

Southwest Airports Partnership Conference

Hosted by



November 4-5, 2026

Hurst Convention Center

1601 Campus Dr

Hurst, TX 76054

[South Central Chapter of AAAE - 2026 Southwest Airports Partnership
Conference FAQ](#)

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 – Morning Group Sessions

Time	Title	Speaker(s)
8:00am – 4:30pm	Registration	[Not Applicable]
8:30 – 8:40am	SSCAAEE Welcome	TBD
8:40 – 8:50am	Regional Administrator's Update	Doug Lane , Regional Administrator Southwest/Central Region, FAA
8:50 – 9:15am	FAA Regional Updates	Ignacio Flores , Director, Southwest Region Airports Division, FAA
9:15 – 10:00am	Keynote Speaker	Jessica Sypniewski , Deputy Associate Administrator for Airports, FAA,
10:00 – 10:30am	BREAK	
10:30 – 11:00am	State Director Briefings	Perspective from the State Capitals: State Directors will have the opportunity to share with stakeholders current political/financial challenges happening within aviation policy and future direction of aviation within their respective governments. (Time allocation: about 9 min per presentation) Arkansas: Jerry Chism, Arkansas Department of Aeronautics Louisiana: Bradley R. Brandt, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development- Aviation Division New Mexico: Jane Lucero, New Mexico Department of Transportation- Aviation Division Oklahoma: Nick Young, Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission Texas: Dan Harmon, Texas Department of Transportation- Aviation Division Moderator: Cameron Bryan, FAA

Time	Title	Speaker(s)
11:00 – 12:00pm	FAA Office of Airports Policy Round Table Discussion	Stakeholders will have opportunity to engage with FAA Office of Airports Principal Leadership in a roundtable dialogue related to national policy changes and challenges. Speakers: William “Chuck” Garrison, Office of Airports, Planning and Programming Michael Helvey, Office of Airports, Compliance and Management Analysis Trish Hiatt, Office of Airports, Safety and Standards Moderator: Ignacio Flores, FAA
12:00 – 1:00pm	Lunch	

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 – Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Time	Safety (Moderator: Denson Stasher)	Planning & Financial (Moderator: Femi Adeoye)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Mike Branum)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Rodney Clark)
1:00 – 2:00pm	Airport Safety & Standards Program Update Description: This session will cover Southwest Region Part 139 Certification of Airports Program oversight. Methods and Procedures for Compliance. Systems for Communicating Information about the Airport Certification Program. Speaker: Warren Realford, FAA	Financial Programs Update Description: This session provides an overview of FAA’s funding programs, and will help sponsors create funding plans for key projects using the various Airports grant programs available. Speaker: Susan Johnson, FAA; Jesse Carriger, FAA	Protect My Airspace Description: Focus on how GA airports can prevent local off-airport development from penetrating critical approach surfaces and unintended impacts to their instrument approaches.. Speaker: David Perry, FAA; Rory Powell, FAA	Pavement Engineering Description: This session will cover airfield pavement design and construction topics from AC 150/5320-6G and AC 150/5370-10H, including aircraft loading, subgrade evaluation, pavement thickness, drainage, materials, construction methods, and quality control. Speaker: Harold Meniz, FAA

Time	Safety (Moderator: Denson Stasher)	Planning & Financial (Moderator: Femi Adeoye)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Mike Branum)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Rodney Clark)
2:00 – 3:00pm	Maintenance of Airport Visual Aid Facilities a.k.a. Airport Owned NAVAID maintenance requirements Description: This session will introduce best practices related to General Aviation and Air Carrier (Part 139.311d) airport-owned NAVAIDS maintenance. Topics include Advisory Circular requirements, lessons learned on how to get started, inspections, maintenance, tracking, reporting, record-keeping and training. Speaker: Gary Loftus, FAA; Carl Service, Chennault International Airport	Draft AIP Handbook Update Description: As mandated by Congress in 2024, the AIP Handbook is being updated to reflect statutory and policy changes since 2017. Speaker: Jesse Carriger, FAA	Reimbursable Agreements - with Airport Improvement Projects Description: This session will provide an update efforts to reduce FAA design review of airport construction projects based on facility and service. Speaker: Jesse King, FAA	Case Study Embracing Construction Technologies Description: This session covers new technologies utilized by Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in the development of their Pavement Maintenance Program and the construction of Terminal F. Speaker: DFW Airport Panel
3:00 – 3:30pm	BREAK			

