

AIR MOBILITY AND AVIATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the 2025 Interim

December 2, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The sixth meeting of the Air Mobility and Aviation Economic Development Task Force was held on December 2, 2025, at 2:00 PM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Stephanie Dietz, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Stephanie Dietz, Co-Chair; Senator Brandon J. Storm, Co-Chair; Senators Greg Elkins, Stephen Meredith, and Matt Nunn; and Representatives John Hodgson, Michael Meredith, and Rachel Roarx.

Guests: Dan Mann, Executive Director, Louisville Regional Airport Authority.

LRC Staff: John Snyder, Dana Fugazzi, Austin Johnson, Ashley Nash, and Christina Williams.

Approval of November 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Storm made a motion to approve the November 4, 2025, meeting minutes. Representative Rachel Roarx seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

UPS Worldport Plane Crash / SDF Recovery Update

Dan Mann, Executive Director, Louisville Regional Airport Authority, gave an update on the SDF recovery after the UPS Worldport plane crash that occurred on November 4, 2025. Mr. Mann reiterated that all airports are governed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules and regulations, which includes having a public safety department, law enforcement officers, firefighters and equipment to respond to aircraft incidents. SDF has approximately 45 officers, at least ten per shift that are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to respond as needed. Mr. Mann stated that every year the FAA requires a refresher tabletop exercise and a full-blown exercise every third year to comply with safety standards. The most recent "all hands on deck" exercise took place two weeks before the UPS Worldport plane crash.

On the afternoon of the crash, first responders responded within one minute to the primary runway. The 513 tower alerted the problem and the fire, and stated the engine departed the aircraft and landed on the airfield. The Air National Guard fire response also responded. Within six minutes, every department had been mobilized and was on scene assisting, including the Emergency Operations Center, Louisville Metro Police Department, the

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American Red Cross, FBI, UPS, and all airline partners. Departures and arrivals were cancelled as a result. By 4:30 AM the following morning, the FBI had determined that the crosswind runway could be opened. By 7:00 AM, the first two general aviation aircraft had departed and by 8:30 AM, the first airline took off. Once the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) arrived, briefings occurred and primary runways were investigated with the aide of the FBI. Mr. Mann praised all the teams involved in the investigation and clean up. Within 48 hours, the airfield was fully operational.

Chair Dietz thanked Mr. Mann for updating the committee and sharing the experience and efforts.

Senator Elkins stated he flew out of SDF approximately 40 hours after the incident and praised the professionalism of everyone involved and the management of the tragedy.

Adoption of Findings and Recommendations of Task Force

Chair Dietz gave an overview of the task force's findings and recommendations.

Representative Hodgson made a motion, which he later withdrew, to remove a reference to Kentucky being 500 miles of 80 percent of the United States population. Representative Hodgson made a motion to strike "with an investment of \$500,000" in recommendation item number six and replace it with language directing the Cabinet for Economic Development and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to study the infrastructure needs of the aviation industry. His motion was made, but not seconded, and the motion died. Representative Hodgson made a motion to amend the alternative aviation fuels language to read as follows: "the General Assembly should support, investigate, and consider investment in alternative aviation fuel production refining and transportation." The motion was seconded by Senator Nunn, and approved by voice vote.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Storm to adopt the findings and recommendations of the task force as amended. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the task force, Chair Dietz adjourned the meeting at 2:37 PM.