



MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, May 5, 2025  
3:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Wichita Airport Advisory Board (WAAB) was held in the Administration Building Board Room, 2173 Air Cargo Road and via a virtual format.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Present in Person: Vice Chair Randy Frazer, Marco Alcocer, Tim Bonnell, Jerome Cottner, Cathy McClain, Brian Rohloff

Present Virtually: Victoria Carro, Alicia Sanchez, Scott Stiles

**STAFF PRESENT**

Present in Person: Jesse Romo, Jill Darge, Nate Hinkel, Scott Loesch, Darlene Morris, John Oswald, Steve Smart, Jean Zoglman.

Present Virtually: Kevin Reiser

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Darge took roll call. Vice Chair Frazer called the meeting to order once a quorum was established.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Frazer requested approval of the April 7, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion was made by McClain and seconded by Bonnell; motion passed unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Introduction of New Board Member
  - Brian Rohloff was introduced as a new board member.
  - He currently works across the ramp at Textron Aviation.
  - A native of the Wichita area, he went to school at Wichita State University (WSU).
  - He resides in Cheney, Kansas.
- Projects
  - Oswald gave an update on current projects
  - Airfield Pavement Project: Going out for re-bid soon. The previous bids came in over budget and were rejected. The project has been rescoped with the most critical items.
  - Terminal Modifications Project: Will be advertised next week.
  - Jabara East Side Hangar Project: Airfield pavement is complete; shortened runway is progressing ahead of schedule.
  - WSU Tech Paving Project: Completed alongside the other airfield improvements.

- Air Service
  - Romo gave an update on Air Service
  - Wise is attending an Air Service Development conference.
  - National shortage of air traffic controllers has caused airlines to react.
  - United Airlines cut flights in/out of New York which will impact our efforts to gain service to that market.
  - Wichita's own March 2025 saw a record 71,732 departing passengers (3.28% growth vs. March 2024).
- Staffing
  - Romo gave an update on current job postings
  - Hiring for an Equipment Operator III, supervisor soon.
  - Recent hires: electrical supervisor, one mechanic.
  - Retirement-driven succession planning is active this year.
- Terminal 10-Year Anniversary
  - June 3, 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the terminal.
  - June 4 will host a public commemoration in the mezzanine area.
  - Historical pictures will be displayed.
  - Renderings from Stantec for terminal redesign will be showcased.
  - Special guest former Congressman Todd Tiahrt will speak about a donated Eisenhower statue, to be installed similarly to the existing 9/11 exhibit.
- Orientation & Onboarding for Board Members
  - Efforts are underway to formalize orientation for new board members.
  - Includes bylaws, conflict of interest statements, org charts, and bios.
  - A request was made for board members to review and provide feedback.
  - This package is 90% complete and will be distributed soon.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

- Loesch gave a presentation on Airfield Grounds & Fleet. A copy of the presentation is attached.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- \$32 million in investment at Jabara Airport and \$1.2 million at Eisenhower will be included in agenda reports over two weeks.
- Includes a lease agreement with WSU Tech, aligned with previous grants from the Kansas Department of Commerce.
- A \$7 million Clemens investment is also planned.
- Discussion on air traffic control tower at Jabara
  - Jabara Airport currently operates without a control tower.
  - Most recent planning study projected eligibility for a tower in 2090, using standard FAA methodology.
  - There are essentially just two options for airports to pursue a tower, if they want one:

1. FAA-built tower – requires sufficient operations, which aren't projected to occur any time soon.
  2. Locally-built and paid for, FAA-contracted tower – costly and less viable. And only after a cost-benefit analysis is performed under FAA rules, among many other steps that usually takes about seven years to process.
- Alternatives exist and new ones are emerging like technology and procedural improvements that may be able to accomplish the goal more efficiently than a tower. At this point, WAA staff does not support pursuing a tower until alternatives are explored and exhausted.
  - Recap of the scope of the Terminal Modifications project was provided.
  - Discussion on Real ID
    - Upcoming Real ID deadline (May 7, 2025).
    - Concerns over delays, verification confusion, and DMV congestion.
    - Speculation about effects on TSA lines and checkpoint bottlenecks.

The next regular Wichita Airport Advisory Board meeting is scheduled to be held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2025.