



**OCTOBER 31, 2008
AVIATION SUMMIT**

A WORK IN PROGRESS!



BIRD'S NEST AIRPORT

TEXAS AVIATION ASSOCIATION SUMMIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Texas Aviation Association conducted the Texas General Aviation Summit on October 31, 2008 with the help of its sponsors, AOPA, NBAA, TxDOT Aviation Division and the Texas Governor's office of Aviation and Space Foundation. The objective of the first Texas General Aviation Summit was to identify critical issues facing General Aviation activities in Texas and be a forum to prioritize and discuss approaches for addressing these issues.

Speakers included Dave Fulton, Director TXDOT Aviation Division, Ken Armbrister, the Governor's Legislative Coordinator, Jim Schwertner, Texas Aviation Advisory Committee Chairman and Emma Browning a Texas aviation legend. Dave Fulton's spoke on "The Role of State Government in Texas General Aviation". Ken Armbrister provided insight into approaches to increase public awareness to aviation issues. Jim Schwertner and Emma Browning highlighted the need to have better management and operation of Texas airports.

Representatives from AOPA, NBAA, TXDOT Aviation, FAA and the Office of the Governor – Aviation Development held a lively panel discussion on General Aviation issues.

During the afternoon session the summit attendees were divided into ten different groups to address the issues that needed to be addressed to support the development of General Aviation in Texas. These groups selected three to five issues that they considered most important, prioritized these issues and offered suggestions on how best to address them to support the future of General Aviation through out the state.

Identification of the issues and development of the initiatives was the primary objective of the 2008 summit. To this end the summit was an outstanding success in that the group attending was able to identify the issues, rank them in order of importance and provide the basis for generation of four initiatives in one session. These initiatives, called **GAP-T** are;

- **GOVERNMENT/REGULATORY INITIATIVE,**
- **AIRPORT FACILITY INITIATIVE,**
- **PBUBLIC RELATIONS INITIATIVE, and**
- **TRAINING/PROFICIENCY-EDUCATION INITIATIVE.**

This sets the stage for the formation of the committees to address these initiatives and make a major difference in the future of General Aviation in Texas.

INTRODUCTION

The Texas Aviation Association conducted the Texas General Aviation Summit on October 31, 2008 with the help of its sponsors, AOPA, NBAA, TxDOT Aviation Division and the Texas Governor's office of Aviation and Space Foundation. The objective of the first Texas General Aviation Summit was to identify critical issues facing General Aviation activities in Texas and be a forum to prioritize and discuss approaches for addressing these issues.

The TXAA leadership decided to limit the attendance to the summit to approximately fifty individuals representing a cross section of Texas General Aviation. TXAA found an overwhelming response from those invited to participate in the summit. These individuals representing over twenty different organization provided TXAA with their top three General Aviation issues and their views on these issues prior to the summit.

The summit was opened with a welcome from Jay Carpenter, the past president and the current secretary of the TXAA. Jay provided an overview and the objective of the summit and the work that was to be accomplished during the afternoon session. He then introduced Dan Sullivan as the moderator for the summit who was to help guide the sessions though out the day's activities.

Dave Fulton, Director TXDOT Aviation Division addressed The Role of State Government in Texas General Aviation. He provided an overview of the many airport facility development programs that they had sponsored over the last ten years and the challenges that must be met over the next several years. One could only be impressed with the number of General Aviation terminal buildings that has been built along with many other improvements across the state during the last ten years as a result of the efforts by TXDOT Aviation Division and local government entities.

Ken Armbrister, the Governor's Legislative Coordinator addressed upcoming Texas Legislature issues and provided insight into approaches to bring public awareness to aviation issues.

During lunch Jim Schwertner, Texas Aviation Advisory Committee Chairman and Emma Browning, a 96 year old general aviation legend, offered comments on the need for better management and operation of Texas airports.

Following lunch a lively panel discussion was held by aviation industry leaders,

Shelly deZevallos, AOPA Southwestern Region Representative,
Steve Hadley, NBAA Southwestern Region Representative,
Dave Fulton, Director of TxDOT Aviation Division,
Mike Nicely, Manager – Texas Airport Development Office, FAA, and
Larry Silvey, Manager, Aviation Development, Office of the Governor.

The panel discussed the aviation issues addressed by Emma Browning along with others issues submitted by summit attendees. The morning speakers and the panel discussion set the stage for the afternoon workshop.

The summit attendees were divided into ten different groups to address the issues submitted prior to the summit and those identified during the morning sessions. Each group selected three to five issues, ranked them according to urgency and impact to general aviation, and then provided their best thoughts on how best to address these issues along, who should take the lead in addressing them and the time frame in which they should be worked. The Issues/Initiatives table in this report is a summary of the inputs received from the groups.

OVERVIEW

The results of the General Aviation summit are covered in this report. The issues and initiatives are presented in the table on the following two pages. The critical issues identified during the summit are as follows.

- TSA-NPRM
- General Aviation Security
- Airport Facility Development
- Urban Encroachment
- General Aviation Public Relations
- FAA Reauthorization
- Texas Aviation Funding
- Aviation Workforce
- Aviation Fuel
- Safety
- Education

These critical issues are categorized in the table as Red, Yellow, or Green according to the perceived criticality of the impact on General Aviation and the timing associated with the issue on the following two pages.

