

Session #18

Preparing Airports for Huge Public Events

Olympics, FIFA, College Sports,
Political Events, Fly-Ins



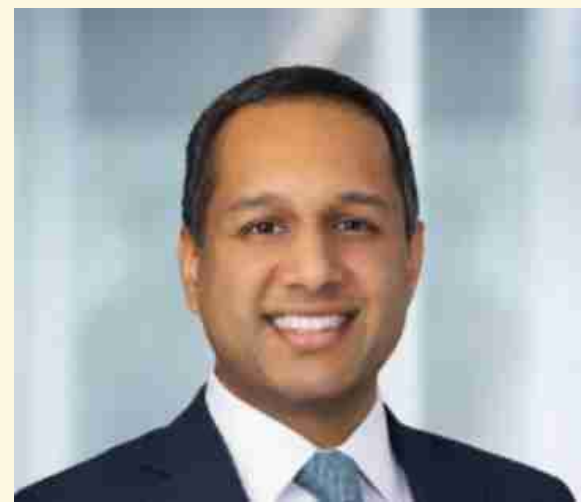
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Agenda

- **Upcoming events and transportation incidents**
- **Federal preparation and support**
- **Considerations for airports**
- **Addressing UAS and AAM integration**
- **Political events on airport property**

Upcoming events

Impacts to small, medium, and large hub airports

Unprecedented crowds expected in the U.S.

- 2026 FIFA World Cup
- 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- America's 250th anniversary

Domestic events

- Big sports or political events can draw substantial crowds, potentially overwhelming small and medium-hub airports

“The Super Bowl, which is fantastic, has what, 120-130 million viewers? The World Cup has six billion. A World Cup is 104 Super Bowls in one month”
- FIFA President Gianni Infantino



Transportation incidents

- **Paris Summer Olympics 2024** – arson attack on rail system and infrastructure cable cuts
- **Fort Lauderdale Airport 2018** – shooting at baggage claim
- **Gatwick Airport 2018** – Unmanned aircraft system (UAS) sightings halted flights for 2 days during holiday travel
- **Los Angeles International Airport 2013** – airport shooting
- **Bejing Summer Olympics 2008** – bombings on two buses



Federal preparation and support

Administration actions

- **White House Tasks Forces** (FIFA World Cup 2026, Salute to America 250, 2028 Summer Olympics)
- **TSA** – technology and policy updates
 - Eliminated the “shoes off” policy; evaluating 3.4 oz liquid restriction
 - Request for Information (RFI) for turnkey checkpoint solutions; Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Seamless Identity Automation (SIA)
 - One stop security pilot for international travelers
- **CBP** – Enhanced passenger processing and seamless border entry at certain airports

Potential federal funding?

- FY 2026 Senate Appropriations proposal

Plane-ville, USA

Considerations for airports



1 Is there enough public transportation to get to and from the airport?

2 Has there been coordination among airports (reliever and hub), FAA, and FBOs on capacity?

3 Have you accounted for event-specific agreements (e.g., FIFA contracts)?

4 Are there measures in place to address unruly fans (e.g, legal limits on alcohol sales)?

5 How will potential ICE presence impact travelers in and around the airport?



Additional considerations

- Special events create economic and political pressure, but the same rules apply
 - Avoid preferential treatment
- Resources – have a methodology for allocating scarce resources during events (e.g., aircraft parking if there is a surge in commercial and GA aircraft)
- Minimum standards – consider updating to specifically address special events, including staffing needs and potential surge pricing



Addressing UAS and AAM integration

UAS detection and mitigation

- Limited federal C-UAS authority to protect airports during an “emergency” (6 U.S.C. § 124n)
- Airports should consider criminal laws and federal requirements, including grant assurance obligations (federal C-UAS legal advisory, 2020)
- Leverage TSA vulnerability assessments; conduct table-top exercise

Advanced Air Mobility

- May see increased interest in AAM operating in and around the airport
- Consider issues related to vertiport construction (including electrification), security, and capacity of current technology
- Proposed pilot program