Time	Safety (Moderator: Denson Stasher)	Planning & Financial (Moderator: Femi Adeoye)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Mike Branum)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Rodney Clark)
3:30 – 4:30pm	Case Study Vehicle Pedestrian Deviation Description: This session will discuss the trends in operational errors and best practices for reduction of vehicle / pedestrian deviations and other runway incursion initiatives. Speaker: Mike Fray, FAA	Planning and Environmental Integration Description: This session will cover practices to better integrate the planning and environmental processes to ensure airport projects are properly coordinated and NEPA documents are technically/legally sufficient and completed in a timely manner. Speaker: Steven Cooks, FAA; John MacFarlane, FAA	Grants from an ADO perspective Description: This session will review requirements needed to successfully complete a project within FAA grant guidelines. This includes pre-grant actions, general grant management, and grant closeout. Speaker: James Fuller, FAA; Roman Pinon, FAA	OE/AAA & ADIP Enhancement Efforts Description: This session will discuss the recent and upcoming changes to OE/AAA and ADIP to include Airport Data Management (ADM), Airports GIS (Surveys), and Runway Airspace Management (RAM). Speaker: Rory Powell, FAA; David Perry, FAA

Thursday, November 5, 2026 – Morning Concurrent Sessions

Time	Safety (Moderator: Denson Stasher)	Planning & Financial (Moderator: Femi Adeoye)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Mike Branum)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Rodney Clark)
8:00 – 9:00am	Winter Weather Ops Description: Topic will include SICP applicability and development, ACM requirements, snow and ice control priorities, airfield condition monitoring and reporting, NOTAMs, and other key considerations for maintaining safe and compliant operations during winter weather. Speakers: Alexis Santhanam, FAA	Case Studies for Section 106/Tribal Consultation and Adverse Effect Determinations Description: This session provides real world case studies of airport projects which required in-depth Section 106 consultation for adverse effects to eligible properties. Effective tribal consultation will also be discussed. Speaker: Darwin Messer, FAA; Roberto Ramos, FAA; Keith Ellis, FAA	Alternative Project Delivery Methods Description: A deep dive into requirements & considerations for use of alternative delivery methods on federally funded projects – Consideration of use of Design-Build (DB), Progressive Design-Build (PDB), or Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), benefits, and lessons learned. Speaker: Noemi Cuevas; FAA, Sarah Young; FAA	Avoiding Common Mistakes in OE/AAA & ADIP Description: This session will discuss the most common mistakes that cause delays airport airspace analysis reviews and ADIP AGIS survey approvals.. Speaker: Rory Powell, FAA; Dave Perry, FAA; James Fuller, FAA

Time	Safety (Moderator: Denson Stasher)	Planning & Financial (Moderator: Femi Adeoye)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Mike Branum)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Rodney Clark)
9:00 – 10:00am	Emerging Entrants – AAM and UAS National Perspective Description: The aviation industry is experiencing expedited growth in new and innovative aircraft design and operations. This presentation will go over the various efforts that the FAA Office of Airports has undertaken to ensure that proper infrastructure guidance is available to both operators and facility owners when it comes to these two concepts. Speaker: Jonathan Torres, FAA, AAS-200	NEPA Updates and Streamlining Efforts Description: This session will cover updates to NEPA and FAA’s environmental processes, including efforts to streamline the NEPA process. Speaker: John MacFarlane, FAA; Kristi Ponozzo, FAA	Flight Program Operations (AJF) Description: This session will give an overview of the Flight Program Operations mission set, in particular; responsibilities regarding scheduling and performing flight inspections across the NAS. Speaker: Beth Ann Senk, FAA; Mickey Tate, FAA	Reimbursable Agreements - with Airport Improvement Projects Description: This session will provide an update efforts to reduce FAA design review of airport construction projects based on facility and service. Speaker: Jesse King, FAA
10:00 – 10:30am	BREAK			

