

**OKLAHOMA ADVANCED MOBILITY
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: **Sec. Gatz called the meeting to order at 2:02pm**

ROLL CALL: **Present:** Tim Gatz
 James Grimsley
 Jennifer McGrail
 Tyler Moore
 Amy Loftis-Walton
 Grayson Ardies
 Jamey Jacob
 Hopper Smith
 Maynard Factor (proxy for Steve Fendley)

Absent: Gary Ambrose
 Jim Roth

GUEST SPEAKER – Dr. Clinton Purtell

Mr. Doug Wood introduced Clinton Purtell, PhD, Asst. Clinical Professor of Operations and Supply Chain; and Associate Director of the Jim McNatt Institute for Logistics Research at the Univ. of North Texas. Dr. Purtell gave a very interesting presentation discussing topics such as Logistics, Supply Chain, Advanced Air Mobility and Large Package & Freight Delivery.

QUESTIONS & OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Jacob asked what are some of the unique challenges for the Dallas-Ft. Worth region? Dr. Purtell said due to a risk-adverse FAA and needing their masthead replaced, people are worried about their jobs and won't necessarily put their neck out even though they recognize the urgency and challenge. North Texas needs collaboration, thought leadership, and ways to innovate. Mr. Jacob stated that there is a mixed bag with regard to local government and state legislature in terms of how they support, and how barriers are put in place. Dr. Purtell agreed and further said there is a lot of politics involved and but there are risks in not moving forward. Elegant solutions while taking a little bit of rebellion or magic attitude is better than playing by the rules in an extremely low altitude environment. The question is enabling, not prohibiting and not restricting.

Mr. Smith asked if the University of North Texas was the leader in academia and with its proximity to Oklahoma and the Choctaw Nation is it advantageous to engage more of Texas into the overall effort? The airport in Durant is relatively rural so is there an opportunity for some niched element that is provided by the recreation and gaming economy in Southeast Oklahoma that Texans would come for to provide some sort of proof of concept (whatever that looks like). Dr. Purtell stated that yes, UNT has a huge advantage being a Carnegie R1 classification university because it is a smaller. Dr. Purtell added trust and legitimacy is key.

Mr. Ardies asked if anything was on the horizon that will be fundamentally game-changing in the FAA reauthorization debate or do you feel like Congress will pass the buck on forcing FAA's hand to maybe a little bit more pressing in the allowance of some of the things needed to get this industry off the ground. Dr. Purtell said he worries about the U.S. government situation and the aerospace regulation in particular, and about leadership. Leadership may need to come from a state level that establishes trust where established trust is leveraged where there is a low-risk situation.

Mr. Smith asked if Denton, TX had a regional or municipal airport? Dr. Purtell said it did and there has been a lot of economic development and questions about turning it into a passenger commercial airport. There is also a lot of push to turn the airport in McKinney, TX into a passenger commercial airport.

Sec. Gatz thanked Dr. Purtell for the compelling information he shared and emphasized Mr. Ardies' sentiment that the group would love to have him come back and speak, perhaps in a little bit broader view.

ITEM PRESENTED BY SECRETARY GATZ

Approval of minutes from the April 27th, 2023 meeting.

ACTION: Ms. Walton moved and Mr. Ardies seconded that the Minutes be approved as presented.

MOTION: Carried by the following Vote:

AYES: Gatz, Grimsley, Ardies, McGrail, Jacob, Smith, Walton, Moore and Fendley (Proxy)

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ambrose and Roth

UAS/AAM STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE UPDATE – Thea Ewing and Laura Davis (HNTB)

Mr. Doug Wood introduced Thea Ewing from HNTB Corporation who updated everyone on the project. While in Oklahoma for another project, there was time to go over planning for the Oklahoma Advanced Mobility Strategy (OAMS) and groups were identified who may be good to approach. The interviews have been going well. During the first month the focus was on the Emerging Aviation Sub-Committee, and some big strides were made with the Autonomous Vehicle Working Group. Some group interviews were conducted with some universities. No formalized "Phase 2" as of yet, but by late summer or fall, a lot of the key components are going to take off. Advanced Air Mobility and Advanced Ground Mobility are planned at the same time. The information provided in the report presented can be shared per request. Laura Davis mentioned workforce retention and the difficulty finding and hiring staff. Retention and education were two subjects mentioned in several recent interviews and a lot of discussion about whether the aviation and aerospace programs should not be 4-year degrees but an 18-month program at a vocational technical school.

