

AIRPORT COMMISSION MINUTES

February 10, 2026

3:00 P.M.

Danville Regional Airport – Eastern Conference Room

The following were present for the Danville Regional Airport Commission meeting held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Attendees:

Sid Allgood, Chairman	Travis Williams, Averett University	Marc Adelman, Director
Stephen Daniel	Earl Reynolds, Deputy City Manager	Todd Pinekenstein, Trans. Bld. Grounds Superintendent
Phil Hall	Alan Spencer, Deputy City Attorney	Lisa Bivens, Senior Admin. Assistant
Gene Jackson		
Bob Jiranek		
Fred Shanks		

Guests:

Marcio Couto, Instructor and Program Manager of Aviation Maintenance Technology, Danville Community College

Chairman Sid Allgood called the meeting to order and requested a roll call.

Approval of Agenda

Phil Hall made a motion to approve the agenda for the February 10, 2026, Airport Commission meeting. Fred Shanks seconded the motion; all members in attendance were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Fred Shanks and seconded by Stephen Daniel to approve the minutes of January 13, 2026, Airport Commission meeting as presented. All members in attendance were in favor and the motion passed.

Public Comment

No public comments received.

New Business

Topic: Update on the Status of Airport Projects

Action: Todd Pinekenstein updated the Airport Commission regarding the status of the Obstruction Removal, Erosion Control Mitigation and Corporate Hangar Site Preparation Construction projects.

Disposition: All projects are progressing and should be completed during the spring/summer.

Todd Pinekenstein updated the Airport Commission regarding the Obstruction Removal project that involves the Runway 31 end. He identified that currently all the trees have been cut or topped. Some additional grubbing work must be completed for one of the slopes once the aerial survey is completed. It is anticipated that this survey will be completed in March once the trees have fully exfoliated.

Topic: Update on the Status of Airport Projects (Continued)

Todd Pinekenstein also discussed the Erosion Control Mitigation project. He identified the contractor is currently about 75% complete with the pipe installation. The pipe work involves installing 575 feet of 36" concrete pipe linking the retention pond. The closer the general contractor has gotten to the retention pond the company has run into some significantly soft foundation material, which is a result of uncontrolled downstream drainage for many years. Due to related conditions the contractor had to add some additional base material and adjust the base aggregate. This project is still expected to be completed on time next month.

Todd Pinekenstein shared pictures of progress for the Corporate Hangar Site Prep Construction project located in the t-hangar building area. On January 23, 2026, a surface prime coat was applied to the compacted stone for the aircraft ramp parking area to prevent moisture from infiltrating into the base aggregate while the project is shutdown during the winter. The paving work will resume in the spring.

Topic: Tobacco Commission Grant application to construct corporate hangar

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission concerning the status of the Tobacco Commission corporate hangar grant application.

Disposition: Aisha Gwynn, Danville's Grant Administrator, is preparing the grant application.

Marc Adelman said that during the last Airport Commission meeting it was discussed about possibly pursuing a Tobacco Commission Grant to support financing the construction of a new corporate hangar adjacent to Taxiway H. However, he indicated that it was recently learned that a Tobacco Commission grant funding cannot be obtained for airport improvement projects. Fortunately, the City Manager approved allowing the airport to submit a Congressional Directed Spending application (earmark request) to the Virginia 5th District Congressional office. Discussion continued.

Topic: Update on the Aviation Training Facility Building and Hangar Projects

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission concerning the status of the Aviation Training Facility Building and Hangar projects.

Disposition: Construction work continues for the hangar and Aviation Training Facility building.

Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission regarding the status of the Aviation Training Facility building and hangar projects. He indicated that the general contractor is currently completing grade adjustments for the hangar building pad. Other items identified regarding the status of both projects are listed below.

- Submittal review for the hangar building by the architect is approximately 85% complete.
- Submittal review for the training facility building is approximately 60% complete. The remaining submittals will be submitted by the contractor at the appropriate point in the construction timeline.
- Footings have been excavated for the new hangar (Hangar 300).
- During the footing excavation work for the hangar project electric conduit was hit by the contractor and it was learned that Blair Construction incorrectly installed conduit where the hangar will be constructed. Cirrus Construction has relocated the conduit in the hangar building area so work could continue.