TXAA SUMMIT ISSUES

Critical Issue	What	How & Who	When
TSA-NPRM	Proposed rule making for a/c >12,500 lbs.	Grass roots effort by TXAA, NBAA, AOPA, NATA, and AAAE to contact their congressman and to promote aviation reps in the leadership of TSA.	ASAP and over next 6 months.
GA Security			
Airport Facility Development	Public and Private Public Use airport improvements and maintenance, new airports and hangers.	More state and local funding, minimum standards promoted by TXDOT-Aviation Department, and elimination of airport closures by providing incentives and protection. TXAA and AOPA promote state legislative initiatives for funding and protection of airports.	Near/Long-Term.
Urban Encroachment			
General Aviation Public Relations	Obtaining public understanding and acceptance of General Aviation	Steering committee at the state level to develop a public relations campaign for media use. TXAA & TDOT-Aviation Department.	Near/Long Term
FAA Reauthorization	Govt. control, users fees, airline interest.	Alliances between all groups across the U.S. – AOPA, NBAA, TXAA, ect.	2009
Texas Aviation Funding	Redirection of sales tax on aviation related product from general fund to dedicated airport development fund administered by TXDOT-Aviation Department.	Texas State Legislative Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Jose Flores & John Happ b) TXAA, TAC regional group and individuals with TXAA leadership. 	2009 - 2010

Critical Issue	What	How & Who	When
Aviation Workforce Deficit	Lack of new people entering the aviation workforce.	Promote STEM at the early education levels; i.e., Noel Foundation. TXAA scholarship program from middle school through college. TX Workforce commission, community colleges and colleges.	On going over the next 6-10 years.
Aviation Fuel	Availability and/or Replacement of 100 LL.	Determine current supply chain availability and work with legislative bodies to have 93 octane available without ethanol.	Next 2 years.
Safety	Adopt safety culture in individual flight operations.	Development of safety day(s) by FAAST, Flight Schools and regional groups.	Next 2 years.
Education	Quality of teachers, CFI's and entry of young people into aviation.	Improve flight training of pilots and potential CFI's. Aviation and flight training schools improvements with FAAST, TX Department of Education and HAFI involvement.	On going over the next 20 years.

AAAE – American Association of Airport Executives

HAFT – Houston Area Flight Instructors

NATA – National Air Transportation Association

TAC – Texas Airports Council, (formerly Texas Airport Managers Association)

TXAA – Texas Aviation Association

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

These critical issues support four major initiatives that can address these areas. The emerging initiatives are covered in the following section.

INITIATIVES - OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND TACTICS GAP-T

This section of the Texas General Aviation Summit report provides the objective, strategy and tactics for the four emerging initiatives, **GAP-T**;

- **GOVERNMENT/REGULATORY INITIATIVE,**
- **AIRPORT FACILITY INITIATIVE,**
- **PBUBLIC RELATIONS INITIATIVE, and**
- **TRAINING/PROFICIENCY-EDUCATION INITIATIVE.**

Identification of the issues and development of the initiatives was the primary objective of the 2008 summit. To this end the summit was an outstanding success in that the group attending was able to identify the issues, rank them in order of importance and provide the basis for generation of these four initiatives in one session. This sets the stage for the formation of the committees to address these initiatives and make a major difference in the future of General Aviation in Texas.

GOVERNMENT/REGULATORY INITIATIVE

OBJECTIVE

Develop a campaign to alert the TXAA membership of new and pending government regulatory actions with respect to Transportation Security Administration proposed rule making and FAA funding reauthorization.

STRATEGY

Engage the TXAA membership to be aware of government regulator actions and potential impact on their ability to have the freedom to fly in the national airspace and take action to prevent restriction of General Aviation operations.

TACTICS

- **TXAA to identify issues through position papers and brochures distributed via email, e-news publication and direct mail.**
- **TXAA to speak before civic groups and other aviation groups to make them aware of the issues and actions that they can take to fight government regulatory actions.**
- **Urge TXAA member to support AOPA and NBAA initiatives.**
- **Contact State and Congressional Representatives to make them aware of the TXAA membership position on regulatory action(s) based on membership surveys.**

AIRPORT FACILITY INITIATIVE

OBJECTIVE

Develop a strategy and plan that protects existing airports, facilities and infrastructure and facilitates the development of new airports.

STRATEGY

Create a committee consisting of existing stake holders to develop a plan of action to address the threats against existing airports, their facilities and infrastructure. Also, address the barriers for the development of future airports, their facilities.

TACTICS

- **Identify potential stake holders and committee members.**
- **Recruit interested individuals from the aviation community; include local and state individuals interested in the economic development of their area.**
- **Identify current regulations and rules currently in place that could be used to protect existing airports.**
- **Include the use of 100LL fuel as part of this initiative as a sub-group activity under infrastructure.**
- **Include Texas Aviation Funding with the redirection of sales tax on aviation related product from the general fund to dedicated airport development fund administered by TXDOT-Aviation Department as a part of this initiative.**

GENERAL AVIATION PUBLIC RELATIONS INITIATIVE

OBJECTIVE

Increase public understanding and acceptance of General Aviation as a major impact to state and local economic development.

