



Airlake Airport ADVISORY COMMISSION



ALAAC

**METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION
AIRLAKE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Lakeville City Hall
20195 Holyoke Avenue, Lakeville, MN 55044

The meeting started at 4:00 p.m. There were 11 in-person and 6 online participants for a total of 16 participants. A quorum of at least 3 User Representatives and 3 Public Representatives was not established. In attendance were:

Representatives: K. Chatfield, Dakota County (via Teams); T. Fitzhenry, Airport User; T. Goodroad, City of Lakeville; S. Guetter, Airport User; K. Jech, Airport User (Chamber); P. Moynihan, Airport User; D. Wolbert, Airport User (via Teams)

MAC Staff: R. Anderson, Manager - Community Relations; K. Fisher, Attorney (via Teams); S. Lakku, Intern - Community Relations; J. Lewis, Technical Advisor; M. Ross, Director - Stakeholder Engagement (via Teams); S. Seafeldt, Airport Manager

Others: J. Diener; J. Vossen, Bolton & Menk (via Teams); R. Ziegler, Recording Secretary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Fitzhenry called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The representatives introduced themselves.

2. Agenda Discussion

Co-Chair Fitzhenry opened a discussion on the agenda. No comments or suggestions were made at this time.

3. Consent Items

3a. Approval of Minutes: September 11, 2025

Approved 3-12-2026

8140 220th Street West, Lakeville, Minnesota 55044

Sam Seafeldt, MAC Airport Manager • sam.seafeldt@mspmac.org • 651-224-4306



Co-Chair Fitzhenry confirmed a quorum had not been established and tabled this item until a later meeting.

3b. Aircraft Noise Complaints & Operations

Ms. Lewis stated five complaints were received in the third quarter of 2025, all from aircraft that operated at Airlake Airport. She reviewed the operations that generated complaints and gave information regarding complaint location, time of operation, and aircraft type.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked whether flights leaving Airlake Airport but not based out of Airlake are attributed to the airport in the complaint system.

Ms. Lewis confirmed that complaints from such operations are attributed to Airlake Airport.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked if there were any further questions, and there were none at this time.

4. Public Comment

Co-Chair Fitzhenry introduced the public comment period both for online and in-person participants. No comments were made.

5. Business Items

5a. Update on Franchise Fee

Representative Goodroad stated she had no specific update at this time. She checked in with the City Administrator for Lakeville and received an address list of involved hangars. A request for consideration to change meter designations has been submitted to Xcel Energy. They (Xcel) will decide if a rate classification change is warranted.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry expressed appreciation for Lakeville's involvement and for city staff jumping on this to try to get resolution of the issue.

5b. Roadway Update

Mr. Anderson said great progress has been made on the roadway since last meeting, including clearing of a major hurdle that will allow MAC to decouple the road from the federal review requirement. The MAC met this week with county staff to align plans and continue with the design and environmental review processes. The goal is to pave the road by next year, pending any unforeseen challenges. The roadway will be fully funded by the MAC.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked if there were any questions, and there were none at this time. He thanked the MAC for working to move the roadway project forward.

Mr. Anderson noted that more details would be available at the March meeting once winter is done and the construction season plans have been finalized.



5c. Runway Extension Update

Mr. Anderson stated the MAC is still in conversations with the FAA on the environmental review process for the runway extension. Because it has been such a long process, MAC is looking at interim airfield solutions. He said there are airfield conditions that need attention that the MAC is looking to build into the interim capital improvement plan so that work will not need to wait for the runway extension to be done.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked for confirmation that there is no timeline upon which the runway extension can be expected at this point.

Mr. Anderson confirmed that is true, but said he hopes to have more details by March (2026).

Representative Wolbert inquired as to details in terms of why the project is still held up.

Mr. Anderson said that, regarding the environmental review, the delay is related to the FAA and the MAC coming to an agreement on terms regarding the pipeline issue. The FAA and the MAC are figuring out how best to move forward given the conditions in place and the FAA requirements. Mr. Anderson stated there has been a lot of communication back and forth, and sometimes it can take a long time to get answers, particularly with the government shutdown. These delays are what has led the MAC to consider interim airfield improvements.

Representative Wolbert asked if a mediator could be brought in given the fact the project has been stalled for five to seven years.

Mr. Anderson indicated he would take that suggestion back to MAC leadership.

Representative Wolbert expressed frustration that there is no movement and that there are communication issues. He stated that, at some point, the ball needs to move.

Mr. Anderson expressed understanding of that frustration and said the MAC also is frustrated, as they want to proceed with the project. However, the MAC is beholden to follow the existing regulatory process.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked if there were any further questions, and there were none at this time. He thanked **Mr. Anderson** and the MAC staff for their work on this issue.

6. Information Items

6a. Airport Manager Update

Mr. Seafeldt introduced himself and gave updates about beacon issues at the airport over the last few years. He explained what beacons are and their utility at the airport. He gave basic information about Airlake Airport's beacon and its many repairs over recent years, leading to the decision to replace the beacon. The beacon tower will be replaced with a tip-down tower



in 2026, which will improve ease of future maintenance and repairs. He stated the new beacon was ordered six weeks ago and will be installed before Thanksgiving.

