



Illinois Aviation Statewide Projects Update

2026 IPAA Annual Meeting | September 28, 2026



Agenda

1

Illinois AAM System Plan Phase I

2

Illinois AAM System Plan Phase II

3

Aircraft Operations Counting with Virtower

4

Aviation Economic Impact Analysis

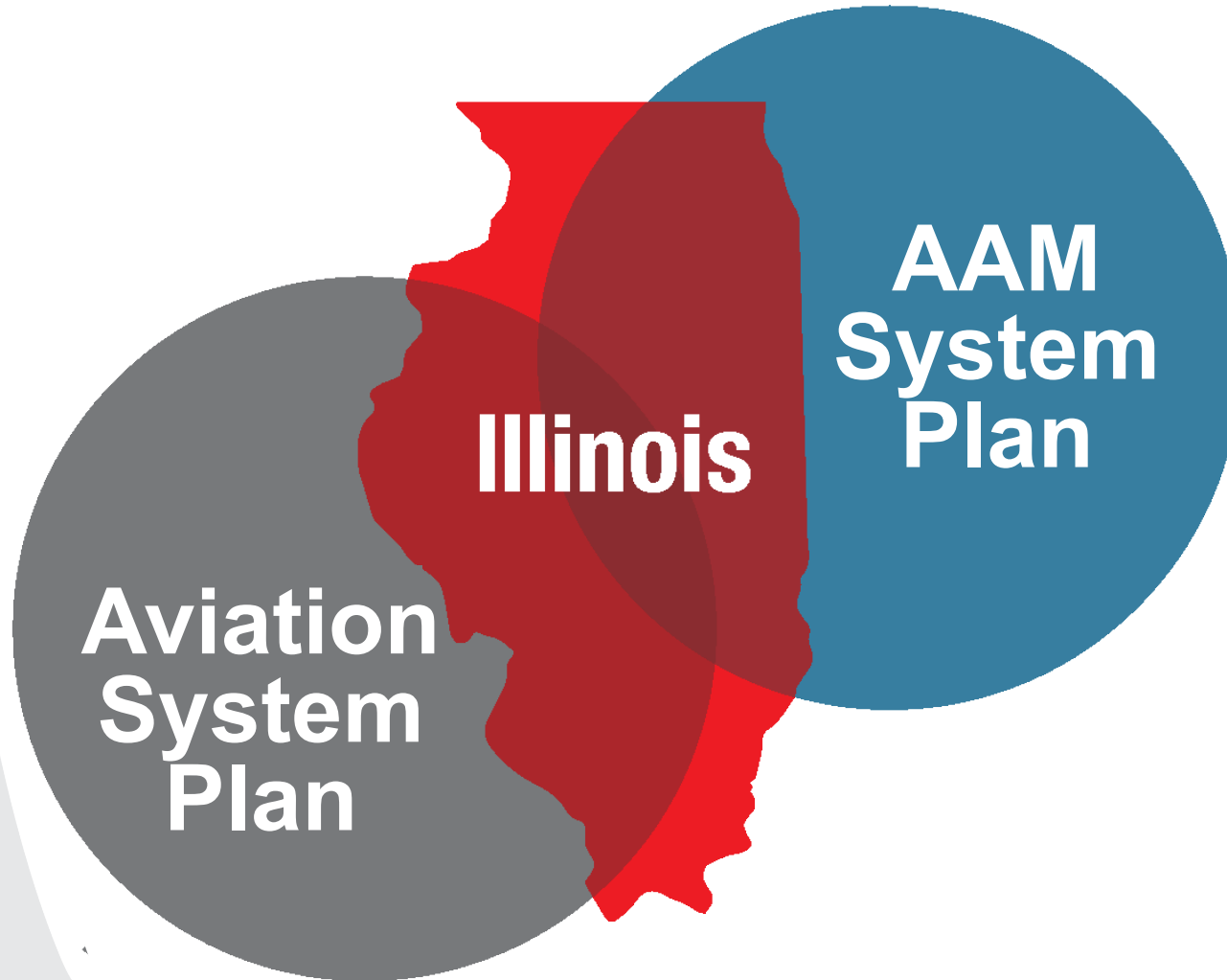


AAM System Plan Phase I





Project Purpose



*To recognize and
prioritize existing and
near-term AAM
opportunities from an
infrastructure,
airspace, and IDOT
policy perspective*

