Illinois Aviation Statewide Projects Update

2026 IPAA Annual Meeting | September 28, 2026

Agenda

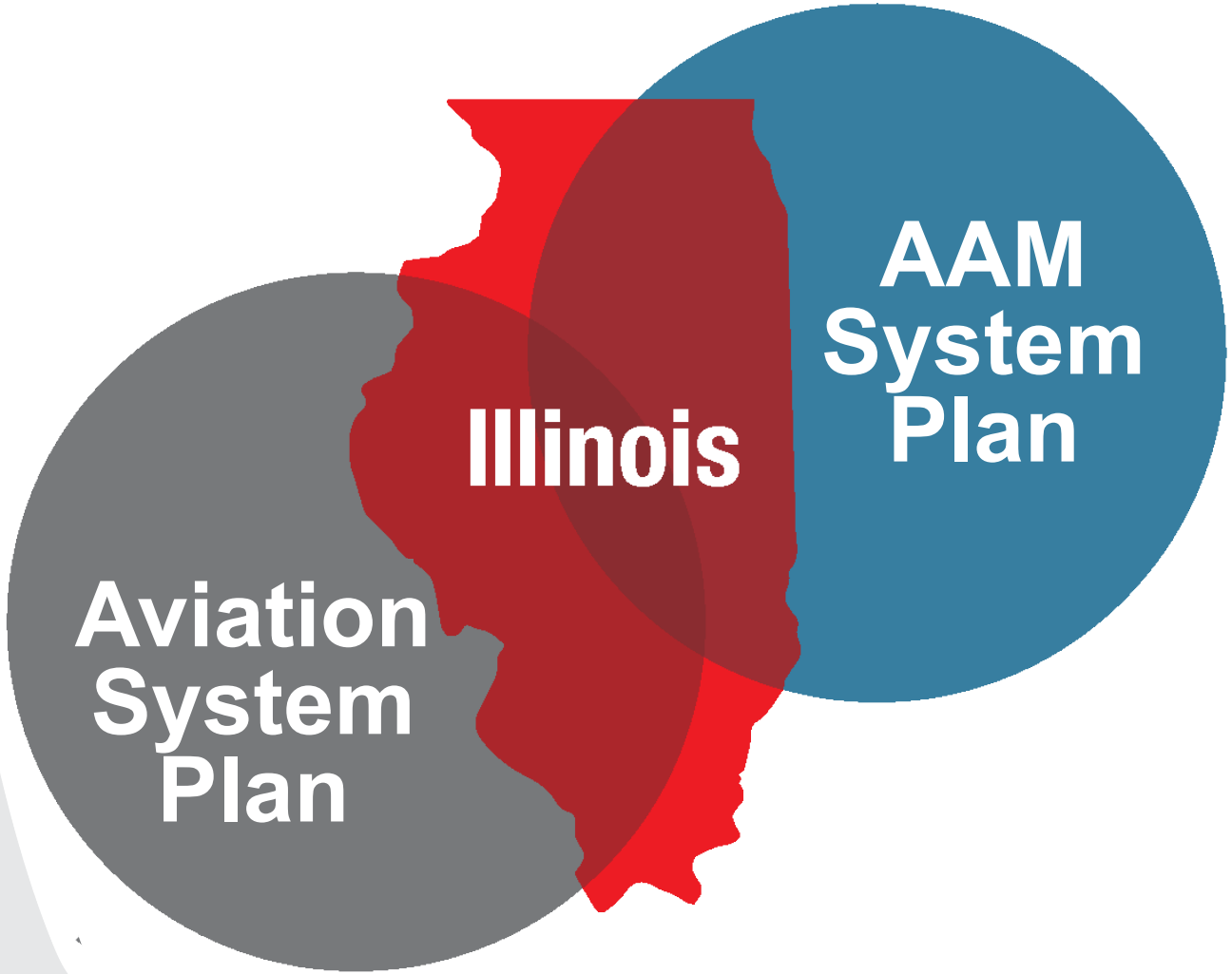
1. Illinois AAM System Plan Phase I
2. Illinois AAM System Plan Phase II
3. Aircraft Operations Counting with Virtower
4. Aviation Economic Impact Analysis

AAM System Plan Phase I



ILLINOIS AVIATION
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SYSTEM PLAN