Mr. Jacob commented that there is currently a NASA RFP out on developing curriculum and training resources for aviation maintenance and training technology programs at OSU Unmanned Systems Research Institute. We are currently leading an effort right now to put a response to that proposal together working between OSU IT which is a 2-year program and some of the career techs to be able to develop that curriculum. Mr. Jacob further stated anyone wanting to partner with them the more the merrier so please reach out.

Mr. Ardies said that when starting some of the regional collaboration, please add Dr. Purtell to the list of individuals to interview. Ms. Ewing indicated that he was already added to their list.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Jared Schwennesen said the AV group has been working with HNTB to get interviews set up. He said Tom Robbins got the privilege and honor to be a University of Tulsa Last Mile Competition judge. Tom added that he was invited next year to make a presentation. Lastly, Jared had a chance to debrief Rylie Mansuetti who joined AAA Oklahoma as their new Public and Government Affairs Manager. She replaced Leslie Gamble who was a large part of the AV Group since the beginning in 2018 and we are excited to have her onboard.

Tom Robbins stated that Oklahoma is unique in putting the idea of autonomous and electrification together. North Texas has significant investment autonomous freight technology and to get those folks engaged for a discussion on how those two things intersect because that is where the future is going.

Mr. Robbins also mentioned he was part of a national presentation/conversation about freight autonomous safety and reemphasized data trends continue to go in the wrong direction for commercial motor vehicles. Recently, in Oklahoma there was a significant incident that caused the loss of life by a distracted driver. Rep. Miller reached out reiterating the importance of getting the regulatory framework together and the sooner the better.

Ms. Walton added that two recent clients were wanting to move goods from one industrial site to a port space for transloading and wanted to use electric vehicles/trucks and autonomous technology to move them from Point A to Point B and offload at Point B. It is actually in their strategic plan and will someday reduce carbon emissions. Mr. Robbins mentioned it would be great to talk to 2-3 companies actively doing that right now. Sec. Gatz said fortunately there is good policy in place already that supports these thoughts and NDAs are something we should take seriously. Ms. Walton added that people had asked on the energy side, "why are you convening with this council?" Her answer, "As government, we want to see where the barriers are, for you to be able to do business and then we want to find a way to get those out of the way for you so you can conduct business in the state.

Sec. Gatz stated he wanted Laura Davis from HNTB engaged and if available, James Grimsley for a discussion on leveraging the work that has been done in the ITS space because it has been focused on ground transportation, not UAS, and with the work being done in that space there is a huge overlap. Mr. Grimsley said that he would love to have that discussion about tying into the existing infrastructure and even exploring the ITS space. He further stated it is almost equally important as regulatory because if the safety infrastructure isn't there, then UAS isn't going to fly either. Ms. Ewing confirmed that the discussion will happen as early as tomorrow during a scheduled interview with Mr. Grimsley.

Mr. Grimsley said there were a lot of things happening this summer. U.S. DOT put out an RFI on AAM that is due on July 17th. A lot of us will be submitting responses as part of other groups but asked if the Advanced Mobility Council should submit their own response. When Part 107 MPRM came out, the predecessor to this group appointed by the Governor submitted comments and our comments were cited as having a significant role in the final adjudication of Part 107 rules. Mr. Ardies stated he would be on board. Sec. Gatz voiced no objection.

Mr. Grimsley further stated big news was happening with the Beyond Program. Some very productive meetings important to the regions occurred in Washington D.C. in May. We will be taking on some additional authorities in August or September. A lot of good news happening with the FAA, and the counter UASR meets next week and will be getting into enforcement and will probably play a part in what we have in the future. The civil side may definitely play a role in what we do. The advanced air mobility inner-agency working group created by statute and led by the US DOT but has executive-level representatives from all the agencies are convening in Late June. The Choctaw Nation got an invitation to present their vision and talk about what we're doing. Lastly, the public demonstration for the legislators will now be on June 9th.

ITEM PRESENTED BY SECRETARY GATZ

ACTION: Ardies moved and Walton seconded that the Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION: Carried by the following Vote:

AYES: Gatz, Grimsley, Ardies, McGrail, Jacob, Smith, Walton, Moore and Fendley (Proxy)

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ambrose and Roth

Meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm

Approval of Minutes:



Tim J. Gatz - Chairman