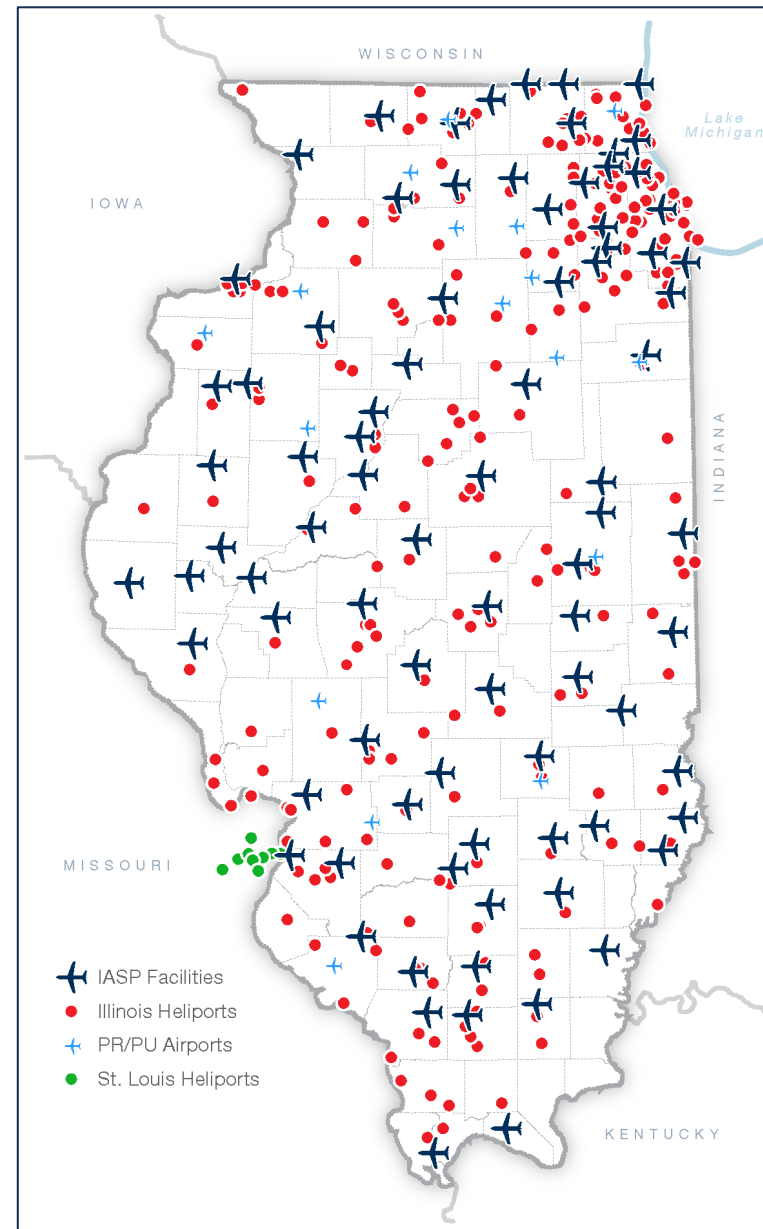


Defining the System

Areas of Focus:

- Chicago Metropolitan
- Greater St. Louis Metropolitan
 - Includes St. Louis heliports within Missouri

Facility Type	Number of Facilities
IASP Facilities	85
Illinois Heliports	241
PR/PU in Illinois	16
St. Louis Heliports	10
Total	352





Opportunities and Threats



Opportunities

- Existing Aviation Infrastructure
- Workforce Development
- Partnerships with Academia
- De-carbonization and Sustainability Initiatives
- Funding and Incentive Programs



Threats

- Incompatible Land Use
- Airspace Use
- Technological Limitations
- Battery Waste
- Equitable Access
- Reduced Aviation Funding
- Lack of Regulatory Guidance
- Electrification and Energy Capacity/Scaling
- Public Acceptance and Expectation