He also discussed upcoming winter weather preparations, including a new plow truck. He said Airlake Airport has a temporary, part-time employee who started last week to assist with snow events and winter airport operations. He noted that the airport is staffed 24-7 during winter weather in order to update NOTAMS and keep airfield condition reporting as accurate and timely as possible, which is a huge priority for the airport.

6b. Airport Frequency Change Update

Mr. Seafeldt gave the basic history of the frequency change process and the extensive due diligence that went into choosing a new frequency. 123.0 is the current frequency, and the new frequency will be 123.05. He discussed usage of different frequencies by nearby airports. He stated that the change is currently in process with the FCC. He explained the chart supplement cycle of 56 days. In order to be in the chart supplement update on 1/22/2026, approval would have to be received by 12/9/2025. If approval is not received by then, he would target submitting the change by 2/2/2026 for the 3/19/2026 cycle update. He wished that the change did not take this long, but he pointed out that there is benefit to changing frequency in the less busy season.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked how the change would be advertised and how the MAC can best educate pilots as to the new frequency.

Mr. Seafeldt said they will use every means of communication they can think of, including newsletters, signage, AWOS messages, and NOTAMs.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry pointed out that the lights will also need to be changed.

Mr. Seafeldt said that, through FAA technical operations, new cards will be ordered for the lighting system and electrical vault to ensure they are on the correct frequency.

Representative Guetter asked if **Mr. Seafeldt** had a guess on which chart cycle supplement the change will occur in.

Mr. Seafeldt said last time it went through during the December timeline. There could be a backlog from the government shutdown, but they will make the change as soon as possible.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked if there were any questions, and there were none at this time.

Representative Moynihan thanked **Mr. Seafeldt** for his work on this issue. He said the old frequency was unsafe and said the change is a great thing for the safety of all.



Mr. Seafeldt expressed gratitude to pilots and the Civil Air Patrol for assistance with monitoring and collecting data. He stated that it will be a good change.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry thanked **Nick Modders** for helping get the ball rolling on this change. He said he is glad for the new frequency and wants to have it completed as soon as possible.

6c. Fly Neighborly Program Comparison

Ms. Lakku gave a general overview of noise abatement programs and their goals. She discussed the FAA's restrictions and limitations placed on airports, including that all Airlake Airport's noise abatement programs are voluntary. She stated that Airlake Airport's noise abatement recommendations are clear and effective and that they are reinforced through seminars, regular meetings, and the receipt of ongoing feedback to allow for continual improvement.

She showed comparative benchmarks for noise abatement procedures at different airports, including on items such as noise complaint systems, advisory boards, pilot resources, flight tracking systems, preferred runway usage, voluntary noise abatement measures, recommended practices, and quiet hours. She highlighted the Fly Neighborly Program elements currently in use at the airport, and shared comparative insights of systems in place at other airports along with how Airlake manages those challenges. Further information can be found at <https://metroairports.org/fly-neighborly>.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked if there were any questions, and there were none at this time. He commented that he thinks the residents are happier in winter because less light in the evening makes for fewer nighttime operations.

6d. ALAAC Accomplishments/Work Plan Recap

Ms. Lakku reviewed a list of Commission accomplishments for 2024 and 2025, including specific work plan elements accomplished in each of the years.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry thanked **Ms. Lakku** for her presentation. He then asked if the MAC ever meets with the City of Lakeville Board. He said that, with all the development coming up, they want to make sure the zoning around the airport is appropriate.

Representative Goodroad stated that the airport is in its own zoning district and that everything surrounding it in Lakeville city limits is zoned industrial. She added that Eureka Township chooses their own zoning.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry said he knows of other airports with issues with housing development and was happy to hear that problem is being avoided at Airlake Airport.

7. Member Announcements



Co-Chair Fitzhenry introduced the member announcements topic. He said last night he attended the opening of EAA Chapter 25's new hangar on the south side. He was able to tour the hangar. He was impressed by the event's good turnout and expressed gladness that EAA is fiscally sound. He is looking forward to having meetings in the new hangar.

Representative Moynihan announced that the Reliever Airports Advisory Council (RAAC) will meet December 9th at MAC headquarters at 7 p.m. and that all are welcome.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked for any other member announcements. There were none at this time.

8. Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates: March 12, June 11, September 10, December 10, 2026

Co-Chair Fitzhenry gave the dates of the proposed 2026 meetings and asked if anyone had questions or problems with the schedule.

Representative Guetter noted he would not be able to make a meeting held December 10, 2026.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked if there were other comments or questions, and there were none at this time.

8a. Membership Renewal

Co-Chair Fitzhenry inquired as to the process of membership renewal for the Commission.

Mr. Seafeldt stated that he handles contacting groups for the Airport User Representatives.

Ms. Lewis said she will be sending out communication to the current membership thanking everyone for their participation. For the representatives who would like to continue to serve on the Airlake Airport Advisory Commission, they can reply to that communication indicating they would be interested in continuing. MAC staff will solicit community representative renewals and **Mr. Seafeldt** will solicit Airport user representative renewals to keep the group's membership balanced. **Ms. Lewis** requested membership information be returned by January 31, 2026 so the roster can be finalized.

Co-Chair Fitzhenry asked if there were any questions, and there were none at this time. He said he is impressed at the group's work and their ability to resolve issues. He noted there is still work to do, but he thanked MAC staff and city staff and said he appreciates everyone's work.

Adjourn

Co-Chair Fitzhenry adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

