

House Legislative Oversight



**South Carolina
Aeronautics Commission**

Introduction and History

February 6, 2019



Our Mission

Fostering air and economic development by overseeing the safety and development of the state's public use airports, by providing safe and reliable air transportation for state government and business prospects, and by providing aviation education opportunities.

Agency History

- 1903: First sustained flight by the Wright brothers
- 1925: Federal Air Mail Act
 - Facilitated the creation of the airline industry
- 1926: Federal Air Commerce Act
 - Aeronautics Branch created in the Department of Commerce
- 1935 Act 317 created SC's Aeronautics Commission
 - Responsibility given to foster air commerce, supervise aeronautical activities and facilities, and provided for the formation of aviation rules and regulations for public safety
 - Col. Dexter C. Martin
 - First licensed pilot in SC (1924)

Agency History

- 1938: Federal Civil Aeronautics Act created the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA)
- 1940: CAA split into two agencies
 - CAA under Department of Commerce
 - Responsible for Air Traffic Control, airman and aircraft certification, safety enforcement, and airway development
 - Independent Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)
 - Responsible for safety rulemaking, accident investigation, and economic regulation of airlines.
- 1951-1957: Multiple directors served at the Aeronautics Commission

Agency History

- 1957-1972: G.C. Merchant, Jr. served as the Aeronautics Commission's director
 - Started the state aid programs for airports which provided for state matching funds for airport projects supported by the federal government. (50/25/25% - Federal/State/Local)
- 1958: Federal Aviation Agency was created to replace the CAA, and to provide for the safe and efficient use of the national airspace
- 1966: Congress created DOT, a cabinet agency to combine federal transportation responsibilities, and the Federal Aviation Agency was renamed to the Federal Aviation Administration
- 1973-1990: John W. Hamilton, Director
 - Current facilities were constructed and occupied in 1983
- 1990-2008: Multiple directors served at the Aeronautics Commission

Agency History

- 1993: Act No. 181 placed the Aeronautics Commission under the SC Department of Commerce, and dissolved the Commission
- 2005: Act No. 11 re-established the Commission
- 2008-2014: Paul Werts served as Director, and during this time...
 - 2009: Act No. 23 transferred the Aeronautics Commission to the State Budget and Control Board
 - 2012: Title 55-Aeronautics received a major rewrite which addressed many changes to programs and functions of the agency related to airport development
- 2014-Current: James Stephens serves as Director
 - 2014: South Carolina Restructuring Act, No. 121, placed the Aeronautics Commission under the State Fiscal Accountability Authority

Aeronautics Commission

- State Code, Section 13-1-1000 through 13-1-1090 defines the purpose and organization of the Commission
 - Specifically, Section 13-1-1010 states that “the Commission shall oversee the operation of the division as the division’s governing body.”
- Each Commissioner is elected by the legislators of their Congressional district to serve based upon their qualifications and where they reside within their respective districts. There is also a Chairman who is an “at large” member, and is appointed by the Governor. Each Commissioner’s term is for a period of four (4) years with a possible six-month (6) hold-over, with the exception of partial terms that are filled.
- There are no requirements that define how many times a Commissioner can serve, but there is a requirement in Section 13-1-1030 that provides for a rotation of members within the counties that are represented in a particular Congressional district. This requirement limits the ability of one member to be able to serve consecutive terms.

Aeronautics Commission Terms

Chairman: Delphin A. Gantt, Jr.