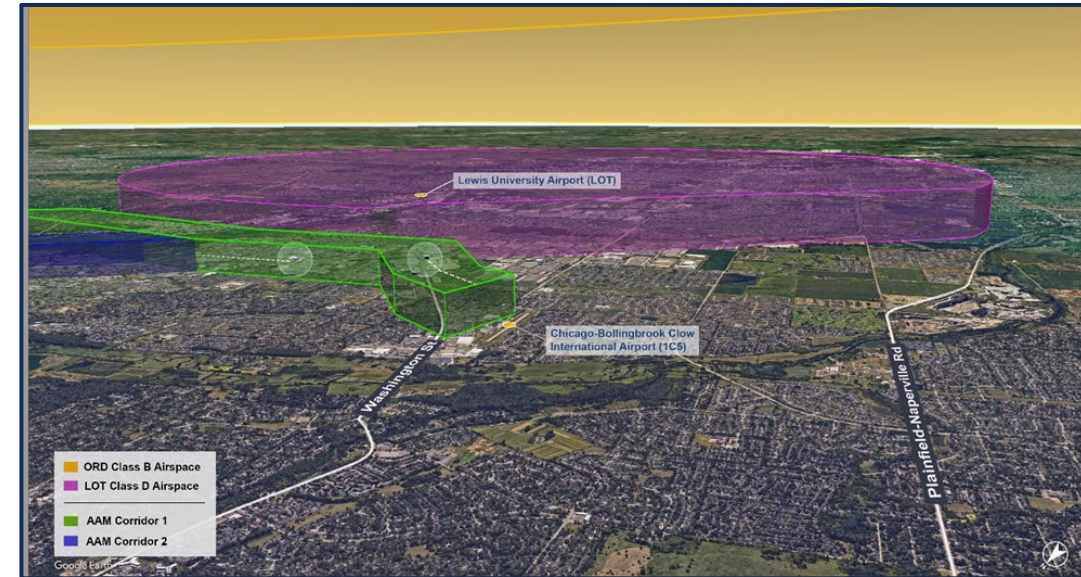
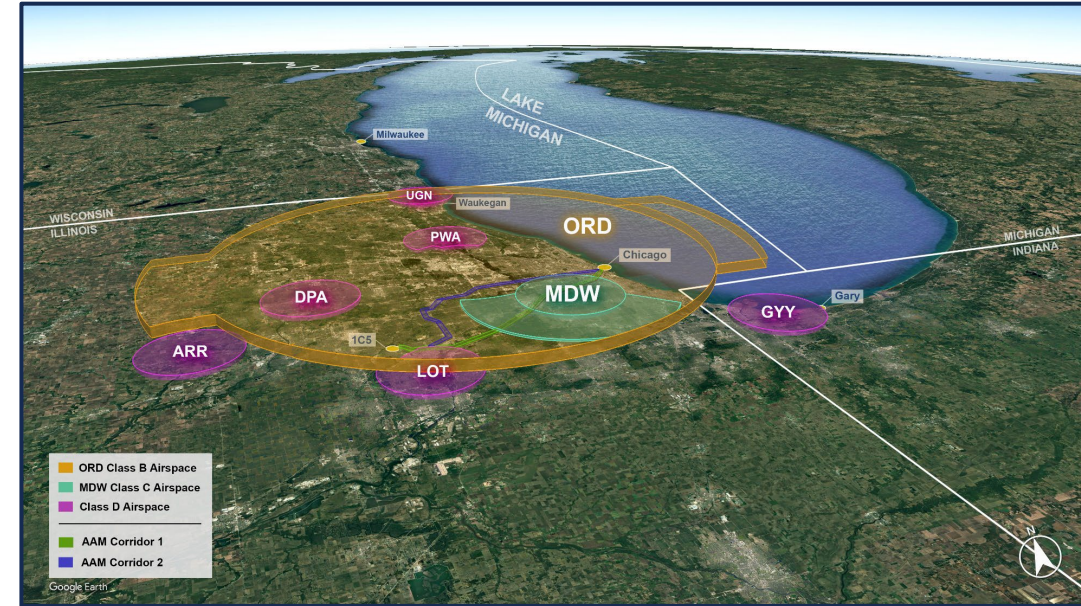
Airspace Analysis

