

**CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON AIRPORT NOISE
PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MEETING MINUTES
June 27, 2024 - 9:30 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

CAROL ROBERTS, District # 1
ALICE MCLANE, District #3
AARON WORMUS, District #4
JULIE HERMES CASTILLO, District #5
VICTORIA CHOURIS, District #6
MARTIN KLEIN, District # 7
TERESA JOHNSON, PBC League of Cities
NANCY PULLUM, Good Neighbor Council

STAFF PRESENT:

LAURA BEEBE, Director of Airports
GARY SYPEK, Senior Deputy Director of Airports
CYNTHIA PORTNOY, Deputy Director of Planning & Community Affairs
MICHAEL GIAMBRONE, Director, Planning & Development
CRAIG DELEGATO, Noise Abatement Manager
ANDREW GAMBOA, Manager Air Service Development

OTHERS:

TANIA MARIE AMAR, Ferrovia Vertiports

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

The June 27, 2024 meeting of the CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON AIRPORT NOISE (CCAN) was called to order at 9:45 a.m., and Department of Airports Noise Abatement Manager CRAIG DELEGATO called the roll. The following Committee members were present: CAROL ROBERTS, ALICE MCLANE, AARON WORMUS, JULIE HERMES CASTILLO, MARTIN KLEIN and TERESA JOHNSON.

The following members were not present during the roll call: JOYCE VAUGHN, VICTORIA CHOURIS, LEW CRAMPTON and NANCY PULLUM

CRAIG DELEGATO informed the CCAN Vice-Chairperson, AARON WORMUS, that a quorum was present. *NANCY PULLUM arrived immediately after the roll was initially taken.*

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

NANCY PULLUM asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. A motion was made to approve the Agenda; the motion was seconded and approved.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Airports Director, LAURA BEEBE reminded the COMMITTEE that Palm Beach International Airport has an agreement with Ferrovial for the development of an electric vertical take-off and landing vehicle (EVOTL) site. She informed the COMMITTEE that Ferrovial is currently seeking extensions to timeframes within the agreement as well as minor changes. She advised the COMMITTEE that before presenting Ferrovial's requests to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) she asked Ferrovial to provide an update of their plans to the CCAN.

TANIA MARIE AMAR from Ferrovial thanked the COMMITTEE members for attending her presentation. She began the presentation with a general description of EVOTL's noting that the air mobility industry is becoming transformative and life-changing with EVOTL's offering a quieter, safer and more efficient mode of transportation over current aircraft. She stated that Ferrovial focuses on infrastructure; including the development of vertiports and that they have over 60 years of experience in the aviation infrastructure industry.

She explained that generally there are three business models that are becoming prominent in the EVOTL/Vertiport industry. The first business model, an intra-city model, considers flights that are less than 30 miles. The second model, an inter-

city model, considers flights between 30-185 miles. Finally, Ferrovia envisions a third model, an intra-airline model, where large commercial airlines will use EVOTL's to help shuttle their customers to their hubs. She stated that over time, the vertiport at PBI would be a fit for all three of these business models.

She then informed the COMMITTEE of the processes that Ferrovia takes when choosing sites for development. She emphasized the importance Ferrovia places on community engagement throughout their development process.

NANCY PULLUM asked if they have already met with local homeowner associations. DIRECTOR BEEBE advised the COMMITTEE that Ferrovia hasn't yet met with local homeowner associations, explaining that currently, based in part on upcoming Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidance, timeframes for additional community outreach have not yet been finalized. Both DIRECTOR BEEBE and TANIA MARIE AMAR reiterated the importance of community engagement during each step of the development process.

The COMMITTEE asked questions regarding zoning and the responsibilities of different municipalities in regards to EVOTLs. The COMMITTEE asked if the future is one where individual businesses and property owners will be able to construct their own vertiports. DIRECTOR BEEBE answered while the development of private-use vertiports may be possible she sees that as being in the very distant future. She also noted those types of issues will be addressed by different municipalities, their zoning commissions and the State of Florida.

THE COMMITTEE asked how EVOTLs compare to helicopters. TANIA MARIE AMAR explained that while they may look similar, particularly because of their use of rotors, EVOTLs are taking the best aspects of helicopters (i.e. ease of mobility) while limiting the negative aspects (i.e. noise and fuel).

TANIA MARIE AMAR showed the COMMITTEE a rendering of the vertiport area at PBI. Current plans have the vertiport opening with two gates and ultimately expanding to a maximum of four gates with a small terminal building.

The COMMITTEE asked if Ferrovia would be the only vertiport operator at PBI. Director Beebe advised that several operators have expressed interest in vertiports at PBI but currently there are no plans for additional vertiport operators.

The COMMITTEE asked if Ferrovia expects to see multiple vertiports being developed throughout the County. Defunct golf course properties were areas the COMMITTEE cited as examples of where private developers may want to create a vertiport. TANIA MARIE AMAR informed the COMMITTEE that a key component of Ferrovia's plans are to be able to provide ease of access and developing vertiports in areas that aren't easily and quickly accessible would not be in their plans. DIRECTOR BEEBE added that having an agreement to

develop a vertiport at PBI gives the County “a seat at the table” when it comes to planning how vertiports might impact local communities.

TERESA JOHNSON suggested that initial pricing for EVOTL service might be cost-prohibitive for many local residents and asked what the benefit of EVOTLs are to the local community. TANIA MARIE AMAR stated that as with the introduction of many products, their price points tend to become lower as markets for the products mature. She stated she envisions a similar pattern happening with EVOTLs. She also suggested that industry-pricing models have shown to be compatible with pricing for an Uber Black service. Other benefits that both she and DIRECTOR BEEBE discussed were internship opportunities at the Florida Atlantic University campus in Boca Raton and jobs that will need to be filled for vertiport operators and in the EVOTL industry.

TANIA MARIE AMAR advised the COMMITTEE of the specific flight paths they anticipate they would be using at PBI. She suggested most arrivals and departures would be from the north to avoid interfering with current aircraft operations. She envisions that flight arrivals will come from the west and departures to the east. She stated that EVOTLs should reach approximately 500 feet before they reach Australian Avenue. DIRECTOR BEEBE advised the COMMITTEE that all flight paths would be subject to FAA approval.

TANIA MARIE AMAR discussed EVOTL noise profiles with the COMMITTEE. She explained that current EVOTL models are proving to be 100x more quiet than existing aircraft at cruising altitude making them essentially inaudible from the ground. She noted that at take-off and landing EVOTLs have a noise profile that is similar to hearing a vacuum cleaner from 10 feet away. She stated that by the time EVOTLs at PBI are in airspace near local communities, they will likely be inaudible.

TANIA MARIE AMAR closed her presentation emphasizing Ferrovial’s commitment to continuing to focus on community engagement by providing updates throughout the development process. She stated that Ferrovial wants to be able to provide the community with the information and education level needed to become comfortable with their plans and operations.

DIRECTOR BEEBE advised the next steps in the vertiport development process include requesting lease updates from the BCC, contacting the FAA for updates on the approval process and meeting with the advisory boards and citizen committees to keep them updated on the progress.

The COMMITTEE asked when to expect the first EVOTL flight out of PBI. TANIA MARIE AMAR said that she was hopeful that would occur by 2026.

TERESA JOHNSON asked if Ferrovia could provide more information regarding internships, scholarships and job opportunities at their next presentation and asked DIRECTOR BEEBE to help ensure the County hears the ideas of the local communities when considering the vertiport development.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairperson NANCY PULLUM asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment. There were none.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.