Appointed: 5/19/2011

Exp: At the
Pleasure of

District 1: Devon A. (Al) Francis

Appointed: 5/7/2018

Exp: 2/15/2022

District 2: Ira (Bud) E. Coward, II

Appointed: 1/6/2015

Exp: 2/15/2019

District 3: Skeets Cooper

Appointed: 4/5/2017

Exp: 2/15/2021

District 4: Darwin H. Simpson

Appointed: 1/17/2018

Exp: 2/15/2020

District 5: Charles Douglas Barnes

Appointed: 3/1/2017

Exp: 2/15/2021

District 6: Marco Cavazzoni

Appointed: 5/7/2018

Exp: 2/15/2021

District 7: Christopher L. Bethea

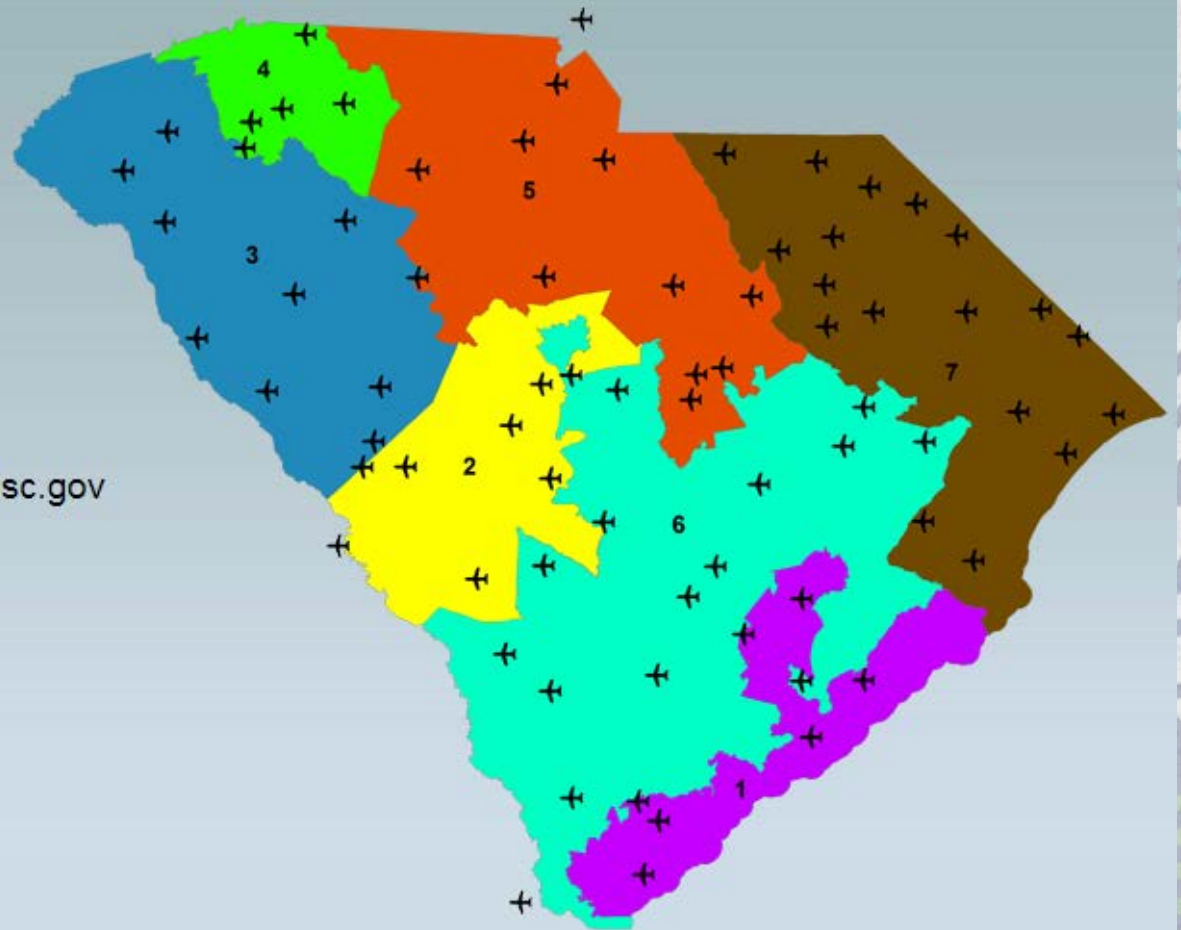
Appointed: 7/19/2017

Exp: 2/15/2020

Chairman, At-Large



Delphin A. Gantt, Jr.
Phone: 803-479-7199
Fax: 803-896-6266
Email: chairman@aeronautics.sc.gov



