

## **November 2023–Advanced Air Mobility Update**

### **Senate Bill 161 Update**

In the 2023 General Session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 161, Advanced Air Mobility Revisions. The legislation requires the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to report its progress regarding the study of a number of items related to advanced air mobility (AAM), including:

- vertiport locations and infrastructure;
- implementation strategies of advanced air mobility technologies;
- unmanned traffic management infrastructure; and
- the creation of an advanced air mobility sandbox.

Through the work of UDOT's Division of Aeronautics, UDOT has hired two consultants to facilitate completing studies of the required items. Both studies will be completed in the summer of 2024.

The first study, regarding vertiports, is underway and was awarded to Utah State University. USU has initially provided geospatial data related to potential vertiport locations in the state and will examine using underutilized parking lots, parking structures, and park and ride lots for vertiports.

The second study, titled the Advanced Air Mobility Technology Integration Study, will utilize a number of industry experts and a Division of Aeronautics Technical Advisory Committee to examine, among other things:

- the requirements of a successful unmanned aircraft systems traffic management system, including an unmanned aircraft systems service supplier;
- how flight information can be integrated into an uncrewed traffic management system;
- understanding available technology for microweather reporting for unmanned aircraft systems operations; and
- the creation of a public community outreach program.

UDOT's Division of Aeronautics has also assembled and begun meeting with focus groups to study Electrical Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) companies, city and state AAM planning, air traffic control for AAM, and drone operations.

### **Senate Bill 24 Update**

In the 2023 General Session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 24, Advanced Air Mobility Amendments, which requires UDOT to make rules regarding registration fees for unmanned aircraft systems. Accordingly, UDOT has prepared a draft of R914.5, Advanced Air Mobility Aircraft Registration, that will be presented to the Transportation Commission later this week and will then be sent to the Office of Administrative Rules to go through the formal public comment and approval process.