

Subject: Advanced Air Mobility and Columbus, Georgia

Initiative: The city of Columbus seeks to posture itself within a broader advanced air mobility (AAM) network by establishing necessary infrastructure at Columbus Airport (CSG), enabling it to serve as the regional hub for electric vertical takeoff and lift (eVTOL) aircraft.

Background: Electrically powered, piloted aircraft will begin commercial operations in U.S. airspace later this year, initially operating at ranges of 30-150 miles. The aircraft are significantly quieter and cheaper to operate than combustion engine aircraft, offering increased access to urban core and rural areas alike. Enabled by the 2025 U.S. Advanced Air Mobility Comprehensive Plan, the technology will significantly alter how communities and individuals commute, travel, transport cargo, and respond to emergencies.

On March 9, 2026 the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced eight AAM projects, spanning 26 states, are cleared to begin operations during the summer of 2026. The projects are part of the FAA's eVTOL Integration Pilot Program (eIPP) and have a wide variety of uses cases, including cargo operations, medical operations, autonomous operations, and passenger transport. eVTOL aircraft industry frontrunners, Joby Aviation and Archer Aviation (Georgia), are both anticipating the commencement of commercial flight operations before the end of 2026.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) conducted an AAM study in 2024, including an assessment of AAM activities and potential in Georgia, an inventory and assessment of aviation infrastructure, the creation of a community guidebook, and the development of a statewide AAM action plan. Four Georgia airports currently have airside electric charging stations.

Columbus established an AAM working group in the summer of 2025, using the Georgia community guidebook and its recommended process. CSG, which was assessed in the GDOT AAM study, has been designated as the regional hub for AAM. The Columbus City Government (CCG) has reviewed its planning and zoning ordinances for compatible use of AAM and is preparing to finalize necessary modifications for approval. Use cases for the integration of eVTOL technology are being developed for cargo operations, medical operations, first responders, and passenger transport.

The Columbus AAM working group has determined the establishment of an eVTOL hub at CSG is both feasible and suitable. CSG is updating its master plan to include both a vertiport (dedicated takeoff and landing facility) and an airside electric charging station. The total project cost is estimated at \$2.2 million. Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge has been briefed on and is supportive of the project.

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.

References:

U.S. Presidential Executive Order "Unleashing American Drone Dominance": [Unleashing American Drone Dominance – The White House](#)

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U.S. Department of Transportation Advanced Air Mobility National Strategy 2025: [Advanced Air Mobility National Strategy 2025 | US Department of Transportation](#)

Federal Aviation Administration eIPP Fact Sheet: [eIPP Announcement Fact Sheet](#)

Georgia Department of Transportation Advanced Air Mobility Resources: [AAM](#)

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