Maintaining Michigan's Aviation System

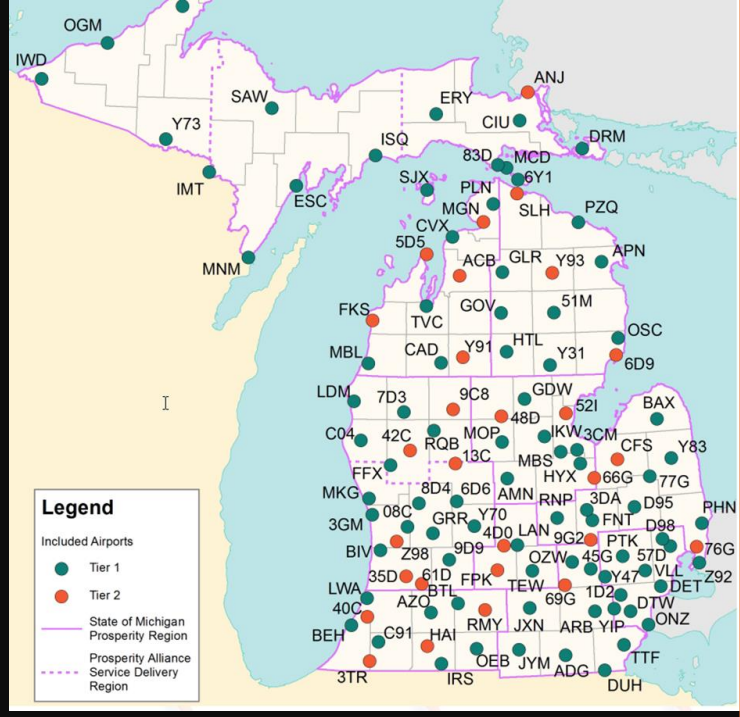
Bryan Budds
Aeronautics Director
Michigan Department of Transportation

Partnerships Critical to Success

- Michigan Aeronautics Commission
- Legislature
- State and Federal Government Partners
- Airport and Facility Sponsors
- Aircraft Owners, Pilots, Flight Instructors
- Local community leaders, zoning administrators, land use planners, economic development professionals

