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March 6, 2019

VIA EMAIL

James D. Stephens, Executive Director
South Carolina Aeronautics Commission
2553 Airport Blvd.
West Columbia, South Carolina 29170

RE: Follow up to March 5, 2019, Subcommittee Meeting

Dear Director Stephens:

The Executive Subcommittee appreciates the S.C. Aeronautics Commission's (SCAC) partnership in the oversight process. As follow up from the meeting on March 5, 2019, we seek additional information from the agency. Please provide this information by Monday, April 1, 2019.

Commission and Governance

1. Does SCAC notify congressional delegations of any information related to the agency's commission, including, but not limited to, when there are vacancies on the commission? If so, what information does SCAC regularly provide, outside of responding to questions from delegations?
2. Please compare SCAC commissioner duties and the duties of local airport commissioners. Please note any areas of overlap.
3. Does SCAC intend to draft a written succession plan?

Land Use Maps

4. What is SCAC's understanding of the purpose for the agency creating, and more specifically, providing to county and city councils, land use maps for each public use airport?
 - a. Are there any actions required of local governments after receipt of the maps?
 - b. Are there any actions the agency would recommend be taken by local governments to help further this purpose?
 - c. What potential risks are created by a local government not taking actions after receipt of the maps?

Airport Development

5. Did any statutory changes occur in North Carolina to help emphasize air commerce?
 - a. What did North Carolina seek to achieve through these changes?

Performance

6. Please list any data in the 2006 and 2018 economic impact studies which can, and cannot, be reasonably compared.
7. How does SCAC measure customer satisfaction in regards to its service of reviewing and approving airport construction plans?
8. Are there any common performance measures utilized by aeronautics divisions around the country and/or airports, or others in the aviation industry (e.g., number of runways in good or excellent condition; number of flights with no accidents; etc.)? If so, please provide a list of these measures and, for each, indicate whether the agency and/or any airports in the state track this data.
9. Please provide the number of runways around the state that are currently closed as a result of the runway being unsafe. Also, please provide any known information on plans to repair and re-open any of these runways.
10. What type of data does the agency have on the number of plane crashes or accidents at airports around the state?
 - a. Is this data available online?
 - b. How can this data be sorted, if at all?

Flights

11. Please communicate with state fleet management, and other impacted parties, to determine the following as it relates to creating a formula online in which an agency could enter applicable information about planned travel to determine if it is more cost efficient to travel in a state car or SCAC plane. In the discussions, please consider the amount the formula may be utilized; potential benefits; potential costs; and potential time to create and maintain.

Flights (cont.)

12. Is the following information publicly available in an electronic database or chart that can be sorted and searched, and, if not, has the agency considered making it available online?
Breakdown of the number of legs of SCAC flights, sorted by the entity(ies)/individual(s) flying, including, but not limited to members of all three branches of government, along with the purpose of flight, whether passengers were on board (since some trips involve flying the plane to a location to pick up passengers), and whether the entity(ies) were billed for the flight.
13. Please provide, for each of the last three years, the total cost to fly SCAC planes and amount received from entities flying on the planes.
14. Is the agency aware of any requirement in law that it, or another agency, maintain a list of planes and helicopters owned by state agencies?
15. Please provide a list of governmental entities that own planes or helicopters, the number owned by each, and the entity (e.g., name of state agency or private vendor) that performs maintenance on each.
16. How does the cost of a plane and helicopter, with similar ability to carry passengers, compare in terms of upfront cost and maintenance costs?
17. The next time SCAC needs to replace one of its planes, would replacing the plane with a helicopter, as opposed to another plane, be a feasible option? Why or why not?

Drones

18. What information and research would be needed for the agency to provide an estimate on the cost and personnel needed to operate a central unmanned aircraft division which could provide services to all state agencies?
19. Does the state Materials Management Office collaborate with SCAC when procuring state contracts for unmanned aircraft services requested by other state agencies? If not, would SCAC recommend it?
20. Please provide a brief explanation of the following as it relates to unmanned aircrafts/drones:
 - a. Status of the Federal Aviation Administration process of formulating federal regulations;
 - b. Steps other states have taken in developing their own statutes and regulations;
 - c. Steps SCAC believes may be beneficial for South Carolina to take in developing state laws; and
 - d. Potential risks in waiting to begin developing state laws.
21. Would the agency be willing to have a regular exhibition of the capabilities of its unmanned aircrafts for state agencies in case other agencies may wish to utilize similar equipment to accomplish aspects of its work? If yes, does the agency anticipate it would need additional funds to hold such an exhibition?

Grants

22. Please provide a breakdown of the source of funds that go into the State Aviation Fund and amount from each source.
23. Does the agency have a dedicated source of funding for state grants which can be utilized to match/obtain grants from the Federal Aviation Administration?
24. Are there any difficulties, timing wise, in having state funds available to match federal grants? If so, what options would the agency propose for how to resolve any difficulties?
25. Please explain the prioritization criteria utilized by the Aeronautics Commission for grant project requests.
26. Please provide the steps taken by the agency to confirm grant requirements are being met from those applying for the grant and at the time the grant is awarded.
27. Are all SCAC grants reimbursement only?
28. Are there requirements a grantee must meet after receiving grant money from SCAC? If so, please explain.
29. What options are available to the agency to enforce grant requirements?
 - a. Are there any other desired enforcement mechanisms?
30. Is there any revenue generated directly for the state as a result of the grants the agency provides? If so, please explain.
31. Please explain how the agency would utilize an extra \$2.5 million, including specific projects, how those projects would benefit the state, and whether those projects would generate any money for the state, if the General Assembly amended Code Section 55-5-280(B), as requested by the agency?

Laws

32. Please provide a list of the laws applicable to the agency, including authority granted to the agency in the laws, which have not been utilized in over ten years (e.g., agency owning an airport, Clemson University having its own airport). Please list those that may be needed in the future and those which may not, separately.

In responding to these questions, please remember the Committee's expectations which are provided in the Committee's Standard Practice 9.

Director Stephens
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The subcommittee looks forward to working collaboratively with the agency during the oversight process.
Thank you and your team for your service to the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary E. Clary".

Gary E. Clary
Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Laurie Slade Funderburk
The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton
The Honorable Chandra E. Dillard