



Bentonville Municipal Airport
Airport Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 10, 2025, 3:00 pm
Bentonville City Hall – 305 SW “A” Street
Bentonville, AR 72712
(& VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)

Meeting Recording:

<https://zoom.us/rec/play/1pb4sWH31tHvXj550xPBosliQuNgUBDUZ5TKreO02wnTvVZUATJsDP-Yk24zfavatSeYUXYUANBuQJSh.SDFfillixu8LZE4lyb?autoplay=true>

Present: Dennis Cherry, Hayes Wade, Rachel Hobert (Zoom), Beckie Seba (Ex Officio)
Absent: Brian Baldwin (Out of the Country), Cara Osborne (Out of the State)
Others: Mark Slaughter, Beverly Shepherd – Admin, Chris Maestri (Garver), Ginny Lantz (Garver), Robin Fields (& Maverick), Aaron Kunze (Legends Air Center), MK McKinley, Tanner Martin (IT), Ellen Norvell, Deputy Director of Transportation, and Dan Weese – Transportation Director.

I. Call to Order, Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance – *Dennis Cherry, Board Member*
(Filling in for Chairman Brian Baldwin)

Dennis Cherry called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. He is filling in for Brian Baldwin, who is out of the country. Mr. Cherry led the room to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes:

- June 12, 2025

Hayes Wade made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2025, meeting as written. Rachel Hobert gave a second. Motion approved.

III. Geese Control Report – *Robin Fields and Maverick*

- Status Report

Robin Fields and Maverick appeared before the board. He said everything is going well at the airport. There are about a dozen young geese out there that walked over from the east of the airport from the pond. They are not flying yet, so he is not chasing them yet. When they do, Maverick will put pressure on them and move them out. The birds are molting right now so most of them are not flying much. In the last 30 days, no new birds have been seen that have moved in. Mr. Fields and Mark Slaughter have both received a few reports of coyotes around the airport. Maverick is in good shape, good health, and doing well.

IV. New Business:

A. Engineering and Construction Updates – *Chris Maestri – Garver USA*

- Current Airport Projects

Chris Maestri from Garver appeared before the board and gave an update on the current projects going on at the airport.

RUNWAY WIDENING (18-36) (FAA GRANTS)

This was supposed to be off the list, but he gave us an update on what is happening. Garver sent a fresh AIP22 (the second grant for this project) to the FAA. Garver has not gotten their concurrence on it yet,

which is why they left it on the list. Once Kathy from the FAA says we are good to go, they will give Mark Slaughter the draw-down information and then we will get all our grant funds from the FAA associated with that. We should have an ADA grant on this month's agenda for the match. Mark has not heard anything from Richard Mills, but he is going to check on that tomorrow. Mr. Maestri said that they have submitted a matching grant that will give us some additional funds for the first FAA grant, and then they will do the same thing for the second one once we get the FAA's okay with that closeout package.

VBT E TAXIWAY EXT (PHASE 2) (FAA GRANT)

There has been a lot of good progress despite the wet summer we've had so far. As of the last meeting, we have moved into a slightly different phasing plan where the south 600' of the runway has been closed for the last month or so, and they've finished construction on the little connector on the far south end up to the base level. We have not paved it yet, but they are going to do all the paving for the project at one time, as soon as all the base is done. The week after next is the target time for paving to be done and opening the runway.

VBT HANGAR ACCESS ROAD (ADA GRANT)

There is some pavement on the ground for the two goalposts, the east/west sections of the Access Road. The city is still working on their portion that runs from the existing Fieldhouse overflow parking down to the hangar areas, and their goal is to have their road paved up to the existing hangars this summer and then leave that portion of Access Road for the hangar developers. We won't pave all the city portion of the road until the hangar developments are at least done with the heavy construction and we don't damage that asphalt. Garver has July 31st as SyCon's scope to be closed out, and the grant closeout for December 31, 2025.

VBT EAST PARKING APRON (ADA GRANT)

There are no real changes to report or movement to the project. Garver and Mark Slaughter met with Runway Group a few weeks ago and talked about some of the opportunities that we may have with the Family Foundation grant funds that they had put together for this project. We were going to try to get three state grants, but they only allowed us to get one of the three. We are working with the Runway Group team for some flexibility to get the design started early. I have not heard anything else from Katie or her group since that meeting, but as soon as we know what we are able to use that grant funding for, they will get moving on the design. Aaron Kunze confirmed that they are waiting on a response right now. He also clarified that it is not from the Family Foundation side. It would go through Tom and Stuart Walton's personal grant funding.