Introduction to Aviation

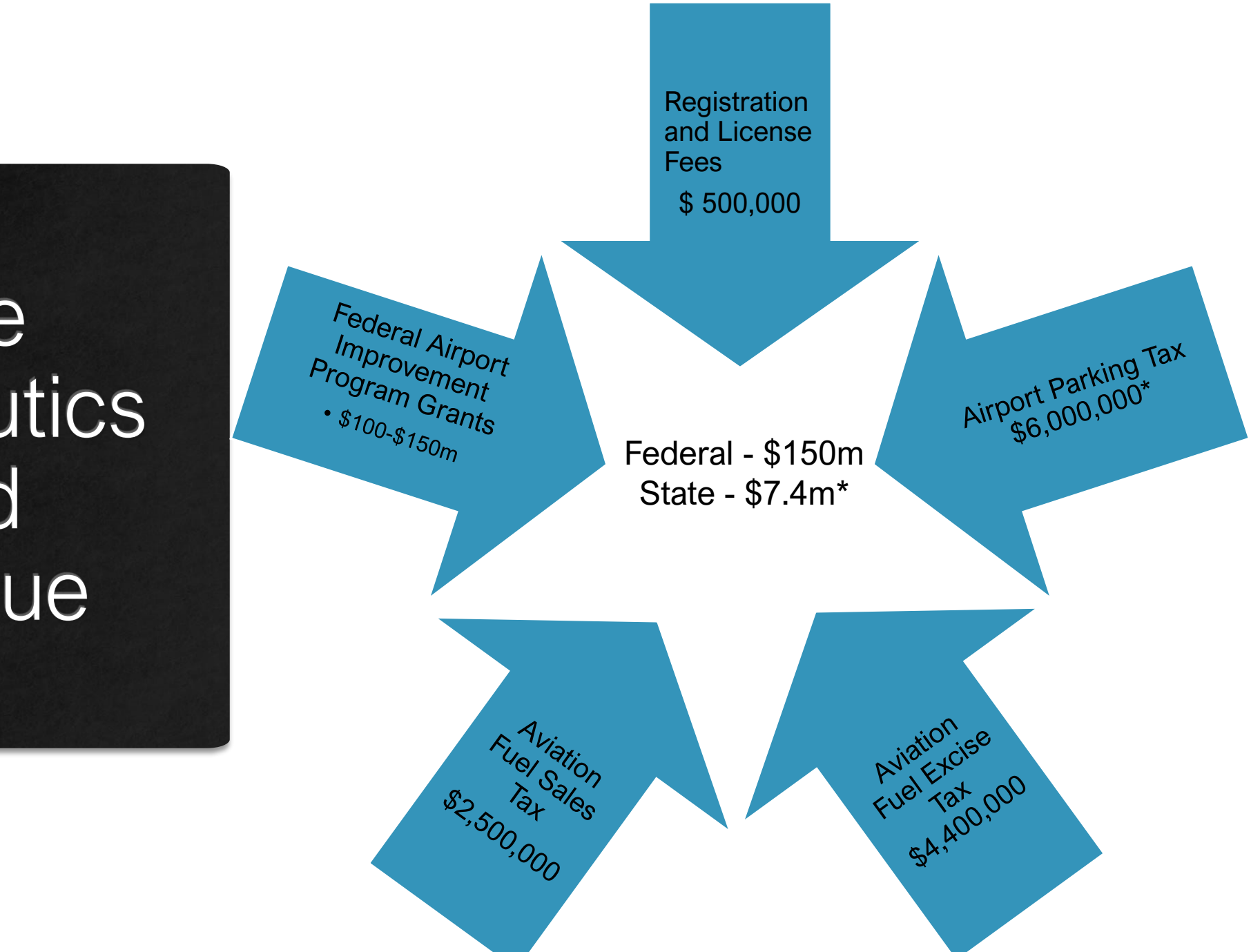
- General Aviation – all aviation other than commercial airlines
  - “GA” Airports
  - Business aviation
  - Personal aviation
  - Cargo
  - Law Enforcement, Firefighting
  - Flight Training
- Commercial Aviation
  - “Primary” Airports
  - Commercial airline service



