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	**SSCAAAE Welcome**	**TBD**
8:40 – 9:00am	**FAA Regional Updates**	**Ignacio Flores,** Director, Southwest Region Airports Division, FAA
9:00 – 9:45am	**Keynote Speaker**	**Jessica Sypniewski,** Deputy Associate Administrator for Airports, FAA,
9:45 – 10:00am	**Regional Administrator's Update**	**Doug Lane,** Regional Administrator Southwest/Central Region, FAA
10:00 – 10:30am	**BREAK**	

Time	Title	Speaker(s)
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 Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics (ODAA) Texas: Dan Harmon, Texas Department of Transportation- Aviation Division **Moderator:** Cameron Bryan, FAA
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

Time	Title	Speaker(s)
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 and systems for communicating information about the Airport Certification Program will be addressed. **Speaker:** Warren Relaford, 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. **Speakers:** 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.. **Speakers:** 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 Muniz-Ruiz, FAA

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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. **Speakers:** 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, regulatory, and policy changes since 2017. **Speaker:** Jesse Carriger, FAA	**Reimbursable Agreements - supporting Airport Projects** **Description:** This session will provide an update on efforts to reduce FAA's 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: Robbie Terrell, DFW Airport**
3:00 – 3:30pm	**BREAK**			

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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. **Speakers:** 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. **Speakers:** 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). **Speakers:** Rory Powell, FAA; David Perry, FAA

Thursday, November 5, 2026 – Morning Concurrent Sessions

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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. **Speaker:** 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. **Speakers:** Darvin 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. **Speakers:** 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.. **Speakers:** Rory Powell, FAA; Dave Perry, FAA; James Fuller, FAA

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9:00 – 10:00am	**Emerging Entrants and Counter-UAS: Protecting Airports and the National Airspace System** **Description:** An executive-level introduction to counter-UAS and the emerging operational challenges UAS present to airports and the National Airspace System. The session will introduce cUAS concepts, threat identification, law-enforcement and FAA coordination, counterintelligence considerations, evolving authorities, and the operational impacts of UAS activity on airports, critical infrastructure, and major events **Speaker: Montana Alexander, Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), FAA**	**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. **Speakers:** 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. **Speakers:** 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**			

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10:30 – 11:45am	**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. **Speakers:** Harold Muniz-Ruiz, FAA; Lana Logan, FAA	**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 Guttery, 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	**Emerging Entrants in the National Airspace System: What Airport Leaders Need to Know** **Description**: This session gives airport executives and stakeholders an overview of where advanced air mobility (AAM) and unmanned aircraft system (UAS) integration stands today. It will highlight the strategies, regulations, policies, planning guidance, and key initiatives supporting scalability, Specifically focusing on where airspace and airport ground infrastructure intersect and how airports are enabling and benefitting from technologies and operational use cases. **Speaker**: Arjuna Fields AAM & UAS Integration, FAA ATO AJV-S

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11:45 – 12:45pm	**LUNCH**			

Thursday, November 5, 2026 – Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

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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. **Speakers**: 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**: Carlos Fields, 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 Muniz-Ruiz, FAA	**ADIP - Streamlining Airport Data** **Description**: This presentation will demonstration ADIP showcasing the features of AGIS (Surveys), Runway Airspace Management (RAM), and Airport Data Management (ADM) modules. **Speakers:** David Perry, FAA; Rory Powell, FAA; Chris Criswell, FAA

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1:45 – 2:45pm		**Navigating AIP Discretionary Funding** **Description:** Strategies for positioning projects for federal funding beyond traditional entitlement allocations. **Speakers:** Brittan Smith, FAA; Sarah Abel, FAA; Kathy Franklin, FAA		**Aviation Threat Response: Lasers, Bomb Threats, Hoaxes, and the Value of Airport Working Groups** **Description:** An operational overview of aviation threat response, focusing on how interagency coordination and protocols between airports, the FAA, and law enforcement minimize airspace disruptions. Incidents occur. **Speaker: Montana Alexander, Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), 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. **Speakers:** Panel discussion **Moderator:** Ignacio Flores, FAA