STRATEGY

Form steering committee made up from TXAA, AOPA and NBAA leadership to work with TXDOT – Aviation staff to develop a public relations campaign to increase the awareness of the general public as to the benefits of General Aviation in Texas.

TACTICS

- **Form steering committee made up of TXAA, AOPA and NBAA leadership.**
- **Gain support of individuals/firms with public relations experience.**
- **Develop the General Aviation Message and supporting material.**
- **Work with TXDOT – Aviation staff to develop a state wide public relations campaign with special emphasis on state/local airport facility development activities and economic development impact at the local level.**
- **Inform state and local representatives on the benefits of General Aviation and the need for their support.**

TRAINING/PROFICIENCY-EDUCATION INITIATIVE

OBJECTIVE

Promote the development of state training and education programs matched to the General Aviation workforce needs.

STRATEGY

Create a Texas task force to identify the future General Aviation workforce needs for airport management and operation, General Aviation aircraft and avionics maintenance, and flight instruction.

TACTICS

- **Generate a five year forecast for airport management and operation, aircraft and avionics maintenance and flight instruction in Texas.**
- **Identify training organizations, facilities and curriculum that currently exist in Texas.**
- **Develop a Training and Education Promotional Program that identifies opportunities and educational facilities available to the potential workforce candidates.**
- **Develop a scholarship program supported by potential employers and managed by TXDOT – Aviation Division.**

SUMMARY

These four initiatives that emerged from the first Texas Aviation General Aviation Summit were reviewed at the annual TXAA membership meeting, January 2009 for adoption by the organization and formation of committees to address each of these areas.

A number of volunteers came fourth at that meeting to help start the formation of these committees. The TXAA leadership team will focus on recruitment activities necessary to form the four committees that will take on the responsibility for the development and execution of these four initiatives with the first meeting of the committees to occur in May during the 2009 TXDOT Aviation Conference.

The appendix provides a listing of the summit attendees. Without their attendance at the summit and their efforts during the afternoon workshop these issues and initiatives would not have been identified. TXAA would like to thank and recognize each and every participant for their contribution in helping to generate one voice for General Aviation development in Texas.

**APPENDIX
TXAA GENERAL AVIATION SUMMIT
OCTOBER 31, 2008
ATTENDIES**

Summit	Attendees	Title	Org. Name
Sen. Ken	Armbrister	Legislative Affairs Coordinator	Office of the Governor
Jeff	Borowiec	Associate Research Scientist	Texas Transportation Institute at TAMU
Thomas	Branon	Assistant Director	Midland College
Jay	Carpenter	Secretary	TXAA
Harry	Cook		
Jim	Craig		Birds Nest Airport
Victoria	Croston		Women In Aviation International
Shelly	deZevallos	Regional Representative	AOPA
Dave	Fulton	Director	TxDOT Aviation Division
Cynthia	Godfrey	Airport Director	Mesquite Metro Airport
Bill	Gunn	Safety Director	TxDOT Aviation
Steve	Hadley	SW Regional Representative	NBAA
Herb	Hagler	SPA SW Regional Rep.	Seaplane Pilots Association
John	Happ	2nd VP	Texas Airports Council
Ron	Henriksen	Owner	Houston Exec & Austin Birds Nest
Robert	Huber	Owner	Aero Estates LP
Ken	Koock	Past President	TXAA
Caro	Maitland		GHAFI
Jeanna	Maughan	Director, Airport Development	TSTC Waco
Ed	Mayle	Sr. Project Advisor	KSA Engineers Inc.
Bob	Nelesen		KSA Engineers Inc.
Mike	Nicely	Manager, TX Airport	Federal Aviation Administration
Pat	Nowotny		Texas First State Bank
Mark	Pierce	Associate	Slack and Davis
Tara	Pousson		
Pam	Price	Airport Project Manager	TSTC Waco
Dr. Harold	Rafuse	Managing Director	ACT I
Jim	Rank	Treasurer	TXAA
Gene	Robinson	Board Member	TXAA
Jim	Schwertner	Chairman	TX Aviation Advisory Commission

Bobbye	Scott	Aviation Manager	HH Aviation, San Antonio
Summit	Attendees	Title	Org. Name
Stan	Shannon	President	EAA Chapter 1088
Larry	Silvey	Manager	Governor's Office of Aerospace
Paul	Smith	Board Member	TXAA
Bill	Snead	Associate Member	Soaring Society of America
Dan	Sullivan	CEO	Image Trends, Inc
Dr. Stephen	Swartz	Assistant Professor of Marketing	University of North Texas
Patty	Taylor		99's
Beatrice	Valdez		
John	Van Paasschen	Flight Instructor	GHAFI
Sherry	Walker		99's
Norris	Warner		
Conrad	Werkenthin	Board Member	TXAA
Rachel	Wiggins	Principal Transportation Planner	North Central Texas Council of Governments
Richard	Wilson	President	GHAFI