

# Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the MNAA and MPC Operations, Engineering & Strategic Planning Committees



Date: September 13, 2023

Location: Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority  
Tennessee Boardroom

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Bobby Joslin, Committee Chair; Tony Giarratana, Committee Vice Chair; and Stuart McWhorter

Committee Members Absent:

Masami Tyson

Others Present:

Jimmy Granbery, Jack Johnson

MNAA Staff Present:

Doug Kreulen, Neale Bedrock, Lisa Lankford, Trish Saxman  
Marge Basrai, Chris Davidson, Kristen Deuben, Adam Floyd, Traci  
Holton, Ijeoma Ike, Carrie Logan, Rachel Moore, Ted Morrissey,  
Josh Powell, Stacey Nickens, Robert Ramsey, Davita Taylor and  
Colleen Von Hoene

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joslin called the Joint Meeting of the MNAA and MPC Operations, Engineering & Strategic Planning (Operations) Committee to order at 9:00 a.m. pursuant to Public Notice dated September 8, 2023.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Joslin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2023 Operations Committee meeting. Vice Chair Giarratana made a motion and Commissioner McWhorter seconded the motion. Chair Joslin asked Ms. Saxman for a roll call:

Chair Joslin – Yes

Vice Chair Giarratana – Yes

Commissioner McWhorter – Yes

The motion was passed with a vote of 3 to 0.

## III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Joslin stated there were no public comment requests received.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Joslin welcomed everyone and had no Chair's report.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

1. Design, Build, Operate & Maintain Remote Virtual Control System

President Kreulen introduced Adam Floyd, VP, Operations, to brief the Committee on the Design, Build, Operate & Maintain Remote Virtual Control System. Mr. Floyd stated the Virtual Ramp Control System will be located in the Consolidated Services Facility ("CSF") building, and the hours of operation will be 4:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. with 20 contracted staff. Mr. Floyd noted that MNAA will incur additional costs for design and construction of camera array structural supports, control room white box and communications infrastructure and these are currently being estimated. These components will be competitively solicited, procured and Board approval obtained as required. The scope includes program management, implementation of a Remote Virtual Ramp Control System and ramp control services for a Virtual Ramp Control Facility. A Request for Proposal ("RFP") was published July 28, 2023 and MNAA received one proposal from SAAB Sensis. The selection committee determined SAAB Sensis to be qualified based on program management, technical approach, past technical experience and VRC operations approach.

President Kreulen stated that the Committee in the past has asked about having only one bidder, as in this request, and that does tend to concern MNAA at times, but Mr. Floyd has done a great job with the outreach. Four major suppliers that could do this came to the proposal meetings and either based on their business or the opportunity, they did not feel like they could meet MNAA demands. The bidders did not know that they would have no competition when they submitted their proposal and they had to give their best faith offer, and this was in line with what staff had estimated. President Kreulen stated air traffic controllers have reached out in the past over concerns of how busy our ramp gets, and as BNA goes from 600 flights a day to 1000 flights a day, airlines want to see better ramp control. Almost all of the large hubs have virtual ramp control systems and BNA is growing into that capability.

Chair Joslin stated he always hears on the radio airlines that are ready to cross each other and asked where the Remote Virtual Control System will be located. President Kreulen replied it will be located in the CSF. That location was selected for two reasons: 1) we use the old tower that was previously in operation by American Airlines is used as BNA's snow control center during winter operations; and 2)

the virtual tower could basically be located anywhere but in the event there is an emergency that requires evacuation of the terminal, it is great to be controlling jets from a mile away. This is located within feet of our Airport Communications Center which will allow us to get to and from and keep operations going. Chair Joslin asked if the operators will be contract laborers. Mr. Floyd replied yes. Chair Joslin then asked if BNA will be reimbursed. President Kreulen replied yes, and that was one of MNAA's main points to Southwest when they asked for the Remote Virtual Control System. Southwest basically led the other signatory airlines to get onboard with this and they are responsible once it is built, The Finance team will be rolling these costs directly into the airline rates. The good news is that the VP of Operations controls how the airlines move in and out, and airlines have to follow our rules.

Commissioner Granbery asked Mr. Floyd if SAAB Sensis has a facility close by that he has visited or plans to visit. Mr. Floyd responded yes, he visited Kansas City which was in the picture presented in the slide, and he also visited one in Orlando. Mr. Floyd mentioned that there are others located in Houston and Seattle. Chair Granbery asked what kind of redundancy the Remote Virtual Control System requires. Mr. Floyd responded it runs on a dual feed for internet and there is also a train center that is built with the main system. If the main system goes down, they can use the backup training center and run the operations from there. Commissioner Granbery asked if the utilities are backed up with gas generators. Mr. Floyd responded yes, Kansas City and Orlando both have gas generators for back up. President Kreulen stated one of our action items is to check on our services facility location, where our Airport Communication Center and our Data Center are located, and if both of those are backed up by diesel generators. Staff also needs to verify the size of the diesel generators that are there now, verify they are able to support this load, and if not, then take appropriate action. Chair Joslin asked if SAAB Sensis is paying us rent. President Kreulen responded he will check on it.