Topic: Update on the Aviation Training Facility Projects (Continued)

It was also learned that the secondary electrical conduit was not reviewed by the Inspections Office for the site prep construction project.

Other information shared concerning the status of the aviation training facility projects is identified below.

- 50% of the concrete footings have been poured for Hangar 300. The remaining footings and concrete slab on grade are expected to be poured within the next week, weather permitting.
- Structural steel for both the hangar and building will arrive during the first week of March.
- Efforts were initiated with Blair Construction to complete inspection requirements for 155 feet of secondary conduit that was previously installed.
- A meeting will be held this week with Danville Community College and Dewberry concerning furniture needs for the aviation training facility building.

Marc Adelman reviewed all the airport improvement projects that area either underway or planned during 2026. Related information is identified below.

Project Description	Federal Funding	State Funding	Local Funding	Total Cost	Funding Levels
Corporate Hangar Site Prep Construction – T- Hangar Building Area	\$0	\$1,823,377	\$202,597	\$2,025,974	90% - state 10% - local
Aviation Training Facility Building	\$3,939,430	\$2,500,000	\$126,287	\$6,565,717	60% - federal 38% - state 2% - local
Hangar for Aviation Training Facility Project	\$839,325	\$0	\$44,175	\$883,500	95% - federal 5% - local
Obstruction removal	\$0	\$292,500	\$32,500	\$325,000	90% - state 10% - local
Erosion Control	\$0	\$535,881	\$59,542	\$595,423	90% - state 10% - local
South Ramp Site Prep Construction	\$0	\$993,761	\$110,417	\$1,104,178	90% - state 10% - local
Design services for new hangar	\$76,050	\$0	\$8,450	\$84,500	90% - federal 10% - local

Marc Adelman indicated that multiple projects are currently underway at the airport valued at over \$11,000,000 and that it is hoped that most of these projects will be completed by the end of 2026. He also said that he was recently interviewed by *Cardinal News* about the Aviation Training Facility project regarding the aviation maintenance training program. Danville Community College representatives will also be interviewed before the story is published.

Topic: Update on the Aviation Training Facility Projects (Continued)

Marc Adelman said he believes these projects reflect the city's support for the airport. Several of the Airport Commission members indicated that they would like to see some publicity regarding the projects. The following possibilities were discussed to promote the work underway such as issuing a press release and updating City Council during a work session. Marc Adelman said he would contact the City Manager's office regarding the possibility of meeting with City Council members during a work session.

Topic: Renewal of Commercial Air Service – Natchez, Mississippi

Action: Airport staff obtained information concerning the steps pursued by Natchez, Mississippi to renew commercial air service.

Disposition: Additional information will be pursued regarding funding requirements for the Natchez, Mississippi project.

During the January 2026 Airport Commission meeting Travis Williams, Chief Flight Instructor for Averett University, mentioned that Natchez, Mississippi just received commercial air service after thirty years. Marc Adelman said that information was obtained to learn about the community's efforts to renew commercial air service.

Background information shared with the Airport Commission regarding Natchez, Mississippi and their efforts to renew commercial air service are identified below:

- Community of 14,000, demographic conditions are comparable to Danville
- Distance from closest commercial airport – Alexandria, Louisiana 70 miles
- Multiple river cruise lines serve Natchez
- A 100,000 square foot film production facility is in Natchez
- Funding provided to initiate service provided through the FAA Small Community Air Service Development Program, Mississippi Department of Transportation, Mississippi Development Authority, Natchez, Mississippi and Adams County, Mississippi
- Natchez is using a hangar to support terminal building requirements

Marc Adelman indicated that thirty years ago, Danville lost Essential Air Service Subsidy that supported commercial air service because of the city's proximity to a medium-sized hub airport. Currently, Raleigh Durham International Airport is a medium-sized hub airport, and it is 69 miles from Danville. Marc Adelman indicated that the proximity to a medium hub airport influences funding eligibility and the level of subsidy that is received. Marc Adelman added that most essential air service programs are in Alaska.

