



**CHOOSE
COLUMBUS**
An Economic Development Organization



Courtesy: Archer Aviation

Advanced Air Mobility & Columbus

June 9, 2026

What is Advanced Air Mobility (AAM)?

Umbrella term for **Urban Air Mobility (UAM)** that focuses on transporting people and cargo at low altitudes within urban and suburban areas and **Regional Air Mobility (RAM)** that builds upon the concept of UAM by expanding its range to inter-city and regional travel



What is an eVTOL?

Distributed Electric Propulsion is the enabling technology for AAM

- eVTOL are electrically powered aircraft that take off and land vertically
- Much quieter and environmentally friendly than traditional combustion engine aircraft
- Less expensive to operate and maintain
- Utilize simplified vehicle operation technology making it easier to fly



Potential Benefits



Reduced emergency response times



Increased range of access to the urban core



Workforce development and economic opportunities



Stronger connection of rural areas to urban opportunities



Increased utility of GA airport infrastructure



Additional disaster response capabilities



Increased electrification



Elimination of transportation deserts

Why does AAM matter?

- **First commercial aircraft will take flight in the U.S. this year**
 - *U.S. Presidential Executive Order “Unleashing American Drone Dominance”* – June 2026
 - *U.S. Department of Transportation Advanced Air Mobility National Strategy* – Dec 2025
 - *Federal Aviation Administration eVTOL Integration Pilot Program (eIPP)* – Mar 2026
- **26 states (8 projects) selected for AAM flight testing (eIPP)**
- **AAM market in U.S.A. valued at \$5 billion, expected growth to \$43 billion by 2035**
- **Georgia is seeing significant interest from the industry:**
 - Archer plant in Covington
 - BETA chargers at multiple airports
 - Georgia Tech’s Center for Urban and Regional Air Mobility (CURAM)
 - SkyDrive aircraft to operate in Augusta

How does Columbus prepare for AAM?

- **Georgia DOT completed an AAM study in 2024**
 - Assessment of activities and potential
 - Inventory and assessment of aviation infrastructure
 - Published community guidebook
 - Developed statewide AAM action plan
- **Columbus established an AAM working group in 2025**
 - Coordination with stakeholders
 - Review zoning ordinances
 - Map aeronautical use facilities, 14 C.F.R. Part 77 surfaces
 - Ensure land use compatibility
 - Identify existing ambient noise levels
 - Establish an electric aircraft fire safety protocol

Proposed eVTOL hub at Columbus Airport



Recommendation

The Columbus City Council state it is supportive of ensuring Columbus is part of a broader AAM network and request funding for \$2.2 million within the discretionary FY27 transportation infrastructure budget to construct an airside electric charging station and a dedicated vertiport for the arrival/departure of eVTOL aircraft. Once construction is complete, Columbus Airport will operate and maintain both the charging station and vertiport.



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THANK YOU!

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