

*Board of County Commissioners*

# Advanced Air Mobility

August 5, 2025



# Presentation Outline

- **Overview**
- **County Planning**
- **Regional Planning**
- **Next Steps**



# Overview

## Advanced Air Mobility

- Aviation based on new technologies
  - Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft
  - Sometimes called “air taxis”
  - 4-6 passengers or cargo
  - Flights mostly less than 100 miles
  - Anticipated to be quieter than helicopters
  - Would fly at 1,000 - 3,000 feet
  - Most take-off/landing to occur at “vertiports”
- \$5B invested globally as of Q1 2025



Sources: FDOT, 2025; NREL, 2025





# Overview

## Florida's Aerial Highway Network

- AAM Hubs
- AAM Initial Operating Corridor
- AAM Initial Operating Corridor Entry/Exit Point
- Other AAM Corridor
- Other AAM Entry/Exit Points
- Major Airports
- AAM HQ, Vertiport Hub, Maintenance, Research & Development

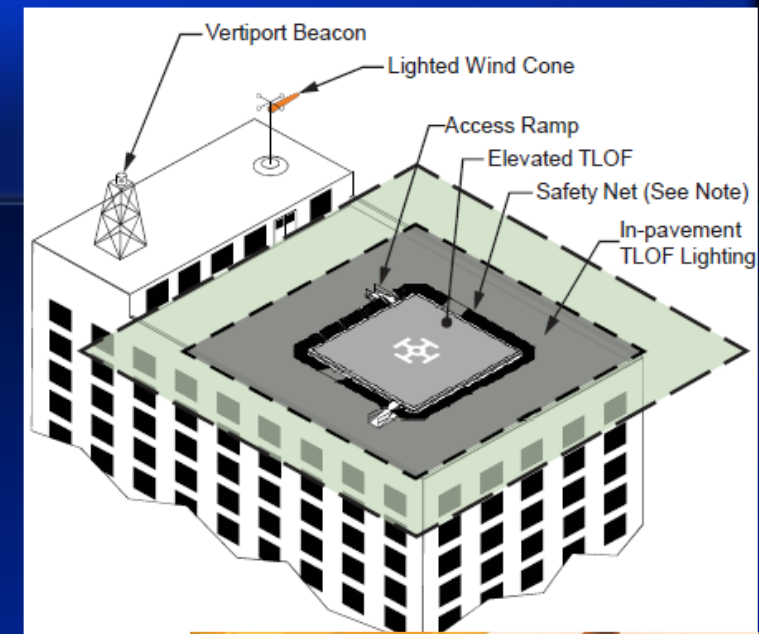




# Overview

## Advanced Air Mobility

- Operations fully integrated into urban areas and near all types of development
  - Must consider several infrastructure/compatibility issues
  - Federal regulations being updated at accelerated pace
    - New USDOT pilot project for AAM operations in 2026
  - State initiatives based on FDOT's goal of AAM leadership
    - Vertiport development at SunTrax
    - Policy, workforce development, and community engagement





# Overview

AAM COMPONENTS	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	STATE GOVERNMENT	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPERS	SERVICE PROVIDERS
AIRSPACE	X				
FLIGHT SCHEDULING					X
VERTIPOINT INSPECTIONS		X			
LAND USE COMPATIBILITY PLANNING			X		
PILOT / OPERATOR REGULATIONS	X				
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT			X	X	X
STATEWIDE AAM COORDINATION		X			
UTILITY COORDINATION			X	X	
VERTIPOINT STANDARDS	X	X			
VERTIPOINTS DEVELOPMENT				X	
ZONING PROTECTION			X		
AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION	X				



# County Planning

## Coordination Activities

- Agency engagement
  - Innovation, Economic Development, Zoning, and Fire Rescue staff attended FDOT training
  - Coordination with City of Orlando on their AAM plan
  - City of Orlando and FDOT “tabletop exercises”
  - Comments on FDOT handbook for local governments



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION AVIATION OFFICE

### ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY LAND USE COMPATIBILITY AND SITE APPROVAL GUIDEBOOK

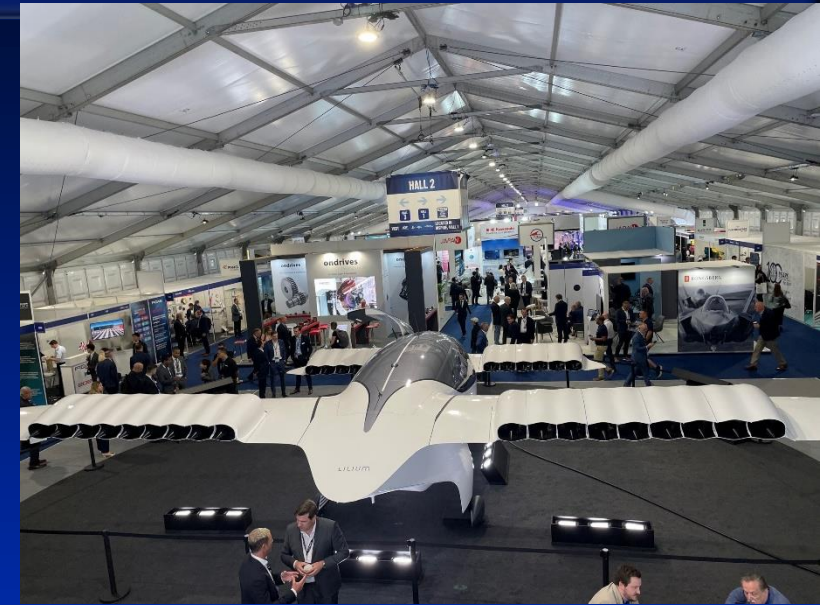
SEPTEMBER 2024



## Coordination Activities

### ■ Stakeholder engagement

- Economic development mission to Farnborough Air Show in 2024
- Presentation with Orlando at GOAA/NASA industry event
- Meetings with industry to discuss needs
  - Eve, Republic Airways, Urban V
  - Significant interest in I-Drive/Convention Center locations
  - I-Drive District overlay restricts helicopter tours/“similar uses” – may require DRC/BCC review