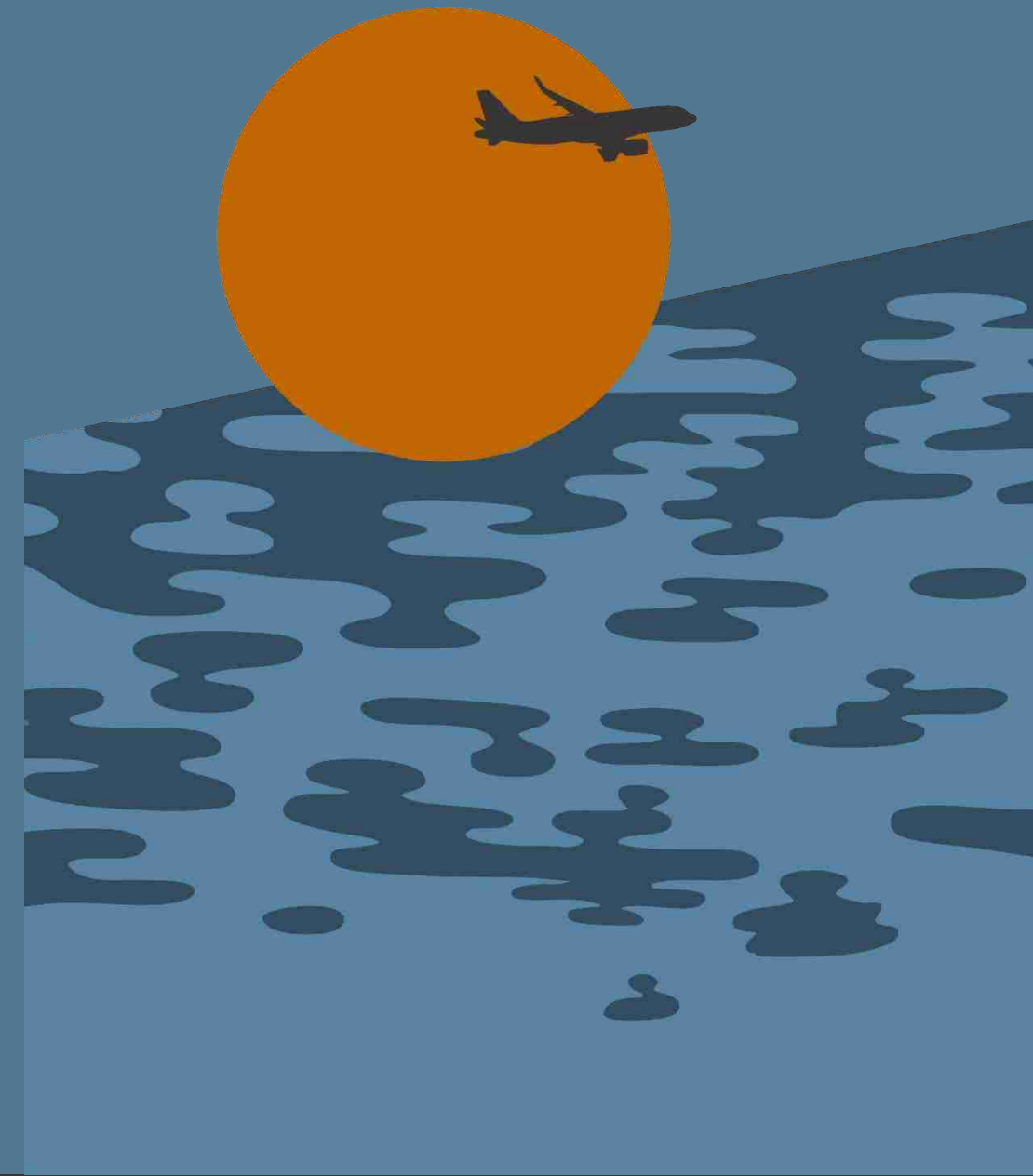
Political events on airport property

Airport responsibilities

- Requests across the country to hold political rallies on airport property. Different approaches:
 - One rejected request due to potential costs
 - Another Fixed Base Operator (FBO) closed their facility to accommodate the event
- 1st Amendment protects political rallies under rights of free speech and peaceful assembly
 - Government may not discriminate against speech based on viewpoint



Questions?



Thank You!