VBT TAXIWAY A PAVEMENT REHABILITATION (ADA GRANT)

This is a project in which we have submitted an ADA grant application. Ideally, we will be on this month's agenda for their review and approval. As Mark Slaughter mentioned, we have not officially from them on that agenda to know exactly what projects made the list. That meeting is next Wednesday. If we are on that list, we will have some representation there for one or both of those grants. If it's on the agenda and it gets approved, we are showing an August 1, 2025, starting time for site investigation and design. As soon as we know the money is coming, Garver will give Mark Slaughter a Task Order, and we will get started. This project is for crack and seal and remarking. We hope to potentially get all this done this year if we can get a contractor on board before it starts cooling down.

B. Updates from the Field – *Legends Air Center*

- Status Report

Aaron Kunze appeared before the board. He said June was a good month for them. They pumped out over 28,000 gallons of Jet A and over 12,000 of 100 Low Lead. For the year, they are about 12% above where we were last year on Jet A and just 2% lower on Low Lead. Year to date, Jet A was just over 147,000 gallons and Low Lead was just over 71,500 gallons. They did sign an agreement with Titan to

continue to be the provider of fuel for the next three years. They were also able to exchange out the 2500-gallon tanker for a 5000-gallon tanker. They delivered that a couple of weeks ago and it is operating now. We are continuing to look for more ways to drive more business, as it pertains to the fuel side. This should generate more revenue for them and the city as well. They estimated that they lost 9 days of flying time primarily due to weather. Students are at 60 for the year, and there were 9 new students in June. We also completed three check rides and have two so far for July. We had 3 private pilots, one instrument rating, and one CFII.

C. City of Bentonville Updates – Mark Slaughter, Airport Manager

- Solicitation of Requests for Proposals

The deadline for RFP's was last Thursday, July 3. We are going to have a Selection Committee meet online. Cara Osborne, Mark Slaughter are on the Committee, along with Jarrod Brightwell who is the City Engineer, Tom Adler from Planning, and Ashley Long from Finance. After the committee makes their selection, then we can start talking about good things.

- Neighborhood One

Mark finally got everything that all the banks want signed, notarized, sealed, and delivered. There is a kick-off meeting tomorrow to talk about the way forward from here. They will start digging in the dirt soon.

- 1200.aero

Mark left 1200.aero on his list because he found out, after I asked Steve Johnson, the IT for Legends and is also an instructor, etc. He already has an antenna on the roof of the Fieldhouse that is tracking ADSP data, and he is doing exactly what 1200.aero is doing, except that it is different. He is not ready for primetime. He wants another month and then he will share what it is going to look like. I put 1200.aero on hold until Mr. Johnson has an opportunity to show what his program has. He has showed Mark Slaughter and he says that it looks "pretty cool". More information on this later.

- Replacing the AWOS and Siting (Mesotech)

After looking at the airport, where they wanted to site a new AWOS is exactly where we want to put the East side parking apron. That doesn't do us any good. Mark is working to get in touch with the FAA guy for this area who is in charge of siting anything FAA-owned at an airport. He said it looks like we are going to have to leave the AWOS and RTR where they are. If we can pave around it, how close can we park aircraft to those two structures? There is some concern about jet wash and prop wash affecting the anemometer on the AWOS that measures the wind speed. There are rules, so he is trying to work through them. If we can pave around the current AWOS and RTR, then we can still park airplanes around there, so we gain more parking space. Mark said we might have to adjust what the west side is going to look like. We might instead of planning hangars for there, we plan parking there. There was more discussion.

V. Other Business:

A. Projects and Priorities – Dennis Cherry, Vice-Chairman

- Plan Bentonville Meeting, Thursday, July 17, 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm – Bentonville Public Library

Mark received an invitation, and he will be attending this meeting.

VI. Closing:

A. Next AAB Meeting Schedule

- Proposed Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, August 14, 2025, 3:00 pm
Location: City Hall – Council Chambers – 305 SW "A" Street, Bentonville, AR

The proposed date and time were agreed upon by the board members.

B. Motion to Adjourn:

Hayes Wade made a motion to adjourn. Rachel gave a second to the motion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned.

Duration: 29 Minutes

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