



SPECIAL AIRPORT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 25, 2025 at 2:00 PM Airport Admin

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/82753690455?pwd=7ab1cq3rdAS1B2bQUb2yWFGGbUnF11.1>

Zoom ID: 827 5369 0455

Passcode: 547735

TO TESTIFY: CONTACT SHANNON VAN VALIN, 907-586-0962

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair David Epstein called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

David Epstein-Chair

Dennis Bedford

Angela Rodell

Jeff Redmond

Nolan Davis, Tenant Liaison (Zoom)

Staff Present:

Andres Delgado, Airport Manager

Ke Mell, Airport Architect

Sherri Layne, Deputy Municipal Attorney

Angelica Lopez-Campos, Airport Business Manager

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Aviation Worker Screening (AWS) and Litigation

Airport Manager Andres Delgado reported that outside counsel presented oral argument on October 17, 2024. The court found that TSA adopted the national amendment without following the Administrative Procedures Act. The Board needed to determine whether to continue in the litigation or withdraw. Continued participation was estimated to cost between \$2,500 and \$4,000, possibly up to \$10,000, with \$5,000 remaining in the previously approved purchase order. Mr. Delgado stated that the Airport would benefit from any national ruling regardless of participation.

Deputy Municipal Attorney Sherri Layne explained that outside counsel planned to file a

request for rehearing seeking a firm deadline for TSA's rulemaking and a stay on the EDSE requirement during the process. Thirteen airports were participating, consisting primarily of small and mid-sized airports such as Billings, Bismarck, Colorado Springs, Raleigh-Durham, Milwaukee County, Asheville, San Jose, and Spokane. The State of Alaska was not participating for other Alaska airports. While costs were expected to stay under \$5,000, this was not guaranteed.

Board Questions and Discussion: Ms. Rodell asked about the size of participating airports and what success would look like. Ms. Layne stated that success meant securing a deadline for TSA rulemaking and added that the ultimate rule outcome was expected to be unchanged. The rulemaking process typically takes about three years.

Ms. Rodell asked why the case was continuing if the final outcome would not change. Ms. Layne noted that the Airport originally joined to oppose the unfunded mandate and to show solidarity, but that the benefits of continued participation were now limited.

Ms. Rodell stated that her inclination was to withdraw and redirect resources toward preparing comments during the future federal rulemaking process.

Mr. Delgado reported that TSA currently requires monitoring of three doors. By April 2026, each door must be equipped with explosive detection equipment funded by the Airport. Fairbanks' recent purchases exceeded \$100,000 per unit, implying a minimum cost of \$300,000 plus staffing. Two new security technicians had already been hired with the expectation that hours may increase. The Airport has maintained full compliance since September 25, 2024.

Board Chair Mr. Epstein stated that TSA had been directed by the court to follow proper procedures and he did not expect a different outcome.

Board member Mr. Redmond stated he had hoped litigation would buy additional time for funding, but acknowledged that the current motion did not address that purpose.

Motion: Ms. Rodell moved that Juneau International Airport withdraw from the AWS litigation coalition, request dismissal from further participation, and continue operational compliance with AWS while monitoring TSA rulemaking and court actions.

Discussion on the Motion: Ms. Rodell stated that litigation was unlikely to provide relief and that the Airport's efforts would be better focused on federal rulemaking comments.

Mr. Delgado reiterated that withdrawal would not affect required compliance.

Mr. Epstein agreed that the likely outcome of TSA's rulemaking would not change.

Mr. Redmond indicated he would not oppose the motion.

Action: Motion passed by unanimous consent.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

5. ASSEMBLY LIAISON

None.

6. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Mr. Redmond announced he would not be present at the next Board meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE The next regular Airport Board Meeting will be held on October 9th at 6:00 p.m.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT Mr. Epstein called to adjourn at 2:31 p.m.