# County Planning

## Regulatory Activities

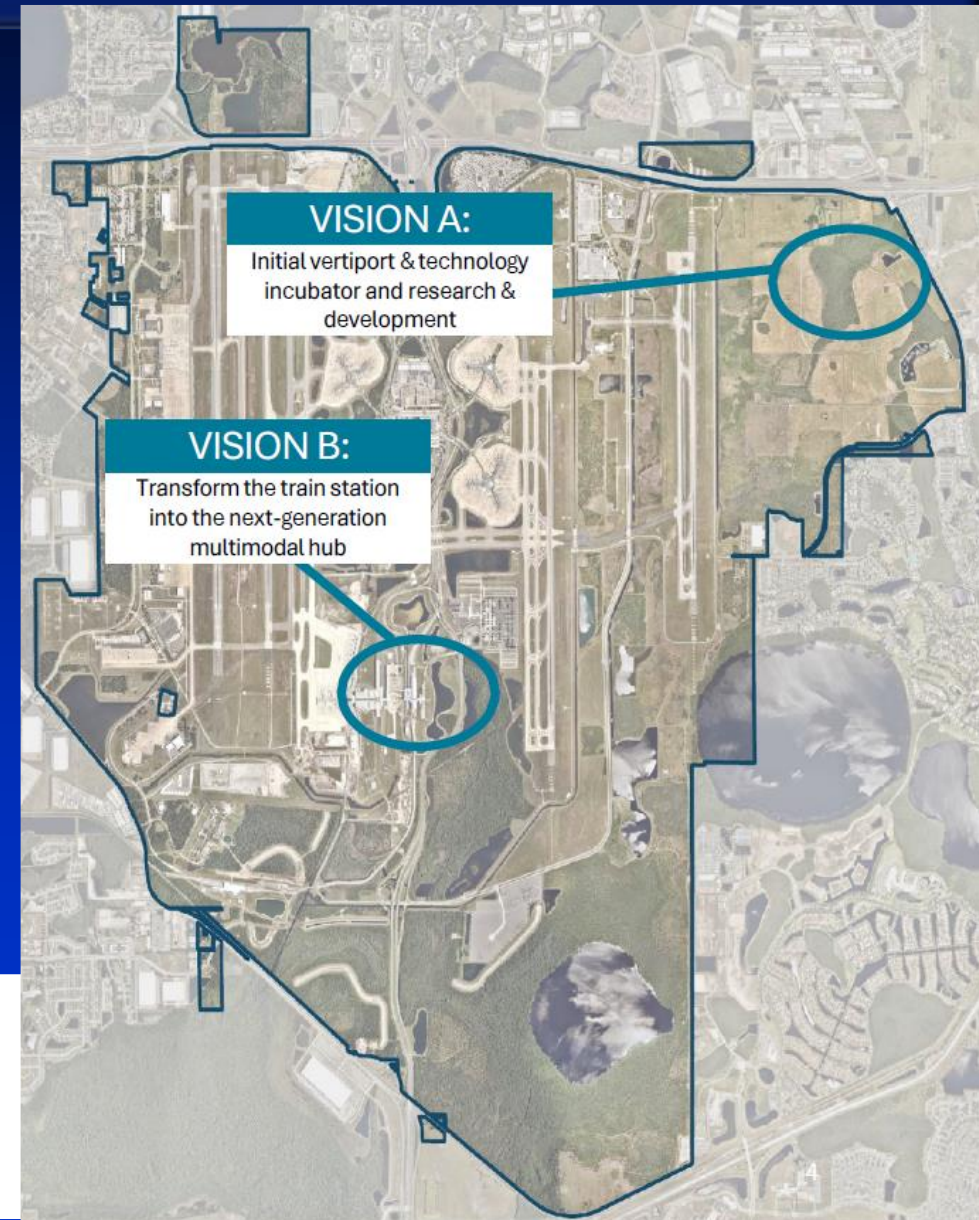
- **County tabletop exercise with 17 Divisions/Offices**
- **Feasibility study for I-Drive and other areas**
- **Review of vertiport standards**
  - **Current Code allows in Industrial districts**
  - **Draft Orange Code has more provisions**
  - **Coordinated with GOAA**

# Regional Planning

## Greater Orlando Aviation Authority

- AAM in strategic plan, focused on East Airfield
- Tabletop exercises and industry outreach
- Invitation to Negotiate for vertiport development on East Airfield site
  - Catalytic site for research & development, potential manufacturing
  - Proposal for regional network of vertiport sites
  - GOAA approval in early 2026

Source: GOAA, 2025.





# Regional Planning

## Greater Orlando Aviation Authority

- Coordination with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on airspace integration
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory/FAA study
- Interest in regional application for USDOT pilot project
  - Enabled by June 2025 Executive Order
  - Requires RFP in Sept. 2025 for at least five areas of U.S.
  - Teams must include AAM company to start operating in 90 days





# Next Steps

- **Initiate Orange County AAM Feasibility Study in Sept. 2025**
- **Continue coordination with agency/industry stakeholders**
  - Regional vertiport locations
  - Potential County participation in USDOT pilot project application
- **Continue staff education and training**
  - Changing federal/state regulations
  - Vertiport planning and permitting
- **Update the BCC at key milestones**

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