Project Purpose



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

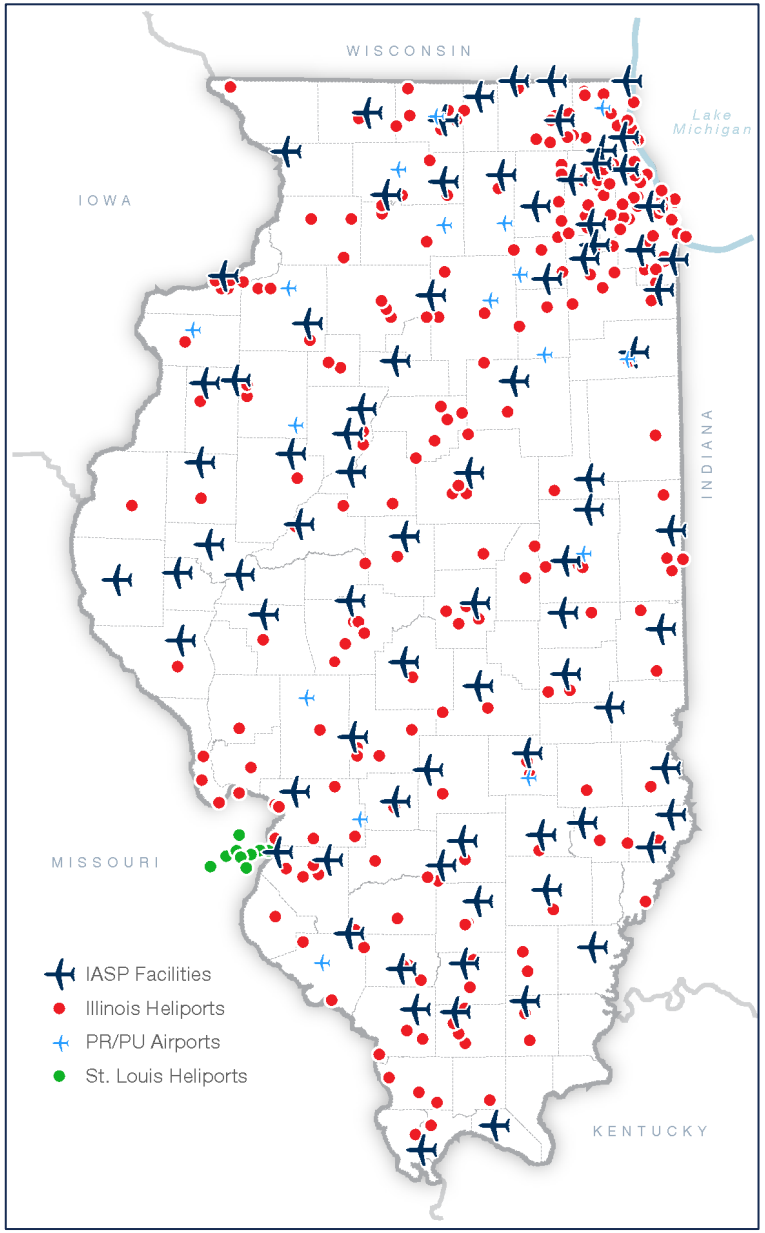
ILLINOIS AVIATION
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SYSTEM PLAN

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



ILLINOIS AVIATION
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SYSTEM PLAN

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

ILLINOIS AVIATION
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SYSTEM PLAN

