

Agency of Commerce and Community Development

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To: Communities who host State-owned airports, Regional Development Corporations, Businesses, Fixed Base Operators, Pilots, Aviation Advisory Council, and other airport or aviation stakeholders

From: Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development

Re: Airport/Aviation Economic Development

Date: October 9, 2018

As many of you know, after working with the legislature and the Governor during the last legislative session, the Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD) in partnership with the Agency of Transportation are working to update the comprehensive statewide economic development strategy to include State owned airports (and consider other aviation and airport assets in Vermont). To that end, we are engaging stakeholders to develop a section of the economic development plan that dovetails in the VTrans Aviation Systems Plan. A short list of the areas we are considering includes but is not limited to:

- Pilot, crew, or aircraft airframe and power plant (A&P) training
- Aviation and aerospace business development or emerging technologies
- Event-based economic development / tourism and aviation
- FBO business support / expansion including maintenance, repair and overhaul / A&P service expansion

This list should not be interpreted to be exhaustive or restricted, only an initial list of areas for exploration.

At this stage we are interested in your thoughts and ideas about how our airports and aviation-related businesses could grow, attract other businesses and economic opportunities, bolster good paying jobs, align with their surrounding communities, and any other ideas. We are interested in feedback on existing challenges and opportunities as well as specific suggestions of strategies to explore.

- A. Details of challenges and opportunities (e.g. there are XX number of people or aircraft on a waiting list for hangar space, or there is demand for general aviation maintenance at XX location).
- B. General suggestions (e.g. develop and market more events at State airports) to specific ones (e.g. build at least X number of additional hangars at XX airport).
- C. Any specific suggestions or ideas related to the “feasibility of:
 1. the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at the airport;
 2. the installation of electric aircraft charging stations at the airport; and
 3. the siting of one or more renewable energy generating plants at the airports.

Feedback may be provided in a variety of ways including but not limited to:

- A. Directly to VTrans staff during Aviation Systems Plan meetings held around the State in October. The calendar for these meetings is available at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/aviation/vermont-airport-system-plan>
- B. To ACCD staff at the meetings noted above or during additional, ad hoc, meetings to be scheduled in October and November or via email to ACCD by emailing the Secretary directly at michael.schirling@vermont.gov

