

Modal

OCTOBER 2024

Project Title:

Assessment of State Assets for AAM
Integration and Development of State
Workplan

Task Number: 4194

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Task Manager:

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Assessment of State Assets for AAM Integration and Development of State Workplan

The purpose of this study is to prepare a compressive summary of current state assets available to support the foundation of an aerial corridor transportation system and develop a three-year workplan to establish rules to achieve outcomes beneficial to state residents.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

The aviation sector has been undergoing a dramatic transformation in electrification and autonomous flight. A new generation of vertical/short take-off and landing (e-VTOL/e-STOL) aircraft will alter urban and regional aviation, providing new opportunities for passenger mobility, cargo and logistics, and emergency response. These new modes of transportation fall under the umbrella term of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM).

As a nationwide leader in aviation land use compatibility planning the Division of Aeronautics has a unique opportunity to continue that leadership as it explores the safe, sustainable, and equitable integration of AAM in its diverse "safe, accessible, low-carbon, 21st century multimodal transportation network."

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Caltrans is seeking to incorporate AAM into its vision for a safe, accessible, low carbon, 21st century multimodal transportation network. As such, Caltrans is looking to:

- Evaluate the readiness of the State's transportation multi-modal network to incorporate AAM in a safe, sustainable, and equitable manner. This will involve documenting current state assets that could serve as a foundation for an aerial corridor transportation system and future assets being developed by the federal government, other state agencies, and business partners. Such assets could include, but are not limited to:



DRISI provides solutions and knowledge that improves California's transportation system.

- Physical structures and facilities such as airports, roadways, heliports, and land
- Systems and communication networks such as those needed to support AAM flight operations; VTOL aircraft technologies developed by OEMs
- Information or resources such as federal and state policies and funding sources; and/or other state, regional, and local frameworks developed to prepare and support AAM implementation
- Develop a three-year work plan to advance AAM at a statewide level. Based on the results of the AAM readiness evaluation, establish a three-year work plan to advance AAM at a statewide level. The plan will help the State to coordinate, collaborate, and implement actions to achieve outcomes beneficial to State of California residents, including its aging, diverse, and equity-challenged communities, and those living throughout the state's diverse geography- from densely populated urban regions to remote areas challenged by terrain.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Caltrans is seeking to incorporate AAM into its vision for a safe, accessible, low carbon, 21st century multimodal transportation network.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

The FAA is including AAM and UAM as a priority in their planning efforts, which is organized around five areas of activity – aircraft, airspace, operations, infrastructure, and community. This has potential to forever change how people and goods move in California.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

June 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024

Task 1: Project Management

Goal/Objective:

The goal of project Management is to break the project into clear, manageable pieces. This will create more efficient work and facilitate the completion of the overall project.

Update:

- Meetings/Ongoing Communication with Agency Staff. Mead & Hunt's project manager participated in one teleconference with the Caltrans Management to discuss the status of various deliverables. Informal teleconferences were also conducted with the Caltrans Project Manager.
- Routine Contract Administration. Mead & Hunt's project manager conducted routine invoicing, budget management, and subconsultant coordination during the reporting period.

Task 6, Modal Facilities Selection

Goal/Objective:

The goal of this Task is to facilitate a discussion with the Caltrans Project Panel and other Caltrans staff (chosen by the Contract Manager) by applying the findings from previous Tasks, subject matter expertise, and available Caltrans data for Caltrans to designate specific transportation facilities as launch and land sites for those routes.

Update:

Mead & Hunt completed and sent the reports in for review on: 8/19/2024

The project Team presented this deliverable to the Project Panel on 8/29/2024.

Task 7, Transportation Infrastructure Methodology Toolbox and Analysis

Goal/Objective:

The goal of this Task is to use the deliverables from previous Tasks to develop a consistent methodology to assess the feasibility of the chosen locations

to incorporate AAM (including locations for new vertiports or vertipads not associated with multi-modal facilities).

Update:

Mead & Hunt completed and sent the reports in for review on: 8/19/2024

The project Team presented this deliverable to the Project Panel on 8/29/2024.

Task 8, AAM Highway Corridor Operations Study

Goal/Objective:

The goal of this deliverable is to provide a report with a broad understanding of and recommendations on the use of State Highways as AAM corridors.

Update:

Mead & Hunt completed and sent the reports in for review on: 8/19/2024

The project Team presented this deliverable to the Project Panel on 8/29/2024.

Phase 9: Final Report

Goal/Objective:

The goal of this deliverable is to provide a comprehensive report and slide presentation incorporating all previous deliverables.

Update:

The project team-initiated work on the Final Report/ Research Summary. The document was 50% complete at the close of the quarterly reporting period.

Phase 10: The infrastructure feasibility and readiness study and the 3-year prioritized workplan

Goal/Objective:

The Infrastructure Feasibility Study and Three-year AAM Work Plan (AAM Work Plan) will identify actionable items and provide a means to organize and identify responsibilities, actions, milestones, and overall progress toward readying the State of California for AAM implementation. The methodologies presented will be clear,

replicable, and scalable to consider the breadth of potential AAM facilities as either standalone facilities or as new components to enhance multimodal transportation facilities.

Update:

The project team-initiated text, illustrations, and process figures for incorporation in the AAM Work Plan. The plan will be completed during the next quarterly reporting period.

IMAGES

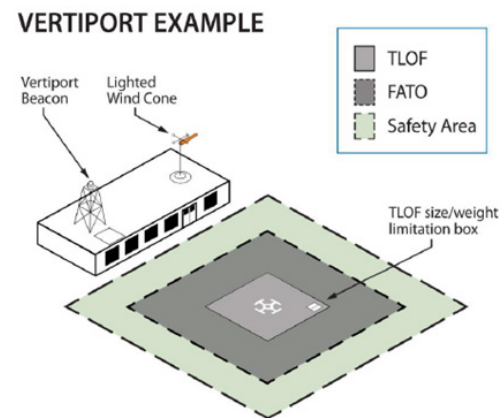


Image 1: Vertiport Example



Image 2: Conceptual AAM Parking and Charging Area