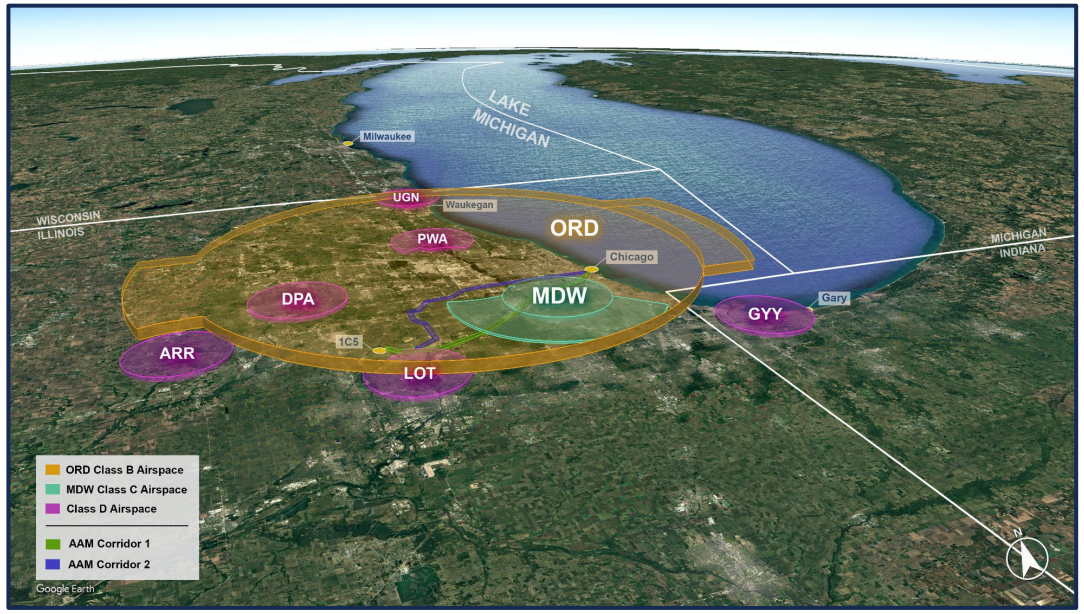
Airspace Analysis

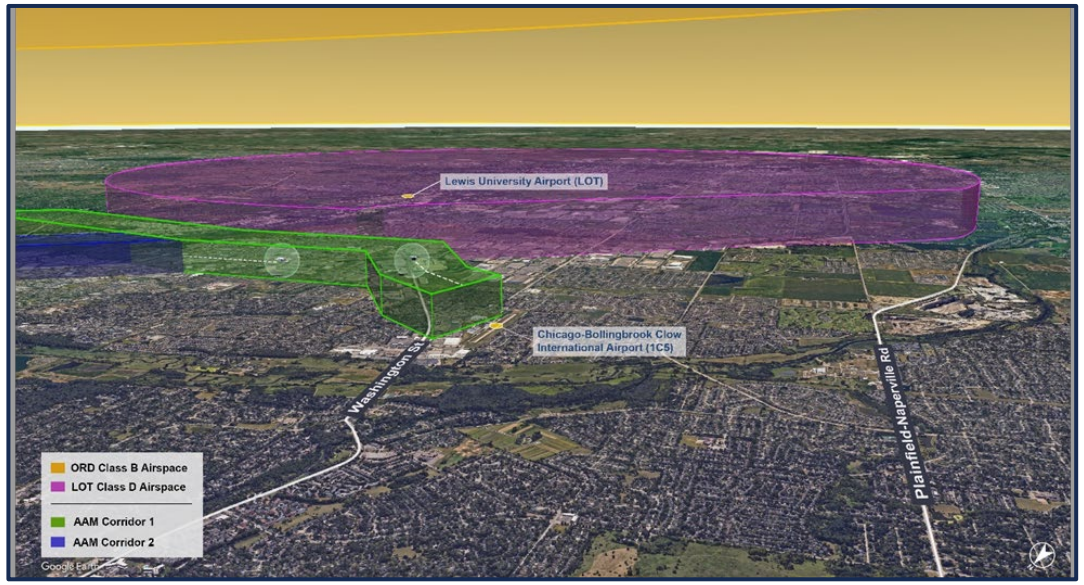
Purpose

- Demonstrating RAM near Chicagoland

Deliverables

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





ILLINOIS AVIATION
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SYSTEM PLAN

Recommendations Framework



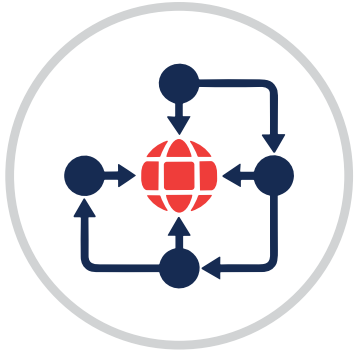
AAM Infrastructure and Zoning



Public Education and Community Engagement



Airspace and Safety



System Planning and Access



Workforce Development



PAC Recommendation

ILLINOIS AVIATION
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SYSTEM PLAN