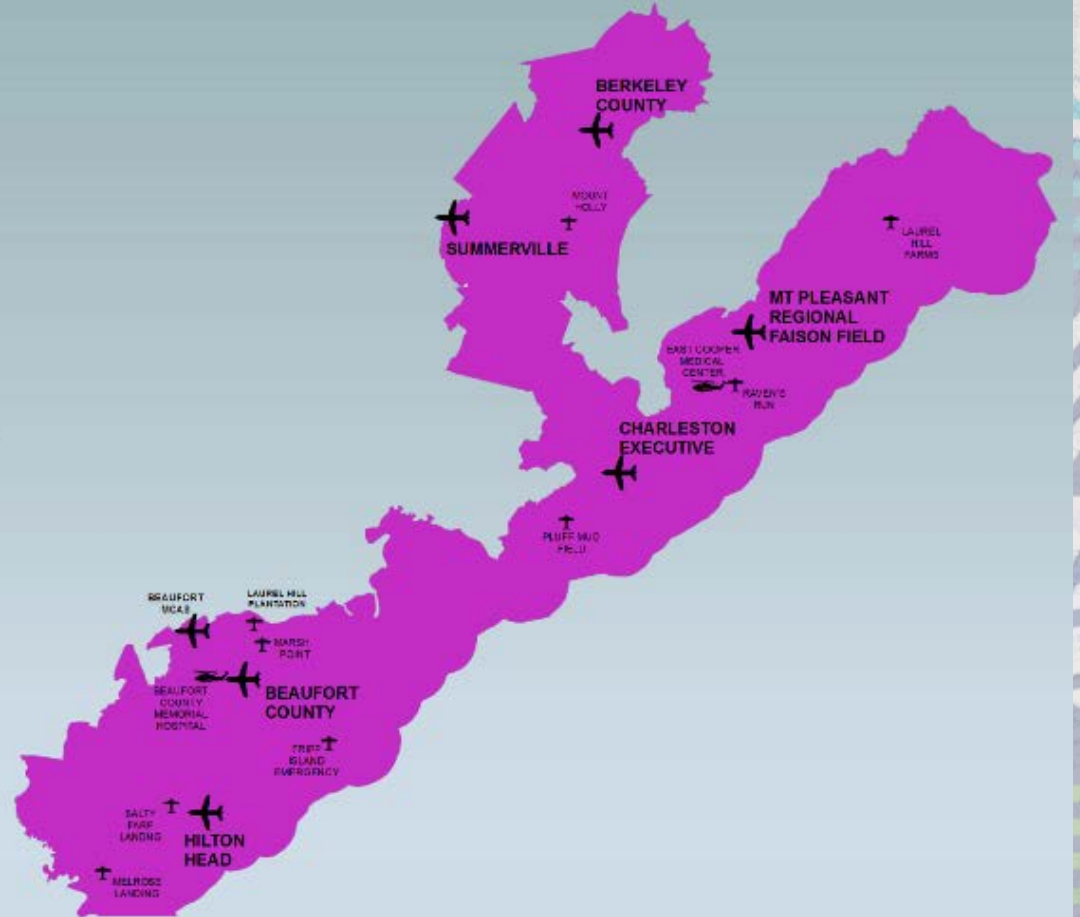
District 1



Devon A. "Al" Francis

Phone: 843-290-3330

Email: district1@aeronautics.sc.gov



District 2



Ira E. (Bud) Coward
Phone: 803-645-4806
Email:
district2@aeronautics.sc.gov



District 3



Skeets Cooper
Phone: 864-230-5799
Email: district3@aeronautics.sc.gov



District 4



Darwin Simpson
Phone: 864-590-1874
Email: district4@aeronautics.sc.gov



District 5



Doug Barnes
Phone: 803-287-5900
Email: district5@aeonautics.sc.gov