Purpose

- Demonstrating RAM near Chicagoland

Deliverables

- Chapter 4. Airspace Analysis
- 3D Dynamic Video
 - Both were posted to website





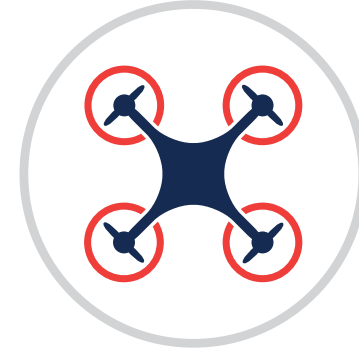
Recommendations Framework



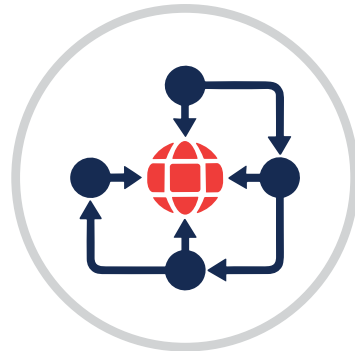
**AAM Infrastructure
and Zoning**



**Public Education
and Community
Engagement**



**Airspace
and Safety**



**System Planning
and Access**



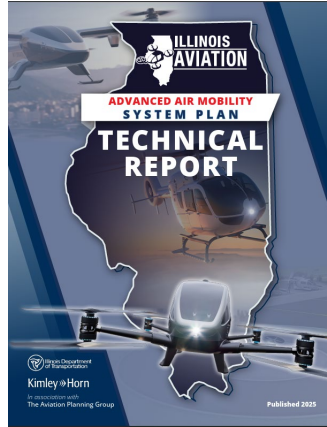
**Workforce
Development**



**PAC
Recommendation**



Deliverables



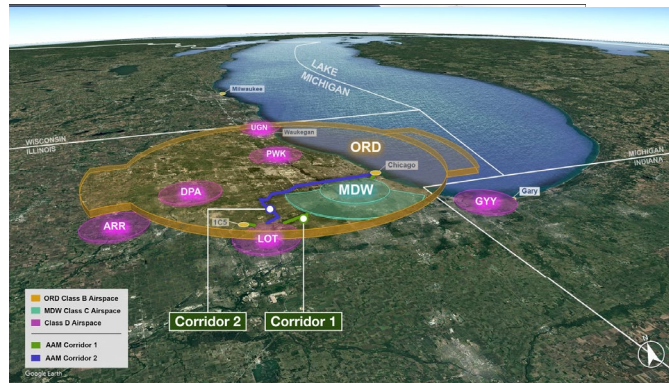
Technical Report



Executive Summary
Brochure



Sample Vertiport
Reports



Project Poster

3D Airspace Static &
Dynamic Models



AAM System Plan Phase II





Project Advisory Committee



AAM Use Case Evaluations

Inventory of AAM Landing Areas

Airport Electrification Planning Framework

AAM Land Use and Obstruction Planning

Public Education and Acceptance Strategy



Aircraft Operations Counting Study with Virtower





- Installation and Configuration
 - Adding Primary airports
- Airport on-site training
 - Statewide webinar
- Continued maintenance
- Operations reporting
 - Total ops
 - Landings/Takeoffs
 - Touch and Go
 - Ground operations