Deliverables



Technical Report



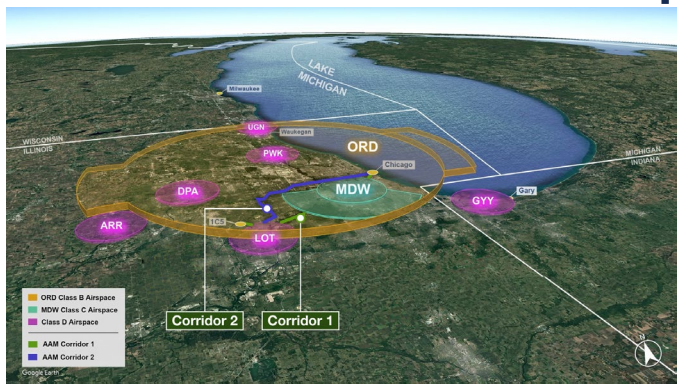
Executive Summary Brochure



Sample Vertiport Reports



Project Poster



3D Airspace Static & Dynamic Models

ILLINOIS AVIATION
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SYSTEM PLAN

AAM System Plan Phase II



ILLINOIS AVIATION
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SYSTEM PLAN

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

ILLINOIS AVIATION
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SYSTEM PLAN

Aircraft Operations Counting Study with Virtower

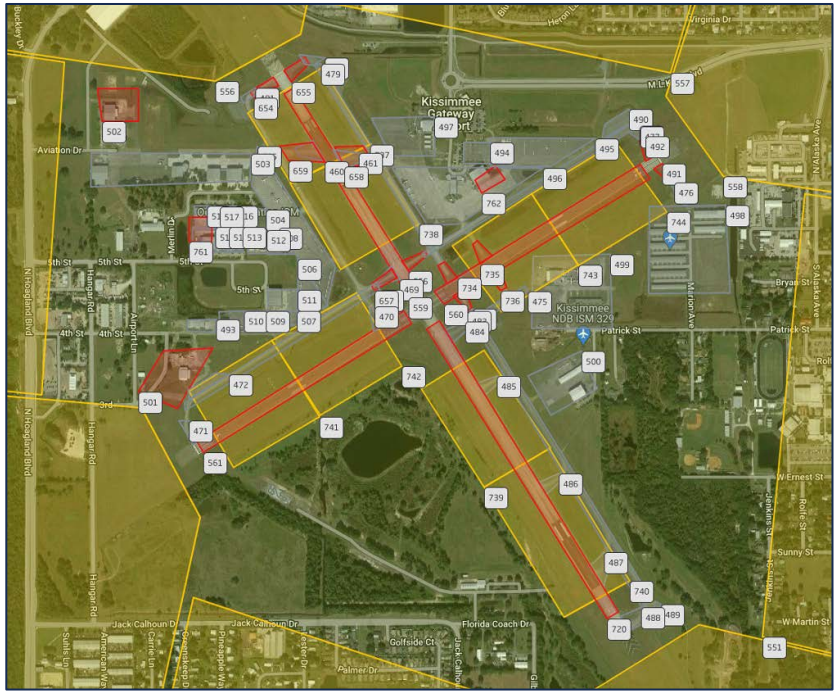


ILLINOIS AVIATION

- 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





ILLINOIS AVIATION

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

ILLINOIS AVIATION

Aviation Economic Impact Analysis



ILLINOIS AVIATION
ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Study Value to Airports