District 6



Marco Cavazzoni

Phone: 855-435-9522

Email: district6@aeronautics.sc.gov



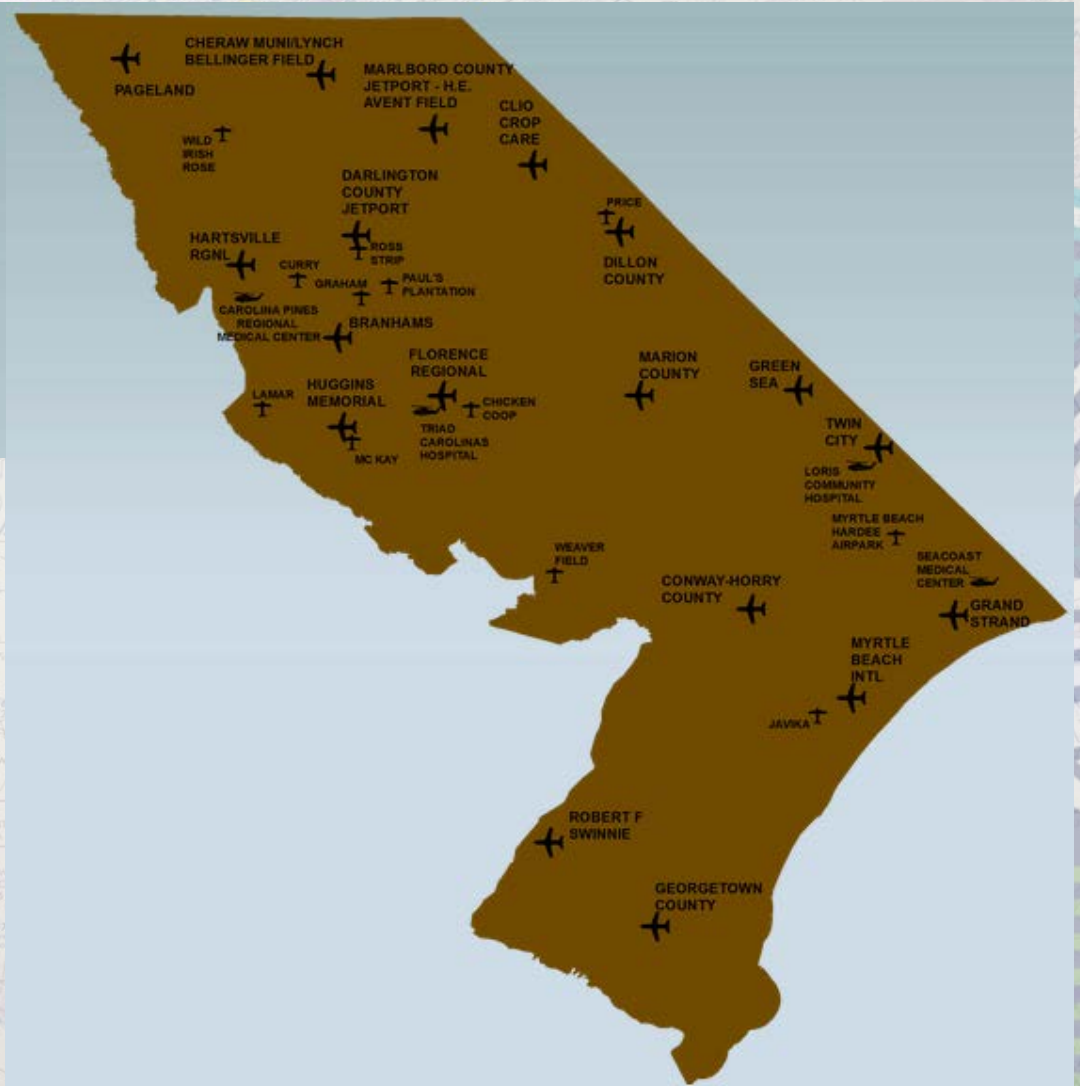
District 7



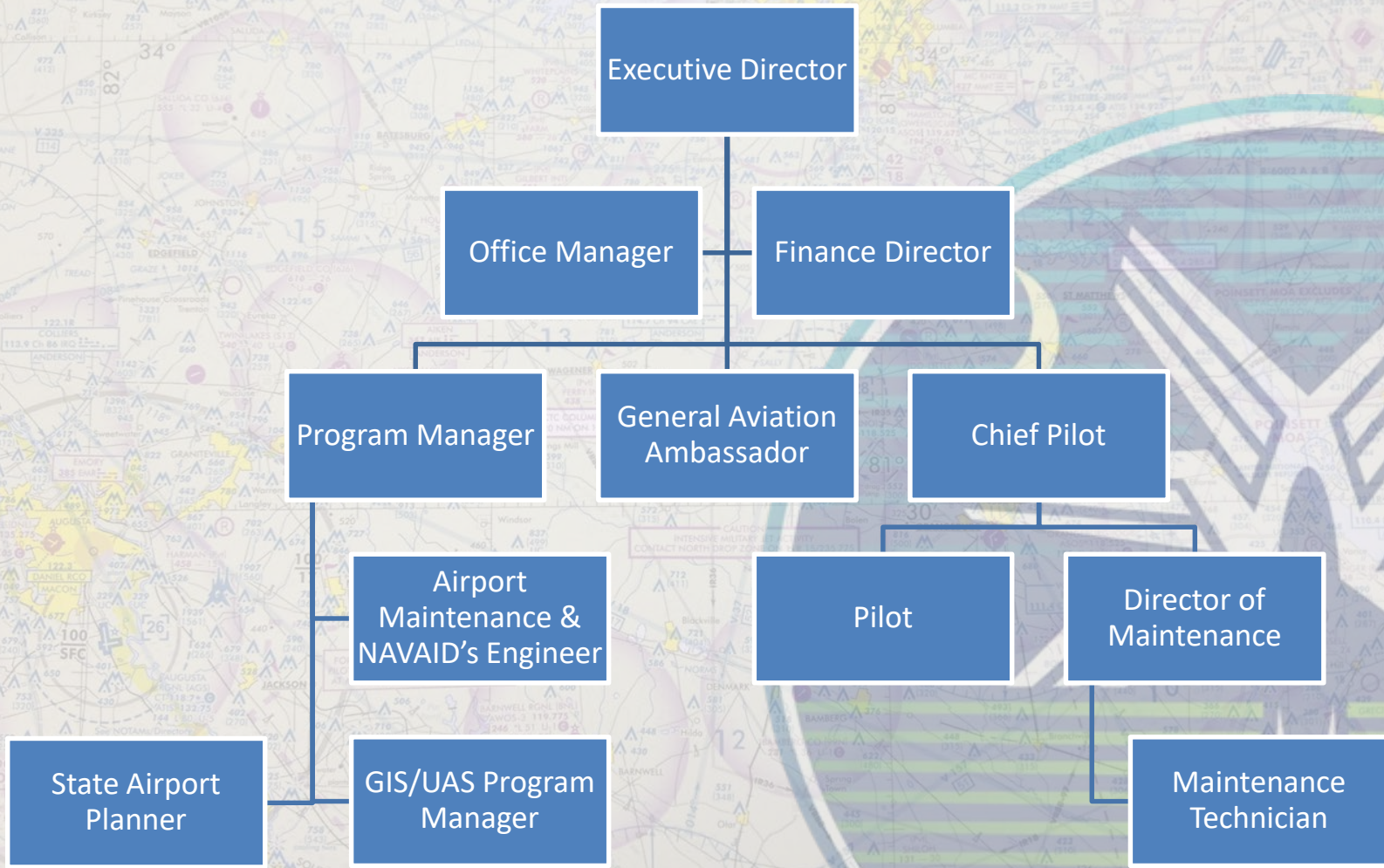
Chris Bethea

Phone: 843-283-8484

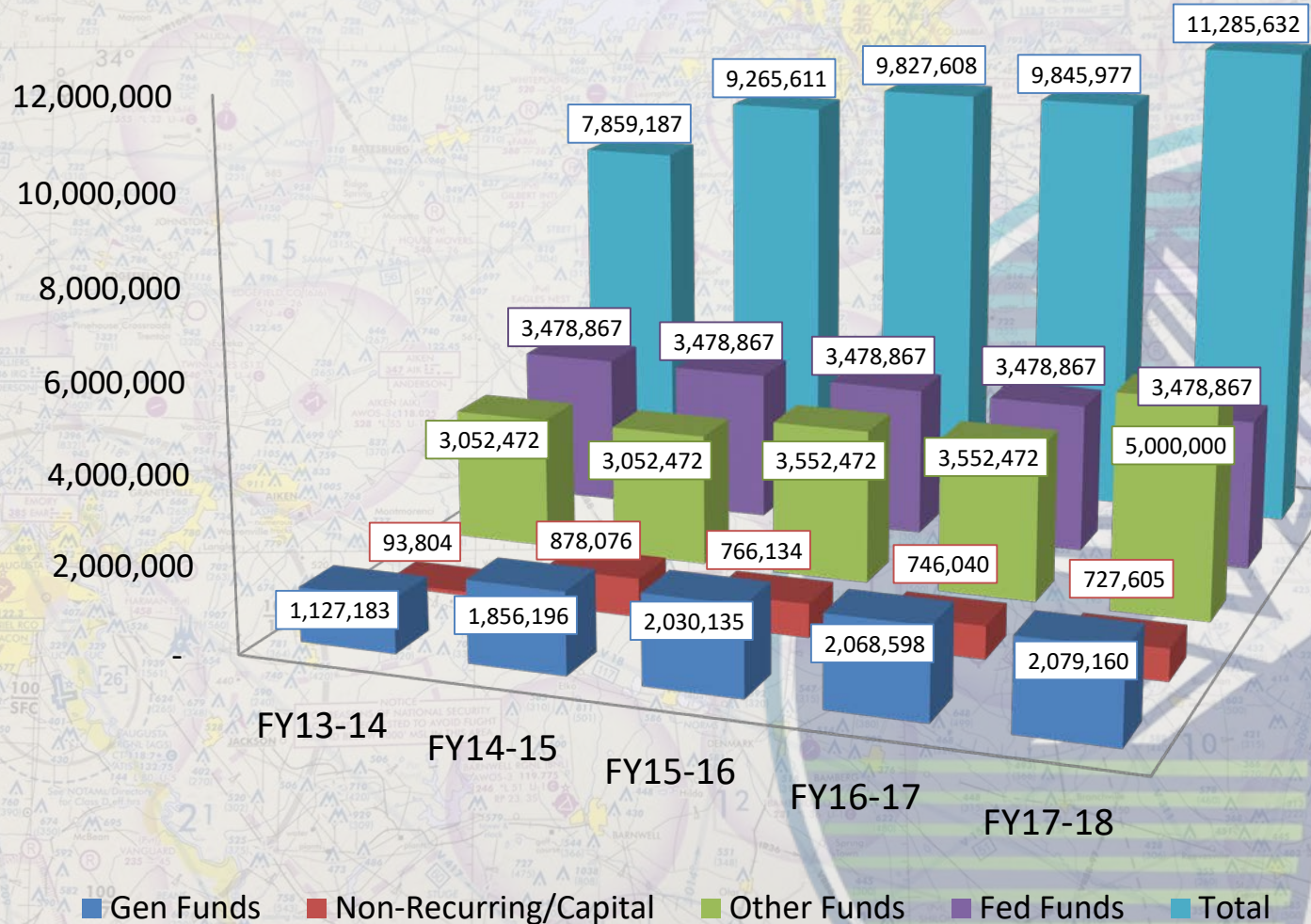
Email: district7@aeronautics.sc.gov



Organizational Chart



Aeronautics Appropriations/Authorizations



Agency Departmental Roles

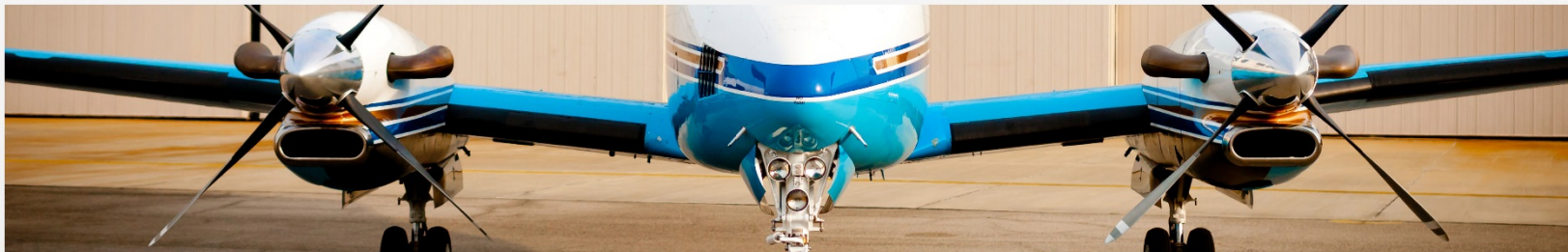
- Administration: 3 FTE's
 - Regulated primarily under SC Code of Laws - Title 55
 - Director answers to the Aeronautics Commission
 - Oversees the management and legislative functions of the agency
 - Includes Finance and Human Resources
 - Some financial assistance received through agreed upon services provided by the Department of Administration
 - Procurement
 - Purchase Orders
 - Annual budget loading
 - All HR functions are managed internally

Agency Departmental Roles

- Flight Department:

- §55-5-80 (C): “The division shall operate a flight department including the purchase, operation, and maintenance of aircraft to support the transportation needs of the State, and may support and cooperate with other state agencies who own aircraft through maintenance and operations agreements.”
- §55-1-90: “State-owned aircraft may be used by state agencies, and other governmental bodies or political subdivisions within the state for matters pertinent to, and in the normal course of business for the governmental entities.”