Key factors that mattered to the FAA and United/SkyWest regarding Natchez's efforts to initiate commercial air service included the following:

- Catchment data showing how many people within their market were traveling outside of the market to fly
- City's robust history and tourism opportunities
- Location on the Mississippi river with cruise line interest in making Natchez a port of embarkation
- Proven partnership between all local entities including the city, county, Economic Development Authority, convention and visitor's bureau, and the airport
- Grant application was prepared by a commercial air service consultant
- Cell phone data and other information was used to complete a catchment study bolstered their ability to receive funds and land a commercial air service provider

Topic: FBO Management Update

Action: Averett University staff updated members on recent FBO activities.

Disposition: AU Aviation Services will provide additional updates at the next meeting.

Travis Williams updated the Airport Commission concerning FBO activities. He said that fuel costs are down about fifty cents per gallon since the beginning of 2026. The cost for jet fuel is currently \$6.08 per gallon down from \$6.65 and is about twenty cents cheaper than the fuel price at the Blue Ridge Airport in Martinsville. He indicated that hopefully the fuel prices will continue to drop a little through the spring.

Phil Hall asked Travis Williams how much of AU Aviation Services aircraft mechanic's time is spent on Averett's aircraft versus other aircraft. Travis Williams said he believed that the mechanic spends 40% to 60% of his time working on Averett's aircraft. He also said that the mechanic can service all regular customers. Phil Hall asked if the FBO sees an opportunity to provide more service if an additional mechanic was hired. Travis Williams said that it would be possible if they could bring in work from outside the airport. He added like any business, it's reasonable to think if one or two more mechanics were hired, business opportunities could expand.

Phil Hall asked about rental equipment from the FBO and if there is an airplane available for rent. Travis Williams confirmed that an aircraft is designated to be available for rent and stated the plane is owned by the university. Phil Hall said the FBO has also been looking for a general manager since John Earl left. Travis Williams said Garrett Haskins has been promoted to Operations Manager and has taken over day-to-day operations.

Phil Hall asked Travis Williams about flight lessons if someone wanted to learn to fly. Travis Williams said the FBO staff would give the person some material and ask relevant questions to get the training started and get in touch with the flight center. Phil Hall mentioned that since their mechanic is working on Averett's fleet up to 60% of the time, if it wasn't for Averett the FBO would not have much business and asked how can maintenance repair activities be expanded? Travis Williams said they are looking at some things to do and for possibly someone to serve as an apprentice for the next four or five years with the aspect of getting more customers.

Phil Hall asked if there is an opportunity for another business to come in to meet the aviation maintenance needs that are not being met. Travis Williams said they don't do turbine work so if there was a turbine company that would come in, absolutely. Phil Hall said we need to grow the business and that marketing activities should be done to improve awareness of the airport to support and promote aviation business and recreational opportunities.

Communications

Marcio Couto said the aviation maintenance technology program has been approved for SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) accreditation. However, he also mentioned they need program approval from the Federal Aviation Administration. He said they believe this will be a four-to-five-month process for certification.

Communications (Continued)

Marcio Couto also stated that Danville Community College staff recently attended the Virginia Business Aviation Association meeting in Richmond and there was a lot of interest in their aviation maintenance training program. Classes are still on schedule to begin in August 2026. Discussion continued. Airport Commission members congratulated Marcio Couto and his co-workers regarding this accomplishment.

Fred Shanks said he remembers when this process began with Danville Community College and that it is fantastic how much has been accomplished since things started.

Bob Jiranek said nothing has been brought up today about what is going on with the Berry Hill project. He said he is curious about what kind of effect the project could have on the airport. Sid Allgood said if you haven't ridden out that way recently, ride by the road construction and pipe construction work and you can see a massive solar farm.

Sid Allgood said last week there was a corporation formed in the area, called Flight Crew 40:31. They are currently waiting to obtain their 501C3 application approval. This is a flight-based operation like God's Pit Crew which offers emergency crisis services and will be based in Danville.

Adjournment

The Airport Commission meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.