State legislators

Local communities, airport sponsors, and other stakeholders

Accurate Data Using Best Practices

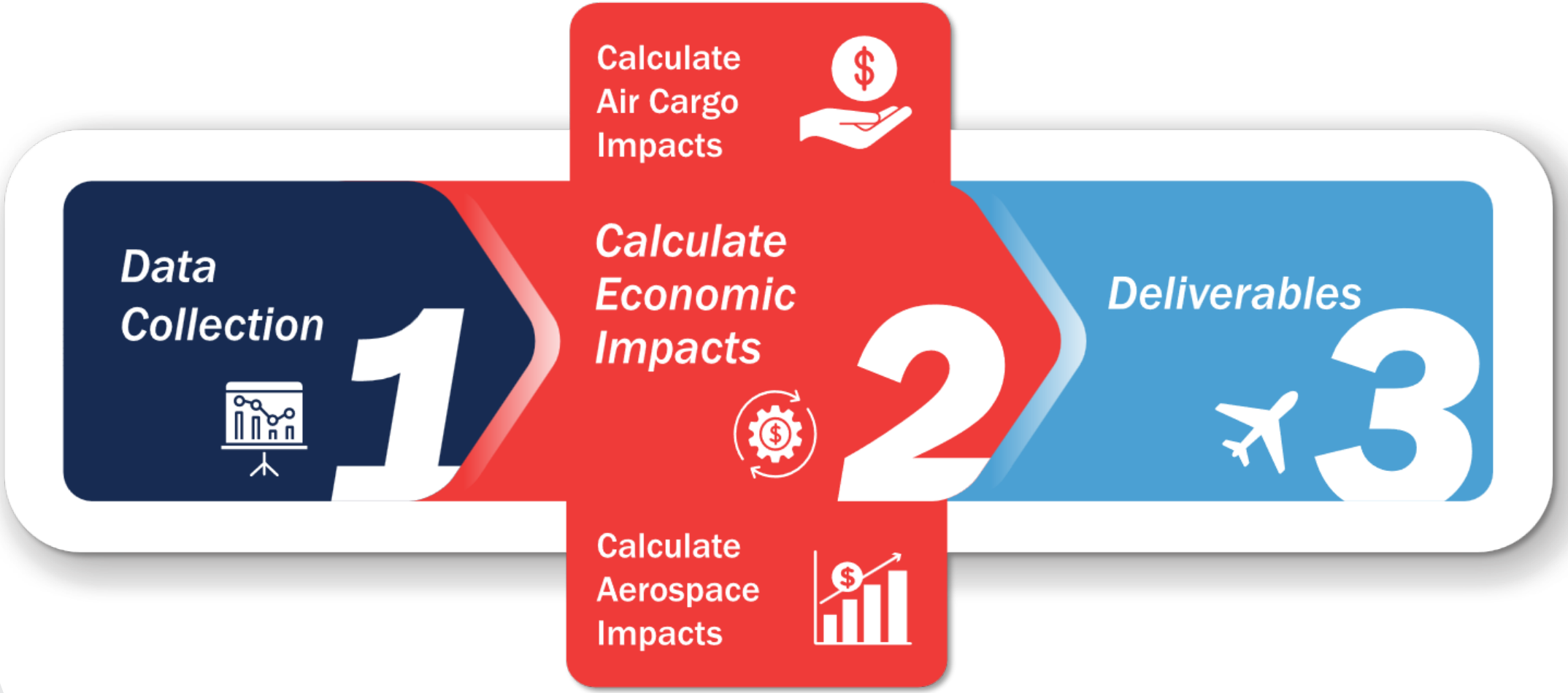
Planning Tool

Communications Tool

Airports of all sizes

ILLINOIS AVIATION ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Project Process



ILLINOIS AVIATION
ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Data Collection Process

Airport Administration

Airport Tenants

Commercial Service Visitors

General Aviation Visitors

Off-Airport Businesses

Emma



Haseeb



Addie



Jeff



ILLINOIS AVIATION ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

IMPLAN

- Based on Employee Headcount
- Economic Modeling Software
- Generates Direct, Multiplier, and Total Impacts
- FAA-preferred



ILLINOIS AVIATION ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

2019 TOTAL Statewide Aviation Impacts

350,186	$22.0 B	$35.0 B	$59.5 B
Jobs	Labor Income	Value Added	Total Economic Impact