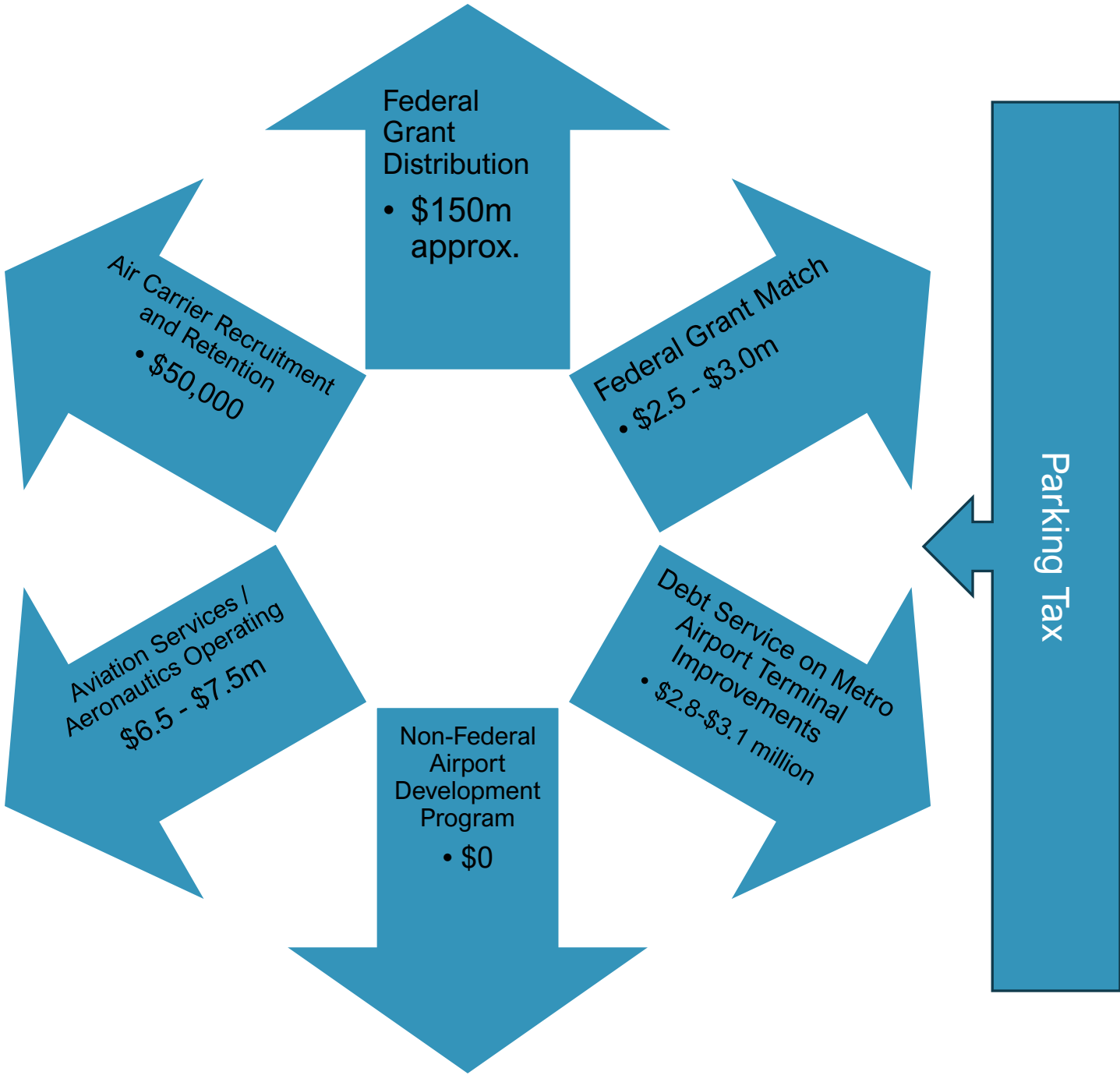
State of the Industry

- 220 Licensed Public Use Airports
- 15 Support Scheduled Air Carrier Service
  - 9 Essential Air Service Airports
- 39 million passengers
- 601 million pounds of air cargo
- 13,000 pilots
- 5,200 registered aircraft
- $22 billion economic impact