virtower™
AIRPORT OPERATIONS





1.28 million

recorded ops in 2025



68,000+

jet operations



20,115

distinct aircraft



25% are touch and gos

- CPS
- LOT
- DPA



24,000+

jet arrivals from
outside Illinois

- PWK
- DPA
- UGN

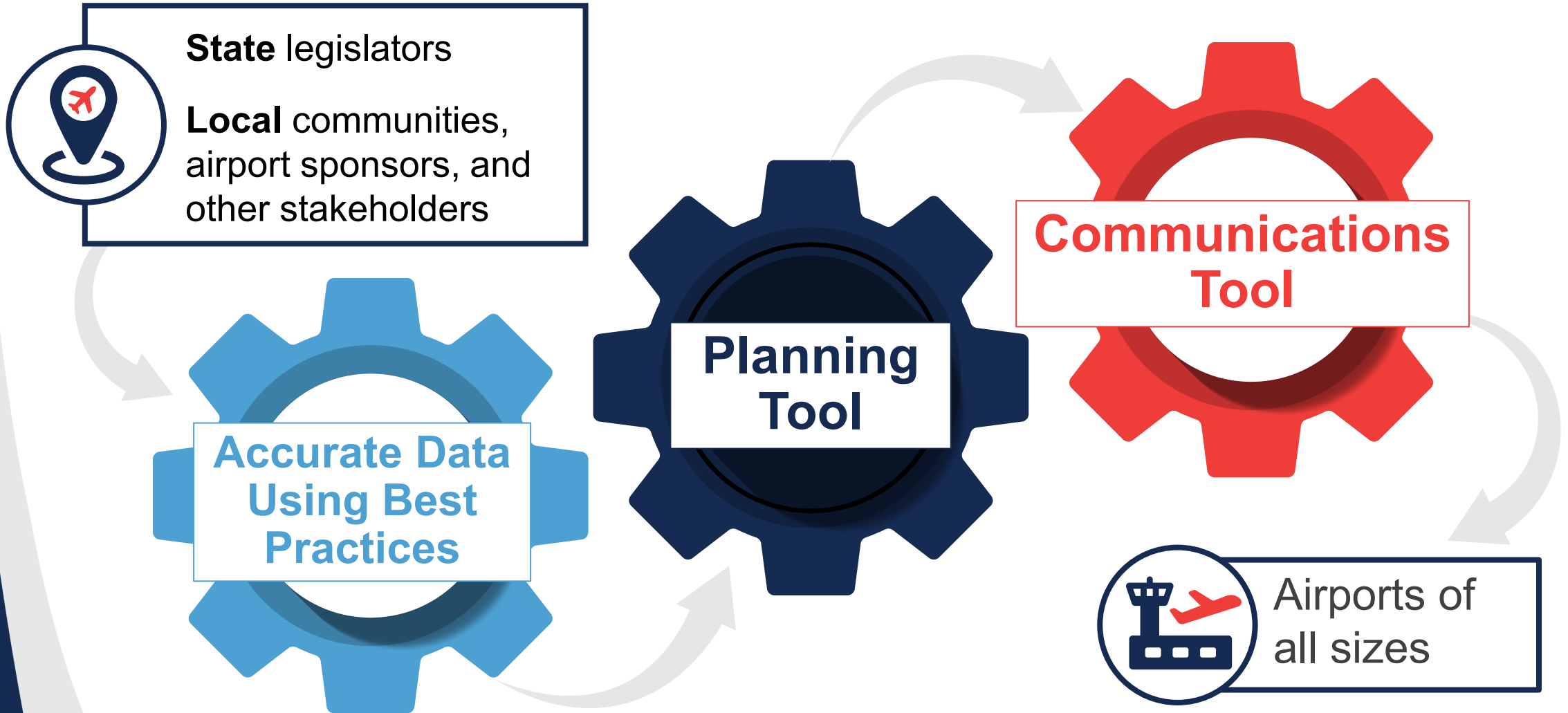


Aviation Economic Impact Analysis



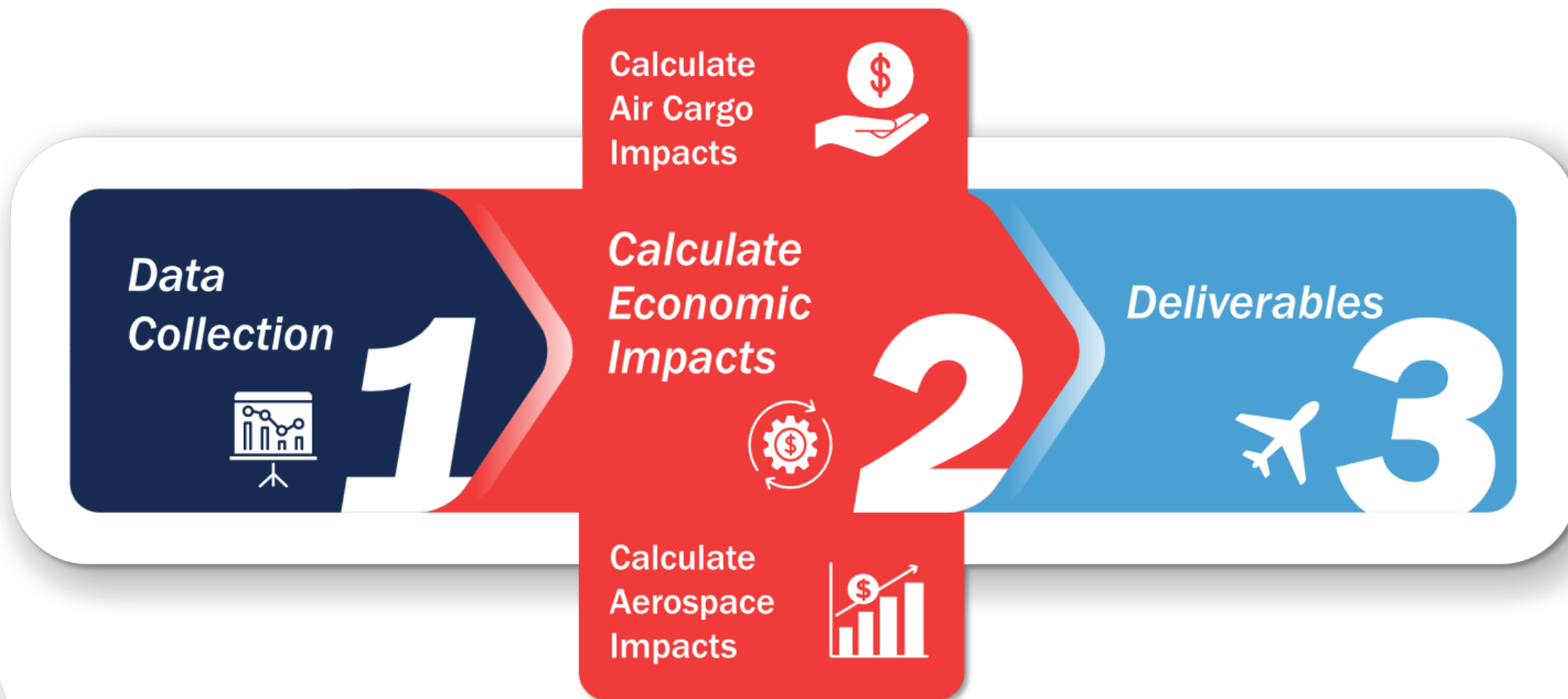


Study Value to Airports