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

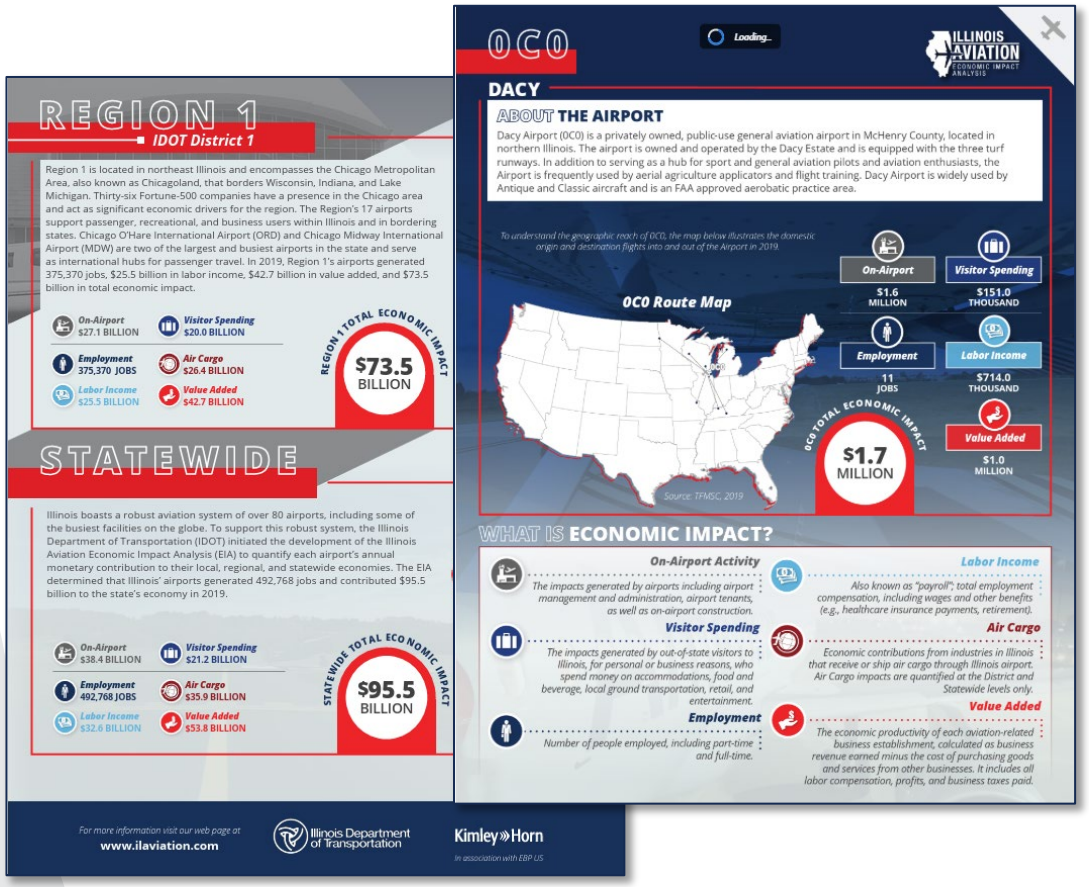
ILLINOIS AVIATION ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

2025 TOTAL Statewide Aviation Impacts

10%	39%	46%	40%
+375,000	+$30.0 B	+$50.0 B	+$80.0 B
Jobs	Labor Income	Value Added	Total Economic Impact