State Aeronautics Fund Revenue



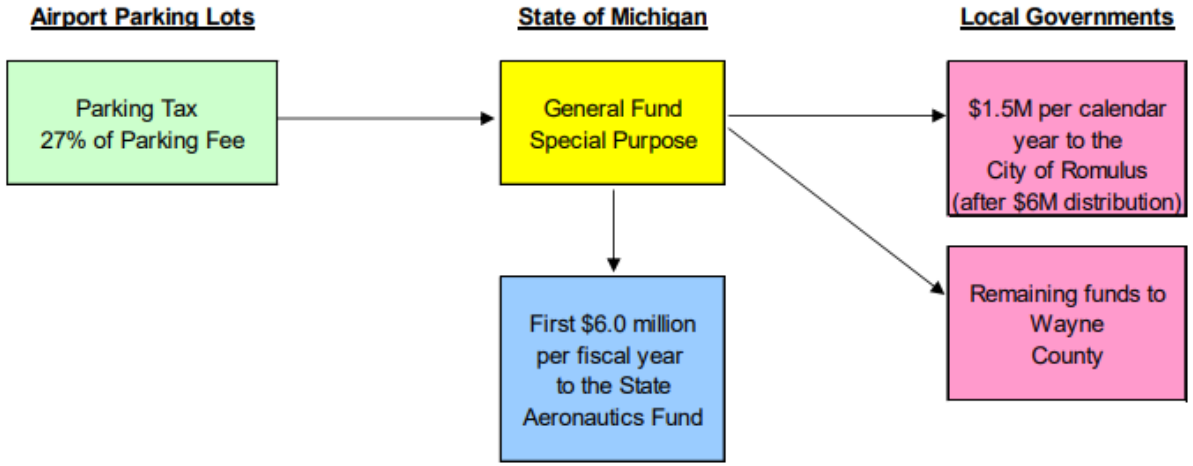
State Aeronautics Fund Expenditures



Detroit Metro Airport Parking Tax

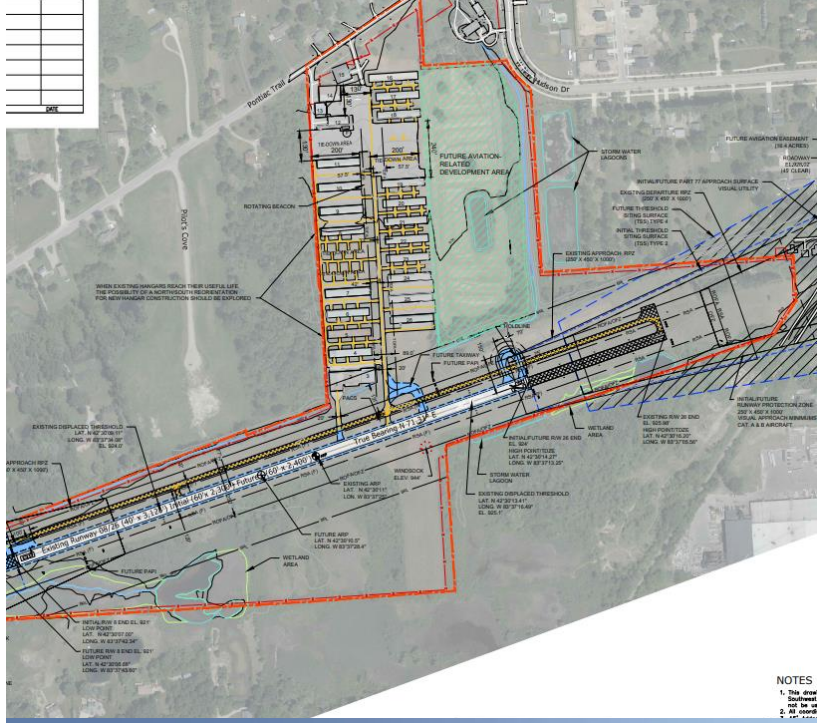
- Generates approximately $35 million annually
- Imposed to support debt service on Detroit Metro Terminal Improvement Bonds
- MDOT paying debt service of approximately $3 million annually
- Remainder supports airport capital improvement program
- Bonds set to retire in 2030, parking tax sunsets
- Without modification, sunset of parking tax will leave MDOT unable to match federal grants

Airport Parking Tax
Sources and Uses
Effective March 31, 2003



Airport Planning and Development

- MDOT administers federal airport development program in Michigan via a “Block Grant.”
- Comprised of airport engineers, planners, environmental, financial, and grant specialists.
- Administer $120* annually in airport development across state and federal programs
- Pandemic response and other federal programs tripled the federal funds available to airports
- Federal grants require state and local matching funds



