

# State Airport System Plan Update

## Public Meeting

Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Lyndon Town Office

Introductions – Dan Delabruere, Michele Boomhower (economic development) - VTrans

Power Point Presentation – Costa Pappis (VTrans)

Questions/Comments:

- What kind of a dedicated aviation program under Title 5 are we running on? Why isn't Aviation on it's own as a separate entity under the umbrella of the Agency, similar to the Highway Division?
- Will there be an economic development analysis completed any time soon? The last one was in 2002. Cost explained that an update to the 2002 study is part of this project.
- If the recommendation comes out that the Caledonia airport will be a Category 3 airport, then would there be a 24 hour rotating beacon? Dan explained that its possible, depending on the characteristics of development of the airport.
- Are we in compliance with everything that is required in the grant agreements? Dan noted that he is unaware of any compliance issues with grant agreements.
- What happened in Newport with the runway extension – there was a displaced threshold – why did the project proceed?
- Does the former director have anything to do with the program now – in a consulting capacity?
- Thanks for having the rotating beacon activated by the pilots, versus having it run all the time on a 24 hour basis – are there plans to change this, are there plans to have red lit beacon lights going forward? Dan explained that on the north end of the runway, the hill is very close to being within the flight path. There is an obstructions study underway to determine if there will need to be a red light to address that obstruction. Costa outlined that the Airport Master Plan update process dives into the details of the needs and assessments for each airport, these detailed elements are addressed more specifically in the Master Plan update process.
- The development of the Statewide System Plan compliments the National System Plan.
- What is the status of the Airport Master Plans, statewide? Dan explained that we are in compliance with the FAA on these currently. We are working on Morrisville/Stowe and Franklin Airports Master Plans. We will be undertaking an Narrative update to the Caledonia Airport Layout Plan as part of our current Obstructions Study.
- Light and noise pollution will likely continue to be the major concerns of the community.
- Can we get a coffee shop at the airport?
- Are there any plans to change the access road to the airport? Dan explained that Pudding Hill Road is a town road so we would not make investments in that road.
- Janice – as a member of the Aviation Council is willing to be a point of contact in this process to give folks someone to talk with locally.

- Are there Airport Advisory Committees? Michele explained that many airports have them, some airports had them but they have fallen off. The Agency supports the formation of these Committees and is willing to have staff participate in these meetings.
- What other programs are we undertaking under Title 5? We are required to promote Aviation statewide. Dan explained that Chris Raymond is the educational outreach coordinator for the State, we are working with the FAA to secure more resources from the FAA (they have no funding), and Vermont Technical College has a program.
- VTrans should be working with the Agency of Education to implement education programs at State schools. Instituting aviation related subjects into schools helps cross modal learning opportunities.
- VTrans works with Civil Air Patrol and EAA chapters for youth flight events.
- VTrans is working on a program to provide funding on a competitive basis to provide fuel to pilots who offer youth camps.
- Agree that there is a need to focus on kids. My husband and I taught an after school program in aviation. St. J. Academy has had a ground school in the past – it has not taken hold. Something in high schools would be good to compliment the Vermont Tech program.
- Need to work with the schools individually in the areas where there are airports.
- Perhaps pilots could assist in reaching out for these programs at schools.
- Mr. Wheeler ran a program at the Lyndon Institute to run the FAA Ground School Course, and he gave each of the students two hours in the air – the interest is there.
- Is the Plan slated for completion by Spring 2019? Costa explained that's the target completion timeline, although we can take longer if need be. When a draft of the Plan is developed, it will be circulated for public input.
- EAA Chapter at Caledonia sent a child to OSKOSH camp because of the Young Eagles Program, which were flown throughout the year. Franklin did not have anyone to send so they sponsored another Caledonia student. Caledonia did three fly ins over the past year.
- It is the State's responsibility to undertake education and outreach under Title 5.
- Marketing is the weakest point for State airports – many folks in the community don't even know there is an airport in their community. When there is a fly in event for kids, everyone should be aware. Caledonia has an open house for the community each June – more could be done to support bringing the community to the airport and let them know what is available.
- Could VTrans host a Facebook Page for each Airport?
- When the last economic development study was completed for the airports there was very little publicity regarding the impact of aviation.
- Are drones a threat to aviation? Dan noted that they can be if rules and regulations are not followed.
- A drone speaker came to the EAA chapter in Caledonia – he demonstrated them on the ground. The pilot would not fly those drones because he was at the airport.