# OKLAHOMA ADVANCED MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**September 21, 2023** 

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

**ROLL CALL**: **Present**: Tim Gatz

Jamey Jacob

Doug Wood for Grayson Ardies

Amy Loftis-Walton Jennifer McGrail James Grimsley Tyler Moore Gary Ambrose Hopper Smith

Miranda Adams for Steve Fendley

Absent: None

## ITEM PRESENTED BY SECRETARY GATZ

## Approval of Minutes from the June 15, 2023, meeting

ACTION: Grimsley moved, and Moore seconded that the Minutes be approved as presented.

MOTION: Carried by the following vote:

AYES: Gatz, Jacob, Ardies, Walton, McGrail, Grimsley, Moore, Ambrose, Smith and Fendley

ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Mr. Doug Wood introduced Craig Mahaney, CEO of DronePort Network, Executive Director of UAS Cluster Initiative and Executive Director of UAS Angel Network. He's also a former Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser to the FAA office of Aviation Policy and Plans, and a former advisor, Senator Lankford, when he was Chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. He explained DronePort Network is an Oklahoma City based company focused on developing physical and digital infrastructure organizations and communities that will need to support scaling the commercial drone industry. Osage LLC selected them to develop Skyway36 (Tulsa, OK) into one of the nation's first droneports focused on UAS manufacturing and testing. Skyway36 has selected its first anchor tenant, Windshape, as a UAS testing and business development catalyst for the Oklahoma Region

Mr. Mahaney gave a very interesting Power Point presentation explaining what each of his companies do, how and why they got started. Talked about how they are funded and still have companies reaching out offering to fund them to expand their research and capabilities. He gave his email address and phone number and encouraged us to reach out if we have any questions, or have any kind of projects or thoughts you want them to explore.

# **UAS/AAM MOBILITY STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE - Ms. Thea Ewing**

Ms. Ewing said they are excited to move forward with Phase II. We did receive our notice to proceed. So, thanks to your team for making that happen. We're bringing the economic analysis to some consultants right now and getting them up to speed with Oklahoma's existing systems and the scope that you want with their work in it. I'm also working to develop schedules for aviation and ground advanced teams to help prepare information for the report. They're getting a list of individuals in the state to meet with as a result of all the stakeholder work that we have done this summer. So, there should be some additional outreach in this community and in this industry over the next month or so with key individuals that will really be leading future projects and future advance systems.

We are also working with different committees on advanced use cases. On Tuesday I was at the Emerging Aviation Subcommittee with one of our aviation experts, and we talked through a series of definitions of different use cases that look plausible for the State of Oklahoma, and got some feedback, which was very helpful from folks who were at that meeting. We will be doing the same at the Ground Mobility Meeting this coming Monday. Tom Robins just sent out the notice for the Autonomous Vehicle Working Group Meeting, so really exciting to kind of take these next steps into the planning process, and it really matches up with the momentum and enthusiasm in the industry.

She talked about a big announcement that happened in Ohio this week. They received a \$500 million dollar investment from Joby for air taxis out of the Dayton area. It's going to create 2000 jobs and going to be operational by year 2025.

And why is this important to Oklahoma?

Well, first off, I think you know that these are definitely the types of devices that could be in your sky; but also, we completed their framework in July, 2022 which was a year and nearly to the day before this investment happened. So, I'm really excited to see these kinds of results for Oklahoma too.

After the presentation from Mr. Mahaney and him talking about putting things together and gathering information. That's really what this Strategic Plan will do is put together that collaboration of all these various meetings and bring them together and all those sacrifices to find out what your teams are working on and finding all these different pockets and putting that all together. So that first of all we know what's out there, who's involved, how to bring them together and see if legislation is necessary.

So that's why we were really excited to see that article yesterday about Joby's investment. You know we work a lot of times on plans that take years and years to go into implementation. So, to see something like this happen guickly you get totally excited to make that happen here in Oklahoma.

#### **AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE WORKING GROUP UPDATE – Mr. Andreas Weber**

Mr. Weber introduced Tom Robins for the update.

Mr. Robins said this past month the local AV Working Group heard presentations on policy challenges and opportunities from David Banelli who is the Chief Counsel for the Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association. Talked about some of the challenges and opportunities in relation to the federal timing and programming for AV Operations. We also got a state legislative update and recap from Representative Nicole Miller, who has authored most of the recent legislation passed here in the State of Oklahoma.

We also heard from Mr. Bob Dunn National AT&T Programs Manager who talked about the interconnective communication technology that's happening on folk's devices and other ways to alert them. Technology to further enhance the safety of our first responders and features, and that is probably something that we see being rolled out by before we see full autonomy adoption. So, it's another feature that's technology and nature that allows people to make better informed decisions and particularly all our mobile road users. workers and first responders. Steve mentioned on Monday, we will have the tabletop exercise and some of the calendar virtual request that obviously anyone on a full committee can participate in as well.

Next month on October 4<sup>th</sup> we have the Safe Oklahoma Summit in partnership with FHWA, ODOT and other safety partners, which by the way, registration is free, and I did send out invites to the people on my autonomous vehicle list. There are many sessions that people can choose to attend.

# **EMERGING AVIATION SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE - Mr. Doug Wood**

Mr. Wood said they just had their meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>; it was quick since we didn't have a quorum. We are in kind of a standby status until HNTB completes its Strategic Plan and gets it to us for review. We had a really productive discussion for the very few we had at the meeting. Our next meeting will be on November 9<sup>th</sup> and in person at the OSU Discovery Center building in Oklahoma City.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Ms. Walton asked who was responsible for repairing Electric Charging stations across the state. She said the ones in Shawnee were damaged during the tornado and still aren't fixed. Also, the ones on Riverside Drive in Tulsa, only 1 out of 3 actually work.

Secretary Gatz said that he would have Jared and our Multimodal Team look into this to see who is responsible for these repairs. He stated that lots of these charging systems are approaching 10 years old and some just may need to be upgraded or replaced.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Secretary Gatz thanked everyone for attending and said the next meeting will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, @ 2:00 p.m.

# **ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

ACTION: Smith moved, and Grimsley seconded that the Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION: Carried by the following vote:

AYES: Gatz, Jacob, Ardies, Walton, McGrail, Grimsley, Moore, Ambrose, Smith and Fendley

NAYES: None ABSENT: None

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm

Approval of Minutes:

Tim J. Gatz - Chairman