Airport Planning and Development In Action

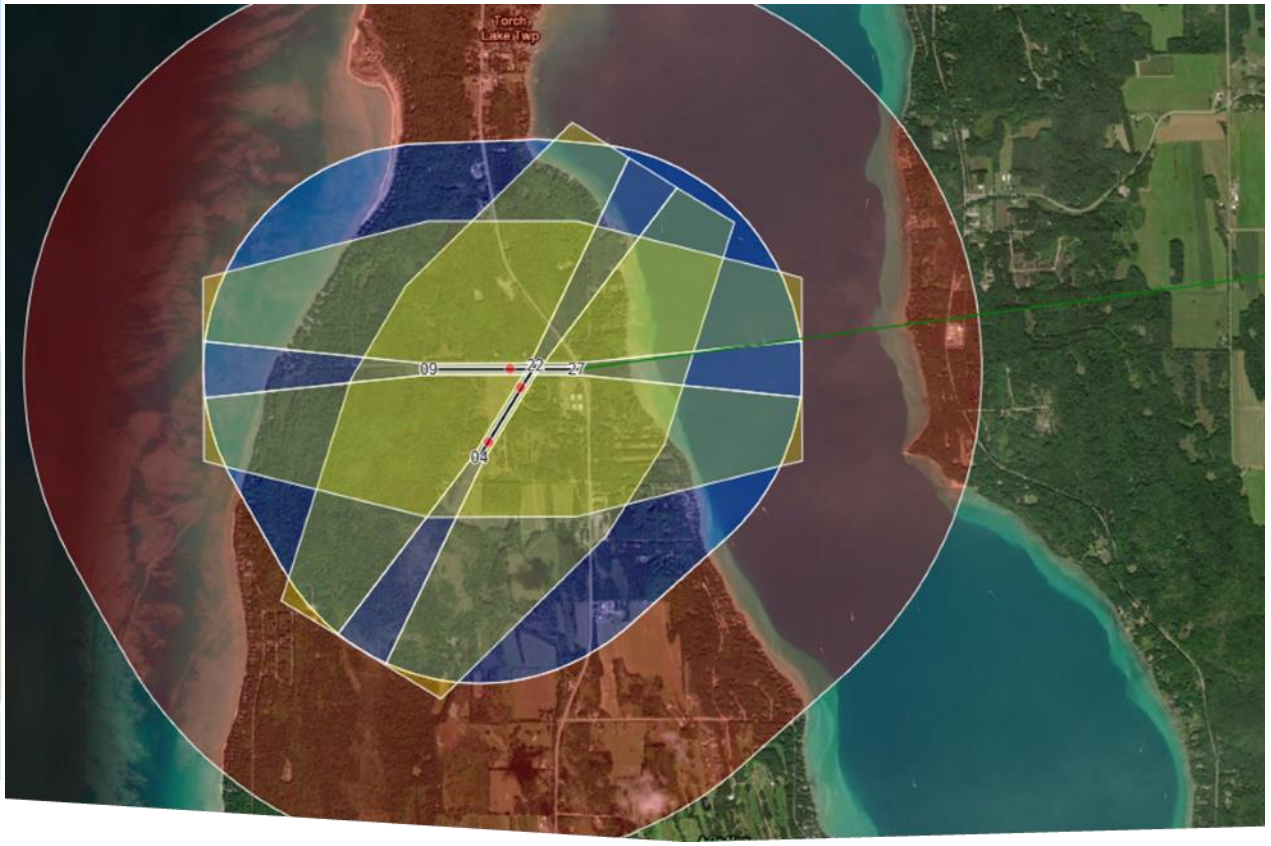
Airport Planning and Development In Action

Aviation Operations Section

- Operates aircraft for state agency and legislative use
- Licenses and inspects 600+ aviation facilities in the State
- Performs 6,000 Tall Structure Permitting and Airspace Safety Reviews
- Installs, maintains, and operates 41 automated weather observation systems (AWOS)
- Administers MDOT’s operational use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)
- Integrating UAS and other emerging aviation technology into Michigan’s airspace system

Flight Operations

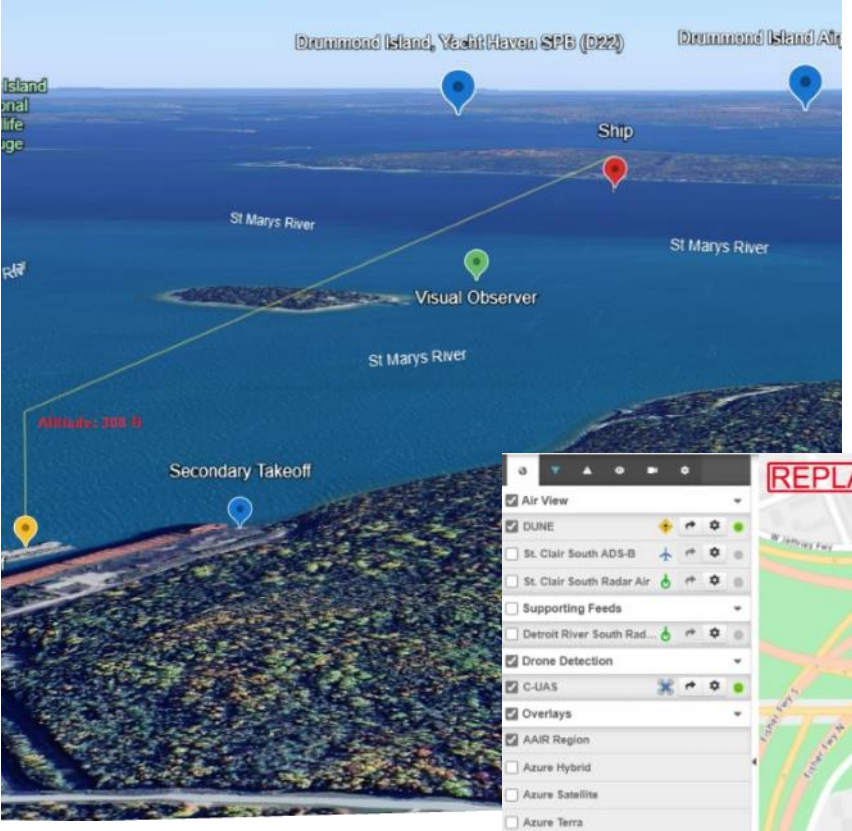
- MDOT operates a portion of the State of Michigan's Aircraft Fleet for transport of state employees on official business.
- MDOT recovers a portion of operational costs from the agency transported however we do not make the travel decisions of any agency.
- Aircraft are scheduled on a first come first served basis.
- MDOT / House and Senate Business Office Memorandum of Understanding governs legislative use.

