

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)
7:30am – 8:30pm	Breakfast	
8:00am – 4:30pm	Registration	[Not Applicable]
8:30 – 9:00am	FAA Regional Updates	Ignacio Flores , Director, Southwest Region Airports Division, FAA
9:00 – 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: Jessi Litz-Rowden, New Mexico Department of Transportation- Aviation Division Oklahoma: Grayson Ardies, Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission Texas: Dan Harmon, Texas Department of Transportation- Aviation Division Moderator: Cameron Bryan

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
12:00 – 1:00pm	Lunch	

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 – Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Time	Track 1 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 2 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 3 (Moderators: TBD.)	Track 4 (Moderators: TBD)
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: TBD	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: TBD	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: TBD	Pavement Engineering Description: This session will discuss pavement engineering, with an in-depth look at pavement design methods for both asphalt and concrete. Speaker: TBD

Time	Track 1 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 2 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 3 (Moderators: TBD.)	Track 4 (Moderators: TBD)
2:00 – 3:00pm	Safety Management System (SMS): SMS Part 139 The "Human Factors" in SMS Description: Moving beyond compliance software to focus on building a robust safety culture, encouraging proactive reporting among airport staff, and managing workforce fatigue.. Speaker: TBD	Avoiding Common Mistakes in OEAAA & AGIS Description: A joint panel featuring FAA Lead Engineers and seasoned consultants discussing the most common mistakes that cause delays in Form 7460-1 airspace reviews and AGIS survey approvals. Speaker: TBD	Airport Compliance Program Update Description: This session will cover all aspects of the FAA's compliance program including land use inspections, latest changes/hot topics, and latest Director's Determinations. Speaker: TBD	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: TBD
3:00 – 3:30pm	BREAK			
3:30 – 4:30pm	Case Study Runway Incursion Prevention 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: TBD	Avoiding Common Mistakes in OEAAA & AGIS Description: A joint panel featuring FAA Lead Engineers and seasoned consultants discussing the most common mistakes that cause delays in Form 7460-1 airspace reviews and AGIS survey approvals. Speaker: TBD	Protection My Airspace Description: Focus on how GA airports can prevent local off-airport development from penetrating critical approach surfaces and ruining their instrument approaches. Speaker: TBD	Maximizing Discretionary Grants Description: Strategies for positioning competitive regional projects for federal funding opportunities beyond traditional entitlement allocations. Speaker: TBD
4:30pm – 6:00p	Happy Hours			

Thursday, November 5, 2026 – Morning Concurrent Sessions

Time	Track 1 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 2 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 3 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 4 (Moderators: TBD)
7:00 – 8:00am	Breakfast			
8:00 – 9:00am	Part 139 Trends Update / Latest Requirements Overview Description: This session will provide latest inspection results and/or trends observed. Additionally, discussion of recent issues to include the transition from AFFF to F3 foams and the performance specifications of the two different foams. Speakers: TBD	Alternative Project Delivery Methods Description: A deep dive into Design-Build (DB), Progressive Design-Build (PDB), and Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) frameworks for airport sponsors to keep capital projects on time and within budget. Speaker: TBD	Airport Improvement Projects with Reimbursable Agreements Description: This session will provide an update effort to reduce FAA design review of airport construction projects based on facility and service. Speaker: Jeff Tague	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: TBD

Time	Track 1 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 2 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 3 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 4 (Moderators: TBD)
9:00 – 10:00am	ASCI Self-Inspection Program: Best Practices and Techniques Description: This session will cover the airport self-inspection program best practices, techniques, standard procedures, and administrative challenges. Speaker: TBD	eIPP Updates Description: Moving past general infrastructure concepts to the tactical realities of integrating eVTOL (electric vertical takeoff and landing) aircraft into local community airspace and municipal zoning laws. Speaker: TBD	Procurement Overview Description: Overview of Procurement Requirements (consultant selection, alternative delivery methods, 2 CFR 200 purchasing coops, sole sources, etc...)	Flight Procedures Office Update Description: This session will give an overview of the Flight Procedures Office responsibilities, procedures development and data submissions. Speaker: TBD
10:00 – 10:30am	BREAK			
10:30 – 11:45am	ASW Airport Certification Safety Inspectors Round Table Description: This session will be a roundtable question and answer session on all things Part 139. Speaker: TBD	Effective Communication and Coordination for NEPA Analysis across FAA Description: This roundtable discussion will cover coordinating NEPA projects across FAA lines of business; including changes to air traffic procedures and modifications to FAA-owned facilities. Speaker: TBD	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: TBD	Counter-UAS (C-UAS) Strategies for Regional Airports: Description: Building on the cyber security and drone updates by addressing the latest physical detection and mitigation strategies for unauthorized drone activity near airfields. Speaker: TBD

Time	Track 1 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 2 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 3 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 4 (Moderators: TBD)
11:45 – 1:00pm	LUNCH			

Thursday, November 5, 2026 – Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Time	Track 1 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 2 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 3 (Moderators: TBD.)	Track 4 (Moderators: TBD)
1:00 – 2:00pm	ADIP - Streamlining Airport Data Updates to ensure Safety and Accuracy within the National Airspace System (NAS) Description: This presentation will provide an ADIP website demo and will cover updates and new functionality of the FAA's Airports Geographic Information System to include the 1) AGIS (survey projects) 2) Digital 7480/Obligated Airport Updates & 3) Runway Airspace Management (RAM) Modules within ADIP. Speaker: TBD	E-NEPA Description: This session will cover environmental streamlining efforts to better coordinate NEPA documentation and review in a timely manner. Speaker: TBD	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	Case study Safety Management System (SMS): Description: This session will discuss the trends in operational errors and best practices for increases safety during complex safety projects. Speaker: TBD

Time	Track 1 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 2 (Moderators: TBD)	Track 3 (Moderators: TBD.)	Track 4 (Moderators: TBD)
2:00 – 3:00pm	Case Studies for Tribal Consultation and Adverse Effect Determination Description: This session provides an overview of an airport project which required in-depth tribal consultation. Participants will gain insight for the demolition of a National Register of Historic Places eligible airport structure. Speaker: TBD	E-NEPA Description: This session will cover environmental streamlining efforts to better coordinate NEPA documentation and review in a timely manner. Speaker: TBD	AAM Infrastructure – Airport Sponsor Considerations Description The aviation industry is experiencing expedited growth in new and innovative aircraft design and operation with Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) being leading concept. This presentation will go over the various considerations airport sponsors should be aware of when considering AAM infrastructure. Speaker: TBD	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: TBD
3:00 – 3:15pm	BREAK			

Time	Title	Speaker(s)
3:15 – 4:00pm	CASE STUDY Cyber Security	Overview: This session provides an overview of Airport Cyber Security treats and provides practical lessons learned Speaker: Michael Falteisek, Division Manager- Mission Advisory Services & FAA Aviation Cyber Initiative (ACI) Lead, FAA Moderator: Ignacio Flores