Mr. Floyd requested the Operations Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that it accept the proposal by SAAB Sensis for the design, build, operation & maintenance of a Remote Virtual Ramp Control System and authorize the Chair and President & CEO to execute the proposed contract for \$37.9M NTE, for 3 years plus 2 one-year renewal options).

Chair Joslin asked for a motion to approve as presented. Commissioner McWhorter made a motion and Vice Chair Giarratana seconded the motion. Chair Joslin asked Ms. Saxman for a roll call:

Chair Joslin – Yes

Vice Chair Giarratana – Yes

Commissioner McWhorter –Yes

The motion was passed with a vote of 3 to 0.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. BNA Development Update

President Kreulen stated that as the satellite concourse has been built to make room for 8 more gates, C4 – C11, staff has had to renumber all of the gates during the month of June. The renumbering went smoothly, and there were no reports of any passengers being lost. The prior Concourse C6 gate is where the shuttle station is being built. Passengers will come down Concourse C to the shuttle station, get on the new electric bus and be dropped off at the satellite concourse. When the customer journey walkthrough was conducted, staff realized the gate numbers should be reversed. We are now ready to go when the Satellite Concourse opens on October 21, 2023. Commissioner Giarratana asked if Southwest will be located there. President Kreulen replied, no, Southwest will be located on Concourse C, and at the Satellite Concourse will be Allegiant, Spirit and Common Use in the middle. All of the gates have Common Use capability. Commissioner Granbery asked if the electric buses had arrived. Mr. Floyd replied, yes, three have been received so far. President Kreulen stated we will have a total of 9 electric buses and begin training as soon as they all arrive. Commissioner McWhorter asked when the Satellite Concourse will be operational. President Kreulen replied the first flight will be on October 21, 2023.

President Kreulen stated 703 invitations for the September 25, 2023 Marketplace & IAF reception were sent out and 333 RSVPs have been received to date. Everyone is really looking forward to this event which will be discussed in more detail next week at the Board meeting.


President Kreulen stated the Terminal Apron & Taxilane Expansion (TATE) contract completion date is September 15, 2023. This was a 50 foot hole that was filled in a few years ago and used as an asphalt lay down yard for 4 ½ years. It has been converted to 16" concrete to hold the weight of the jets to park and deice. We do about 2-4 hand pour lanes per night, and this should be completed contractually by September 15, 2023. We are focusing on September 18, 2023 due to the cure of the concrete to be able to hold the weight of the jets. The first flights out of BNA are booked for September 27, 2023. Everything is moving forward, and the Operations team is working really hard to push these contractors to get to the end of the contract.

2. JWN Development Update

President Kreulen stated JWN Construction progress is going well, with a lot of grading and drainage work. We are not too far away to start seeing ramp and other tenants building hangars in that area, he stated. Chris Davidson, AVP, JWN Airport Manager, and team, have done a great job of shortening the amount of time of the Taxiway Alpha closures, now at day 9 of 34. Chair Joslin asked how much longer the blasting will continue. Mr. Davidson responded it should be done by next Monday or Tuesday. Chair Joslin stated there have not been many delays and he is impressed. President Kreulen stated we looked at the construction schedule for the 3 hangars that Contour has to rebuild, and they are scheduled to start receiving steel in the very near future and we will add that information into the future Board slides. Chair Joslin asked if we are waiting for construction companies to start taking out building permits on the north development. Ms. Holton replied that there were some design issues that had to be reconfigured. President Kreulen explained when they presented their design, they wanted to build right to the end of the property line, and we had to redirect them. President Kreulen explained that parcel 10 will be a 30-year lease, and Metro has agreed to pay MNAA up to \$1.5M to design, plus our program cost. Once we get to a final design and bid, Metro will have to sign one more contract. Chair Joslin asked if they are still renting the 60 X 60 hangar. President Kreulen replied yes. Chair Granbery stated these are really good examples and in the future, we should plan some benchmarking trips to plan for the Westside and maybe consider restaurants. He also stated we should schedule a Satellite Concourse tour soon. President Kreulen replied, yes, and stated he would try to schedule the tour on a Committee Day.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business brought before the Operations Committee, Chair Joslin adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.



---

Masami I. Tyson, Board Secretary