

GOVERNOR'S AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD

MAY 22, 2003

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Meeting summary

CHAIRMAN: Welcomed all members and attendees.

COMMISSIONER BARTON: Thanked members of Commission for serving. Addressed reasons for formation. Wants commission to provide advice on policies and specific issues.

MR. JACOBSEN, MR. LANDIS, MR. KNUDSON, MR. KLAES, MR. DODSON, MR. SALAZAR, MR. O'BRIEN, MR. PLUMB, MR. FIORENZI, MR. MAGGARD, MR. RANDY ROGERS, MR. TOM GEORGE, MR. RANDY ACORD, and MR. DAVE CARLSTROM were also present.

MR. KNUDSON: Pledged to get board packets to commissioners prior to meeting. Also wants commission to advise on policy, and to serve as advocates for department policy. Wants the commission to be involved in the long-term enhancements to aviation system.

CHAIRMAN: Urged members to review draft charter so that it can be adopted at next meeting.

CHAIRMAN: Plan on a minimum of quarterly meetings. Ad hoc meetings may be called. Chair selects Vice-chair.

MR. KNUDSON: Reviewed organizational structure at DoT. Outlined areas where aviation program is delivered. Referred to charts in packet. Indicated that leasing program is still reporting to regional directors, and that structure seems to work well for the time being.

CHAIRMAN: Must address in future meetings the role of leasing and Title 17 in airport development.

MR. KLAES: Agreed on the importance of reviewing Title 17.

MR. DODSON: Urged the Commissioner to build a focus within aviation programs.

MR. KNUDSON: Summarized that the new Title 17 is untested as to airport development.

MR. JACOBSEN: Inquired about a staff seminar on Title 17 on June 3. All commissioners are welcome to attend.

COMMISSIONER BARTON: Governor wanted focus by mode, and policy level reorganization will achieve that. Regional structure is currently delivering the program adequately.

CHAIRMAN: Noted that the aviation and marine highway interest groups really wanted a policy focus, but did not make recommendations any deeper in the organization.

MR. LANDIS: Agreed that current policy reorganization was a positive step.

MR. KNUDSON: Summarized the structure of the international airport system and operating agreement.

CHAIRMAN: Inquired as to the changes in the most recent operating agreement regarding fees.

MR. KNUDSON: Relayed that the new agreement tried to keep revenue flows more in line with cost centers. Fees are identical at FAI and ANC, and the agreement remains a residual arrangement, with any shortfalls being made up by landing fees.

MR. O'BRIEN: Inquired about sound insulation funds.

MR. PLUMB: Answered that that program is 97 percent AIP dollars.

MR. O'BRIEN: Asked for clarification on the landing fees.

MR. JACOBSEN: Reminded that the operating agreement gives the signatories more say in the operating and capital program at the international airports.

MR. O'BRIEN: Assumed that the signatories would be upset at recent fee increases.

MR. KNUDSON: Agreed that most are concerned about cost increased in the ANC terminal program, but were satisfied with the response made by the Department.

MR. LANDIS: Noted that one concern among signatories is fee swings between fee setting periods.

MR. FIORENZI: Gave an overview of the Fairbanks International Airport and focused on the five year capital program specific to FAI. He also gave a tentative plan for terminal redevelopment at FAI.

MR. LYTHGOE: Joined the meeting.

MR. PLUMB: Gave an overview of the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. He addressed the mix of business at the airport, as well as the general aviation facilities.

MR. LANDIS: Took exception to the cost comparisons made between ANC and other airports.

MR. PLUMB: Added that the cost comparisons were made for marketing presentations to airlines using those airports.

CHAIRMAN: Noted that widebody traffic in ANC has provided a great business model for the international system.

MR. JACOBSEN: Noted that JNU does not benefit from that business model.

MR. SALAZAR: Concurred and noted that KTN is in the same boat.

MR. MAGGARD: Presented an overview of the rural system

MR. CHAIRMAN: Asked about the impact of TSA

MR. MAGGARD: Noted that the primary impact has been a reduction in discretionary funds available to the rural system.

MR. SALAZAR: Asked about the State's assistance to local sponsors in matching AIP dollars.

MR. MAGGARD: Stated that the State provides 50 percent of the sponsor match, so it would be 50 percent of 6.25 percent

MR. LANDIS: Asked about the status of an NPRM on Part 139 requirements being applied to aircraft with 10 or more seats, and urged the Department of Transportation to follow that NPRM.

MR. KLAES: Raised the issue that communities need to be involved in the rural airport program. He feels that the bureaucracy often overlooks the needs and desires of community interest.

MR. KNUDSON: Highlighted the list of 63 communities that cannot accommodate 24 hour medevac and summarized the joint goal of the FAA and DoT to provide that facility.

MR. GEORGE: Summarized the role of general aviation interest groups, in particular the AOPA.

MR. SALAZAR: Mentioned that communities such as KTN cannot afford to run their own airports.

CHAIRMAN: Noted that the Governor is interested in communities taking responsibility for their own airports.

CHAIRMAN: Asked for the opinion of the commissioners as to which topics to address.

MR. DODSON: Thought that quarterly meetings would not be sufficient at the beginning of the Commission's work.

MR. SALAZAR: Warned against getting into specific issues such as terminal projects.

MR. KLAES: Requested that more information be provided up front so that members can be better prepared.

MR. JACOBSEN: Agreed that more meetings would be necessary in the beginning.

MR. KLAES: Indicated that Title 17 should be a topic for the Commission to address, stating that it does not work well.

MR O'BRIEN: Thought that the Commission should address airport authorities.

CHAIRMAN: Concurred.

MR. LYTHGOE: Thought that the specific issue on authorities would be directed and ANC.

CHAIRMAN: Noted that previous working groups have addressed airport authorities in ANC and FAI.

MR. DODSON: Concurred that airport authorities should be addressed.

MR. JACOBSEN: Raised the issue of the federal sement fee.

CHAIRMAN: Commented that this issue might be better addressed by other interest groups.

MR. LANDIS: Concurred and noted that the signatory group takes positions on specific issues like terminal development.

MR. LANDIS: Suggested that the TSA directors be invited to a future meeting.

MR. SALAZAR: Agreed.

MR. KLAES: Urged discussion on joint management arrangements between communities and the State on airports.

MR. SALAZAR: Agreed.

MR. LYTHGOE: Recommended that the commission examine which management alternatives are best for all airports.

MR. DODSON: Thought that the authority issue would be controversial, but that the commission had to address it.

MR. LYTHGOE: Urged the use of staff that could assist in the commissions examination of authorities.

MR. KLAES: Cautioned that rural airports not be left out of the authority discussion.

CHAIRMAN: Summarized that the commission identified airport authorities as a topic that needs more exploration.

COMMISSIONER BARTON: Urged that the discussion should focus on what problems exist in our existing airport management structure. He thanked the commission.

CHAIRMAN: Called the next meeting in ANC and adjourned.