authority for registration and directs revenue to Aeronautics Restricted Account (see rule [here](#); \$5 per aircraft)
- [Subsection 72-2-126](#)(3)(b)(ii) - **Earmarks revenue** for AAM infrastructure and administration

# AAM Personnel and Mobile Command Stations

## 2024 Appropriation Request

- **Personnel**
  - Managing test site equipment and operations
  - Oversee agreements, partnerships, and policies
  - Coordinate with FAA and safety protocols
- **Mobile Command Stations** to provide a testbed for private / public / academic partners to conduct trials and real-world applications
  - Work stations for laptops and monitors
  - 30 foot mast for connecting surveillance equipment / antennas
  - WiFi to support beyond visual line of sight
  - Air and ground communications setup for ground and air
  - Weather sensor



# 2025 S.B. 96 - Community Outreach and Public Education

- Community engagement is a phase 1 item of the implementation plan
- Why is this important?
  - Help public understand what AAM is/isn't
  - Address community concerns
  - Get community acceptance and support
  - Input on future of AAM
- Contract was awarded last week
  - Educate the public on use cases, potential benefits, economic impacts, jobs, etc.
  - Opportunities to observe real world demonstrations
  - Mobile command centers
  - Local coordination for promotions (Vineyard)

# 2025 S.B. 96 - Local Government Toolkit

- Local governments want to know how to play in the AAM space
- Toolkit will be an online resource that addresses:
  - Model ordinances governing advanced air mobility
  - Best practices
  - Available resources to assist in developing and implementing AAM policy
- UDOT is required to:
  - Regularly maintain and update the toolkit
  - Make the toolkit publicly available online
- No requirements to adopt or implement anything

# Additional AAM Efforts

- [2025 AAM Economic impact forecast study](#) (20 year projections)
  - 11,000 new full-time jobs
  - \$8 Billion in new business activity
  - \$1.8 Billion in local, state, and federal tax revenues
- **MOU with Jump Aero** - Provide medical support with eVTOL's to improve life-saving response times throughout Utah
- **Electric Aviation Subcommittee** - In support of Utah's Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure study ([2023 S.B. 125](#)), monthly meetings to discuss plans for electric aircraft
- **AAM Electric Infrastructure Grant Program** - Legislature appropriated \$2M to provide grants for electric aircraft charging infrastructure at public use airports

# Additional AAM Efforts

- Developing an Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) System
  - Goal is safety and coordination
  - Plan, approve, and monitor flights
  - Provide flight planning, including automated FAA authorization
  - Manage geozones and flight corridors
  - Maintain pilot and equipment records
  - Provide interagency awareness for emergency response and planning
- Still in the early stages
- Safety and public trust



Utah Advanced Air Mobility Legislation  
Kentucky Aviation Task Force  
October 28, 2025