Agency Departmental Roles



Agency Departmental Roles

- Flight Department: cont.
 - 4 FTE's = 2 Pilots, 2 Mechanics
 - Equipment
 - 1990 Beech King Air
 - 9 Passengers, 2 Crew
 - Cruises approx. 340 MPH
 - 1983 Beech King Air C90
 - 6 Passengers, 2 Crew
 - Cruises approx. 300 MPH



Agency Departmental Roles

- Airport Development:

- §55-5-70: “The division shall promote and foster air commerce within the State and the division shall have an interest in the maintenance and enhancement of the aeronautical activities and facilities within the State. The division shall adopt reasonable rules and promulgate regulations as it may deem necessary and advisable, in conjunction with Federal Aviation Administration regulations, for the public safety and for the promotion of aeronautics governing the designing, laying out, location, building, equipping, operation and use of all airports.”

Agency Departmental Roles



Agency Departmental Roles

- Airport Development: cont.
 - 4 FTE's
 - 66 Public Use Airports
 - 58 Publicly Owned, Public Use Airports
 - No state aid offered to Privately Owned, Public Use Airports

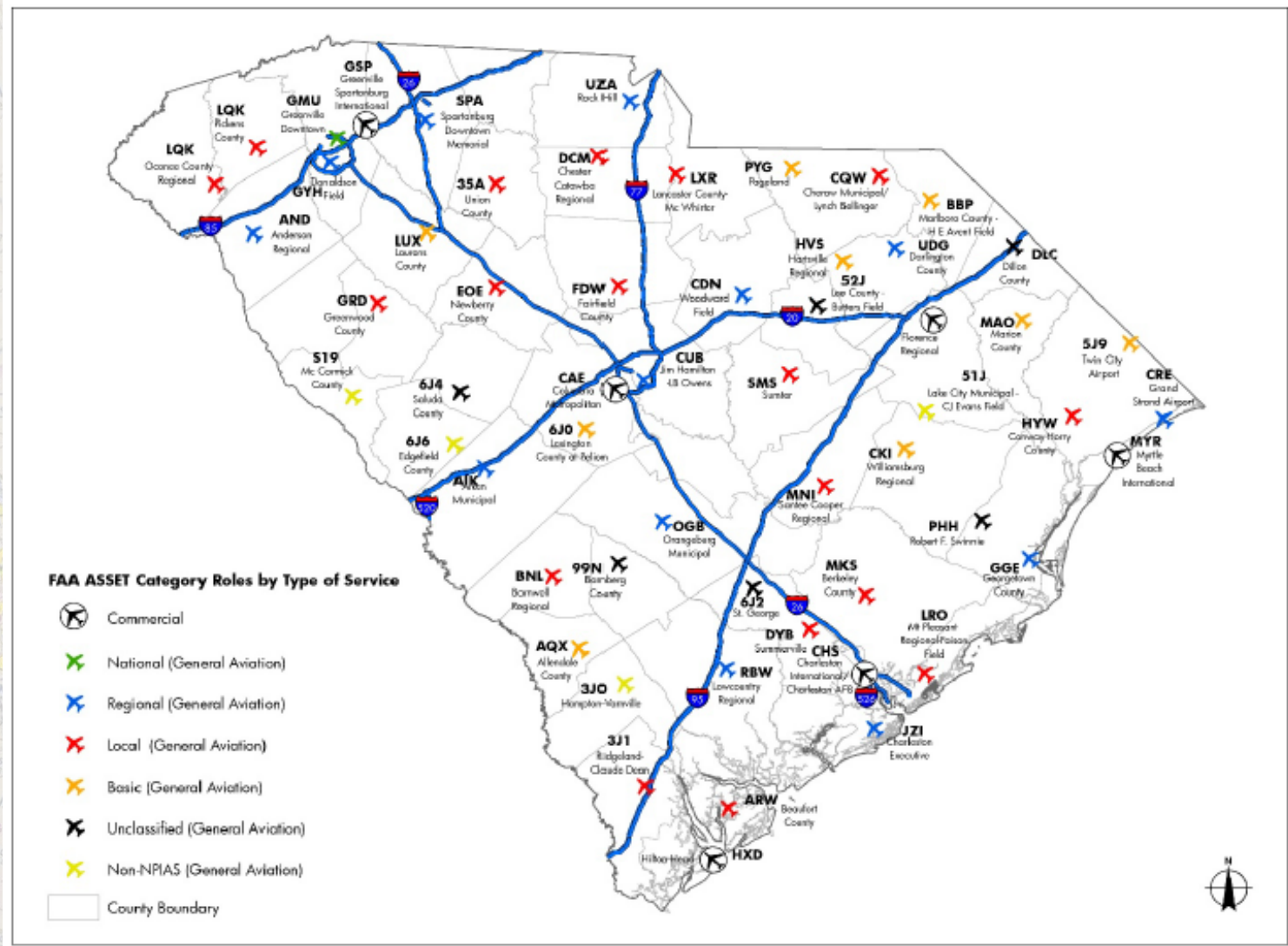
Agency Departmental Roles

- Airport Development: cont.
 - Capital Projects
 - 5% State Matching for FAA eligible
 - 60% State Matching for State/Local
 - Airport Maintenance
 - 75% State Matching for State/Local
 - Electrical, Pavements, Vegetation
 - Administrative Support
 - Aviation Educational Programs
 - Automated Weather Observation Station (AWOS) Maintenance (29 Systems)
 - Assistance with FAA Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Flight Checks
 - Aerial Photography, Mapping, and Surveying
 - Unmanned Aircraft System Obstruction Analysis
 - Aeronautical Charts & Directories
 - Airport Construction Safety - Barricades and Runway Closure Markers
 - Airport Compatible Land Use Evaluation (CLUE) Tool

Outreach & Events

- <http://www.scaeronautics.com/events.asp>
- Local Airport Events
- Aviation Educational Events (educational grants related to aerospace/aviation, career days, SC Aerospace Educational Working Group, educational advisory committees for local schools, etc.)
- Aviation Week (Statewide events held each August)
- SC Aerospace Industry Conference and Expo