Time	Safety (Moderator: Denson Stasher)	Planning & Financial (Moderator: Femi Adeoye)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Mike Branum)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Rodney Clark)
10:30 – 11:45am	Emerging Entrants – AAM and UAS National Perspective Description: The aviation industry is experiencing expedited growth in new and innovative aircraft design and operations. This presentation will go over the various efforts that the FAA Office of Airports has undertaken to ensure that proper infrastructure guidance is available to both operators and facility owners when it comes to these two concepts. Speaker: Jonathan Torres, FAA, AAS-200	PFC Revisions & Updates Description: This session is a brief refresher on the requirements of the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) program. Bring all your questions. We will run through the application process and day-to-day issues. Speaker: Ben Gutery, FAA	Flight Procedures Office Update AJV Description: This session will give an overview of the new IFP Design Team Office responsibilities, design and procedures development and data submissions. Speaker: Jason Frisch (IFP Central, Design Specialist AJV-A) FAA09	Runway Incursion Mitigation (RIM) Technology: Case study Description: Presenting case studies on low-cost, high-impact situational awareness technologies (like enhanced LED signage or surface surveillance tools) tailored for non-hub or general aviation airports. Speaker: Harold Muniz, FAA; Lana Logan, FAA
11:45 – 12:45pm	LUNCH			

Thursday, November 5, 2026 – Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Time	Safety (Moderator: Denson Stasher)	Planning & Financial (Moderator: Femi Adeoye)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Mike Branum)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Rodney Clark)
12:45 – 1:45pm	GA Runway Safety Area (RSA) Inventory and Determinations Description: This session will discuss the process for to collect inventory data and completing RSA determinations. Speaker: Daniel Bly, FAA; Andrew Tamanaha, FAA	Buy American Description: This session will examine the Buy American / BABA requirement and the process for receiving a waiver. If you have foreign-sourced materials or equipment, you will need to know this if you are using AIP-type funding. Speaker: Ben Guttery, FAA	FAA Design and Construction Guidance Update Description: This presentation will provide an overview of new and revised FAA Office of Airports guidance for airport planning, design, and construction. Topics will include Engineering Brief 112, Digital Airport Traffic Control Tower Systems; the draft advisory circular on Vertical Flight Infrastructure; and other guidance currently under revision. Speaker: Harold Meniz, FAA	ADIP - Streamlining Airport Data Description: This presentation will demonstrate ADIP showcasing the features of AGIS (Surveys), Runway Airspace Management (RAM), and Airport Data Management (ADM) modules. Speaker: David Perry, FAA; Rory Powell, FAA; Chris Criswell, FAA

Time	Safety (Moderator: Denson Stasher)	Planning & Financial (Moderator: Femi Adeoye)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Mike Branum)	Miscellaneous Topics (Moderator: Rodney Clark)
1:45 – 2:45pm		Understanding Discretionary Grants Description: Strategies for positioning competitive regional projects for federal funding opportunities beyond traditional entitlement allocations. Speaker: Brittan Smith, FAA; Sarah Able, FAA; Kathy Franklin, FAA		CASE STUDY Cyber Security Description: This session provides an overview of Airport Cyber Security treats and provide practical lessons learned Speaker: Michael Falteisek, Division Manager- Mission Advisory Services & FAA Aviation Cyber Initiative (ACI) Lead, FAA
2:45 – 3:00pm	BREAK			

Time	Title	Speaker(s)
3:00 – 4:00pm	eIPP Project Updates	Overview: This session provides an overview of several new proposals to test electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) "air taxis" and advanced cargo drones. Speaker: Panel discussion Moderator: Ignacio Flores, FAA