Project Process





Data Collection Process



**Airport
Administration**



**Airport
Tenants**



**Commercial
Service
Visitors**



**General
Aviation
Visitors**



**Off-Airport
Businesses**

Emma



Haseeb



Addie



Jeff





IMPLAN



**Based on Employee
Headcount**



**Economic Modeling
Software**



**Generates Direct,
Multiplier, and
Total Impacts**



FAA-preferred





2019 TOTAL Statewide Aviation Impacts

350,186



Jobs

\$22.0 B



**Labor
Income**

\$35.0 B



**Value
Added**

\$59.5 B

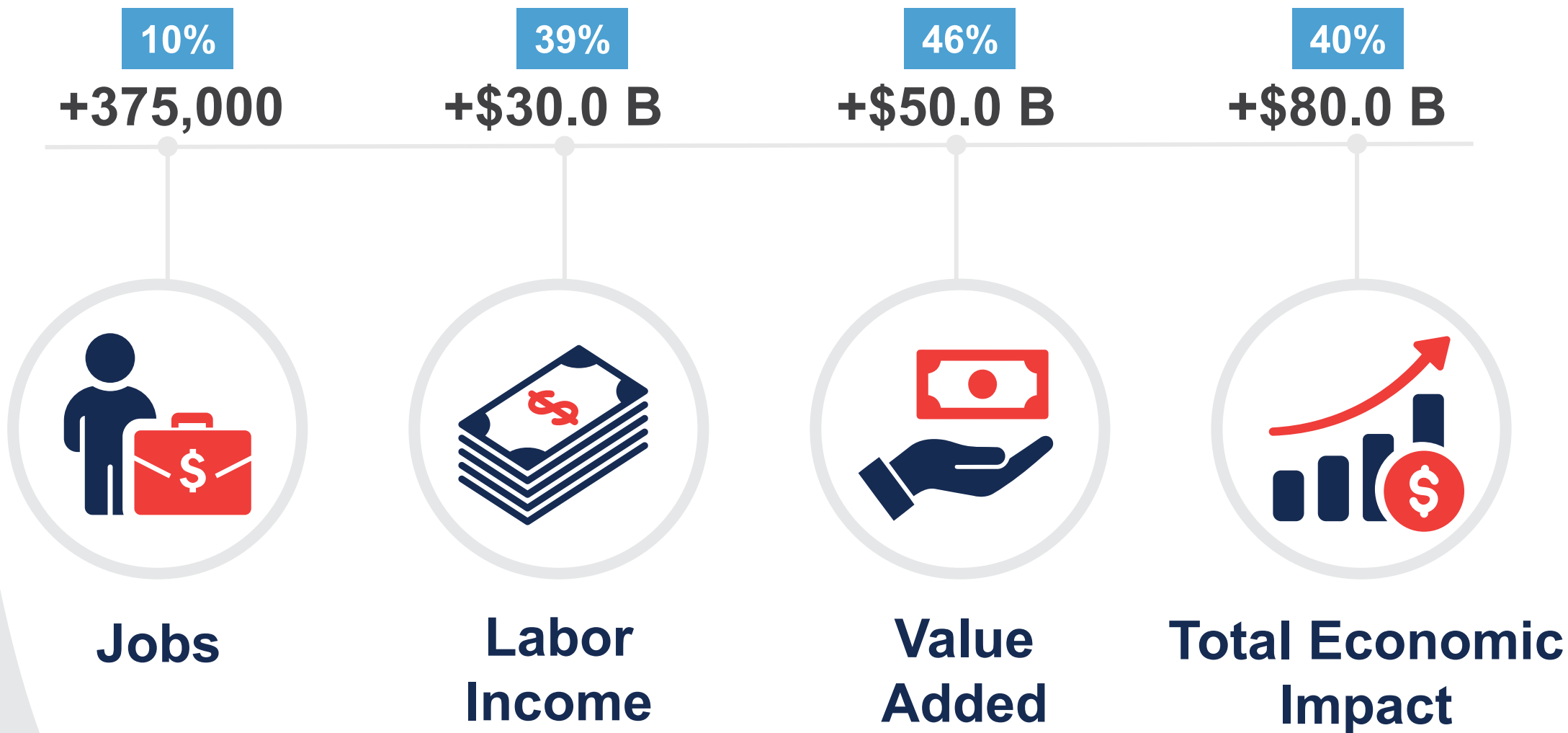


**Total Economic
Impact**

**Excludes off-airport air cargo impacts of \$35.9 Billion*

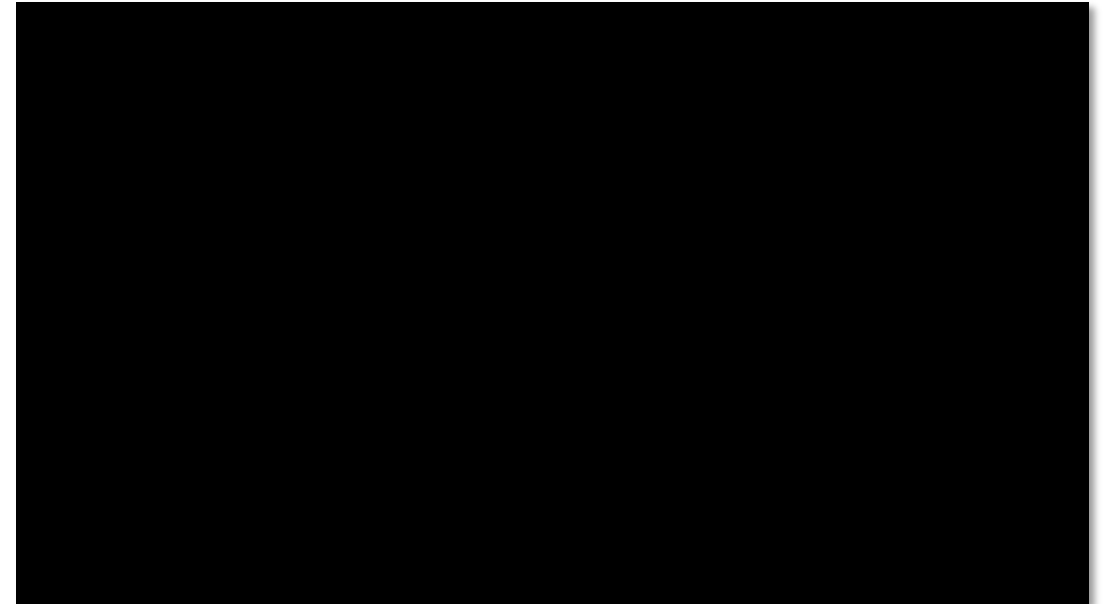
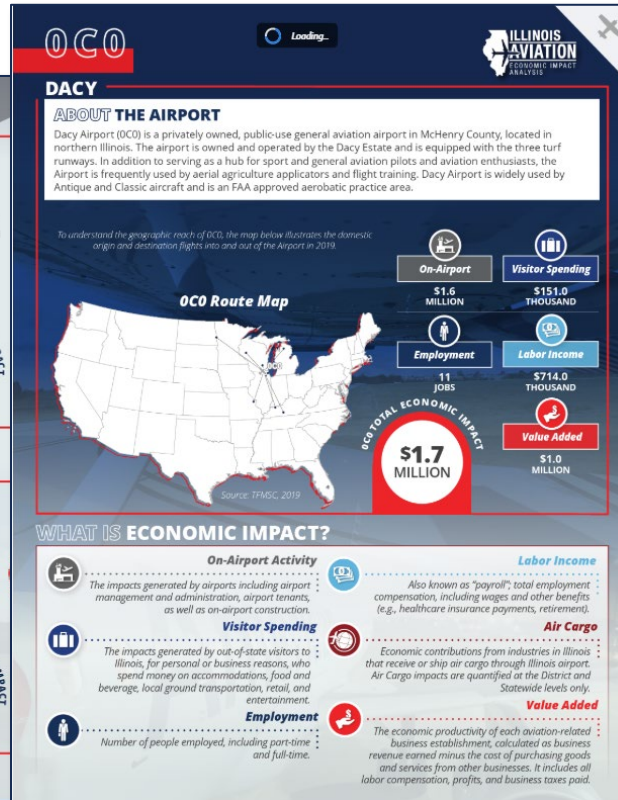
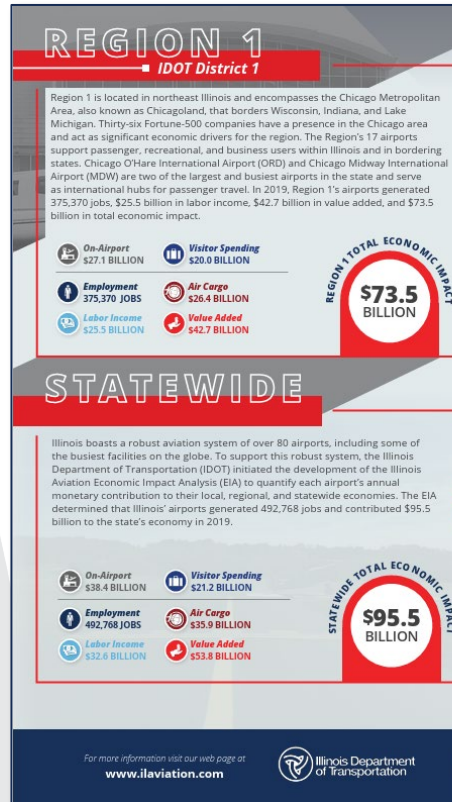