 - Partners with SC Council on Competitiveness, USC, SC Department of Commerce, and the SC Aviation Association
 - Partners since day 1 of this event
- SC Aviation Safety Council Events

South Carolina Airports by FAA Roles



South Carolina's Airport Roles

Airport Role	Role Criteria
Commercial Service (SC I)	SCI Airports provide regular scheduled service by airlines and/or commuter airlines, which are certificated under FAR Part 121.
Corporate/Business (SC II)	Corporate Business, SCII, airports are usually located in an urbanized environment or a rural location with a multi-jurisdictional service area, offer the full range of fuels and aviation services, and instrument approach procedures, and are forecasted to have a growing population of based aircraft and annual operations, activity profile consists of between 30 percent and 50 percent of corporate and business operations with a smaller number of recreational or private users, not constrained by surrounding incompatible land uses or environmentally sensitive areas and have expansion capability for not only runways and taxiways but for support facilities.
Business/Recreation (SC III)	SCIII Airports are generally located in rural localities, these airports serve small business and recreation aircraft, do not typically serve multi-jurisdictional service areas, offer the full range of fuels and most aviation services, non-precision approach and are also forecasted to have a growing population of aircraft and annual operations, airport profile consists of 5 percent to 20 percent of corporate and business use but a higher percentage of recreation use, airport is not constrained by surrounding incompatible land uses or environmentally sensitive areas and has adequate expansion capability not only for runways and taxiways but for support facilities as well
Recreation/Local (SC IV)	These airports have low activity and are forecasted to remain fairly level, provide very limited airport facilities and services and may have safety or development constraints that limit their need, as well as their ability to expand,

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or request additional information through your staff.



**South Carolina
Aeronautics Commission**

James D. Stephens

jstephens@aeronautics.sc.gov

803-896-6272