ILLINOIS AVIATION
ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

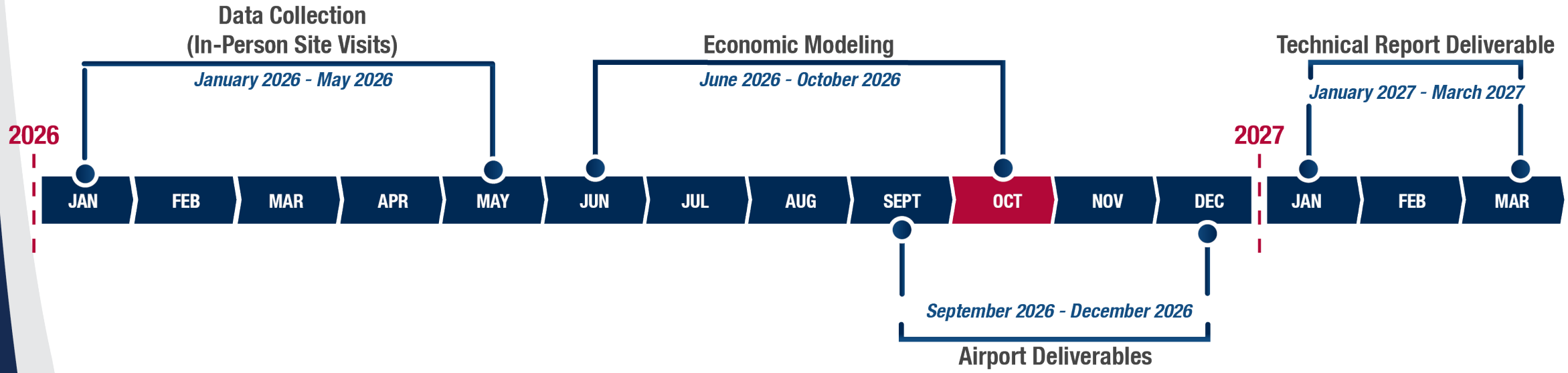
Airport-Specific Deliverables





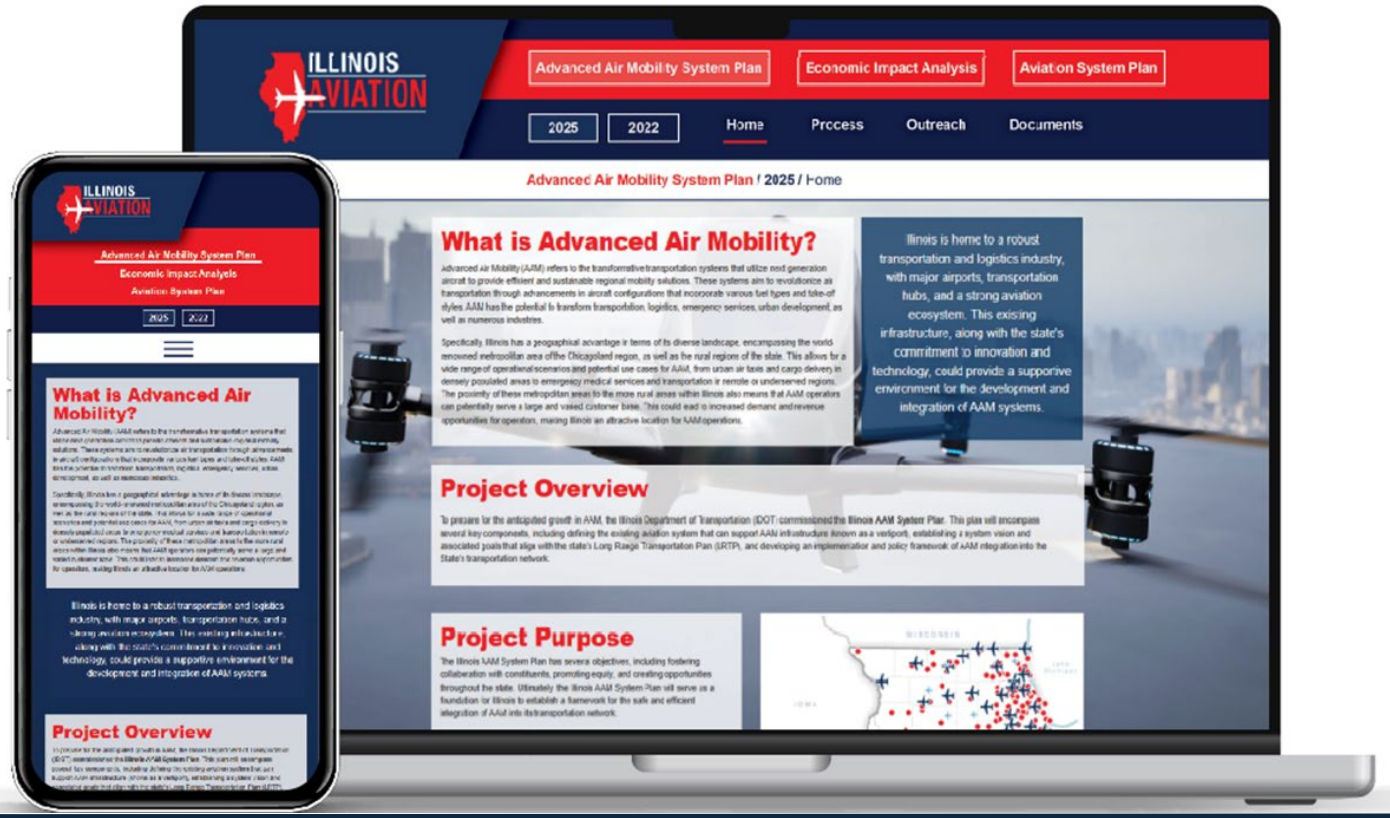
ILLINOIS AVIATION ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Project Schedule



ILLINOIS AVIATION
ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Want to Learn More?



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

ILLINOIS AVIATION

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