2025 *TOTAL* Statewide Aviation Impacts



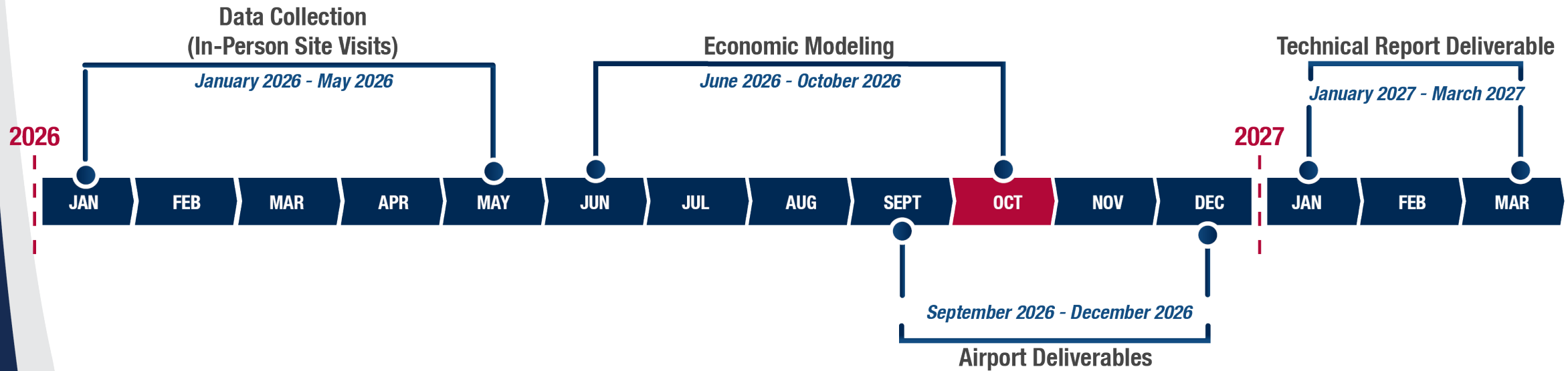


Airport-Specific Deliverables



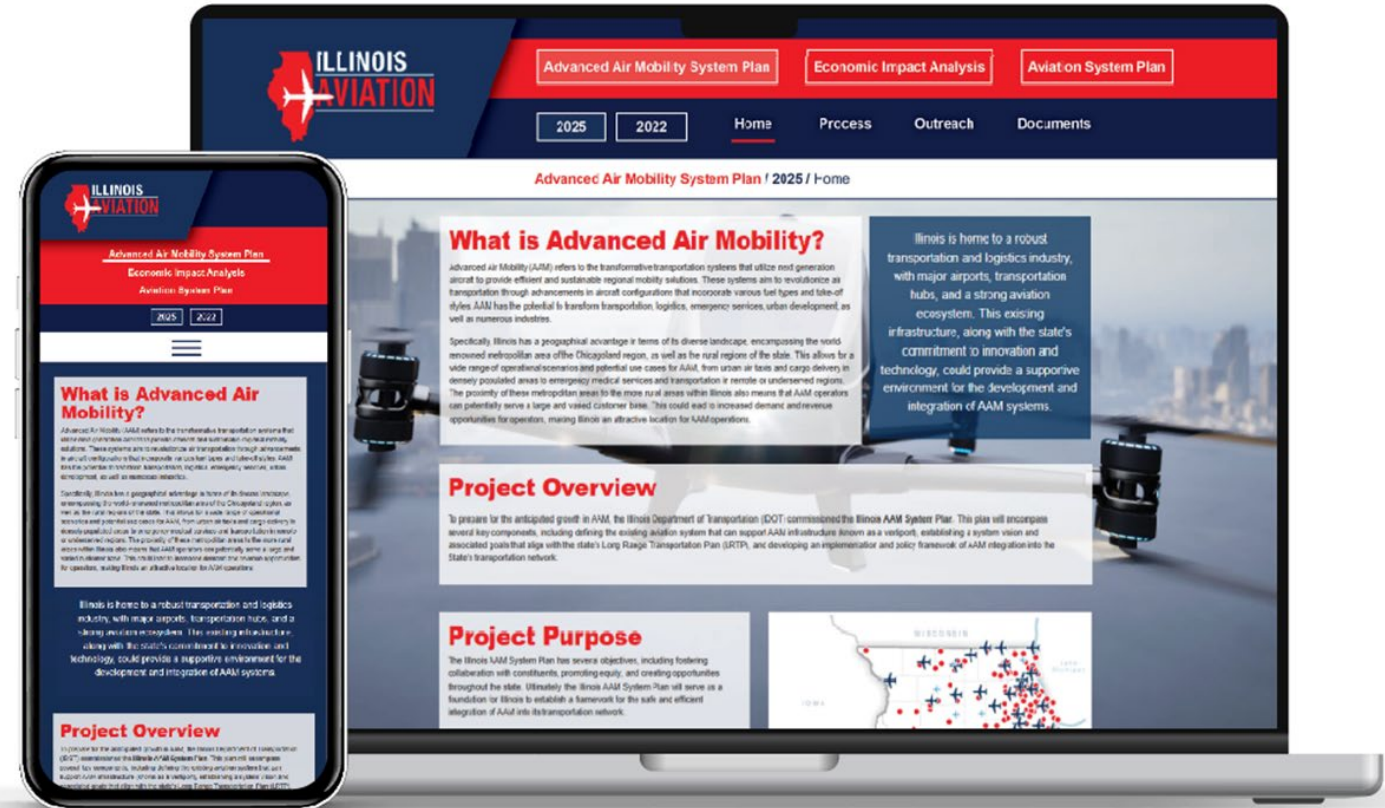


Project Schedule



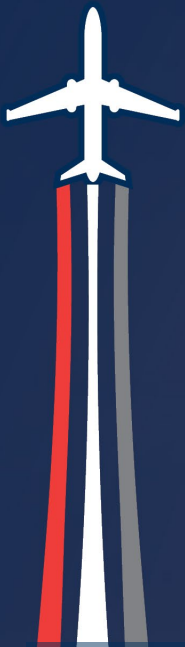


Want to Learn More?



Scan the QR Code or
Visit the Website at www.ilaviation.com





Thank You!



BJ Murray

IDOT Section Chief, Aviation & Marine



(217) 782-4118



BJ.Murray@Illinois.gov



Tom Gibson, C.M.

Kimley-Horn



(703) 674-1367



Thomas.Gibson@kimley-horn.com