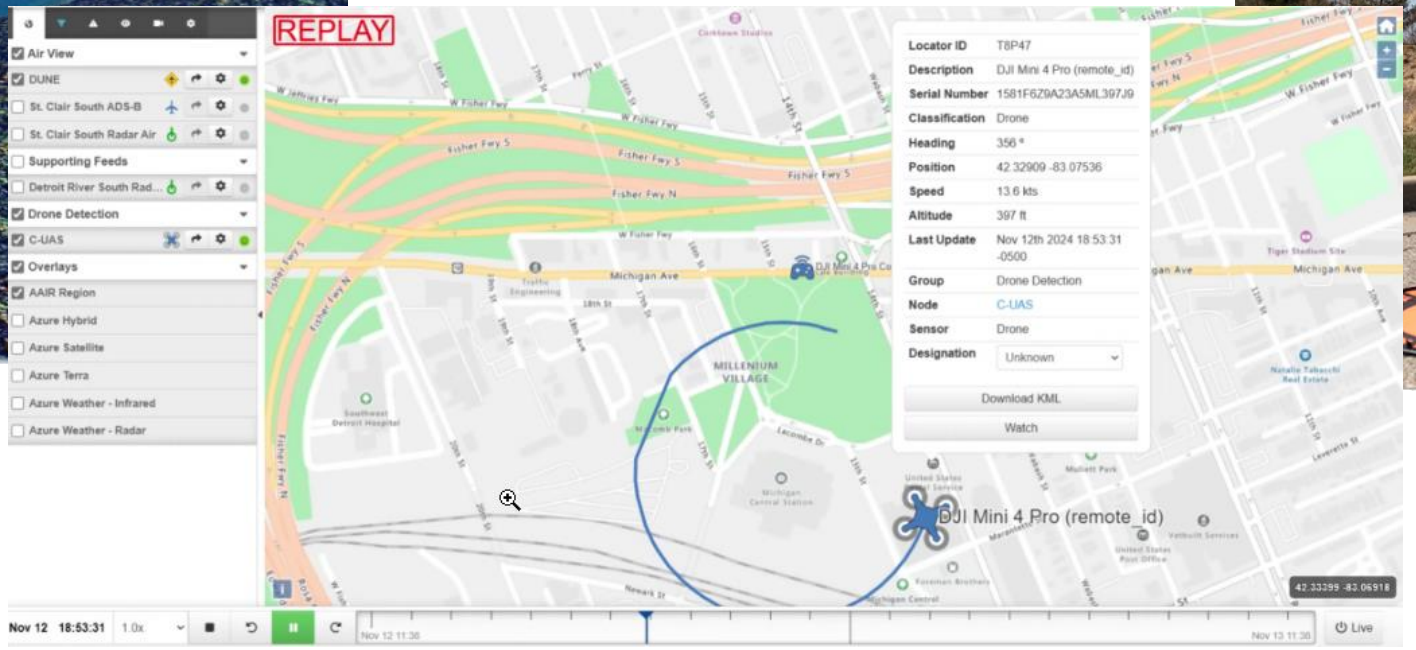


Michigan Department of Transportation
7460 Structure Notice Analysis Results with Facility Details

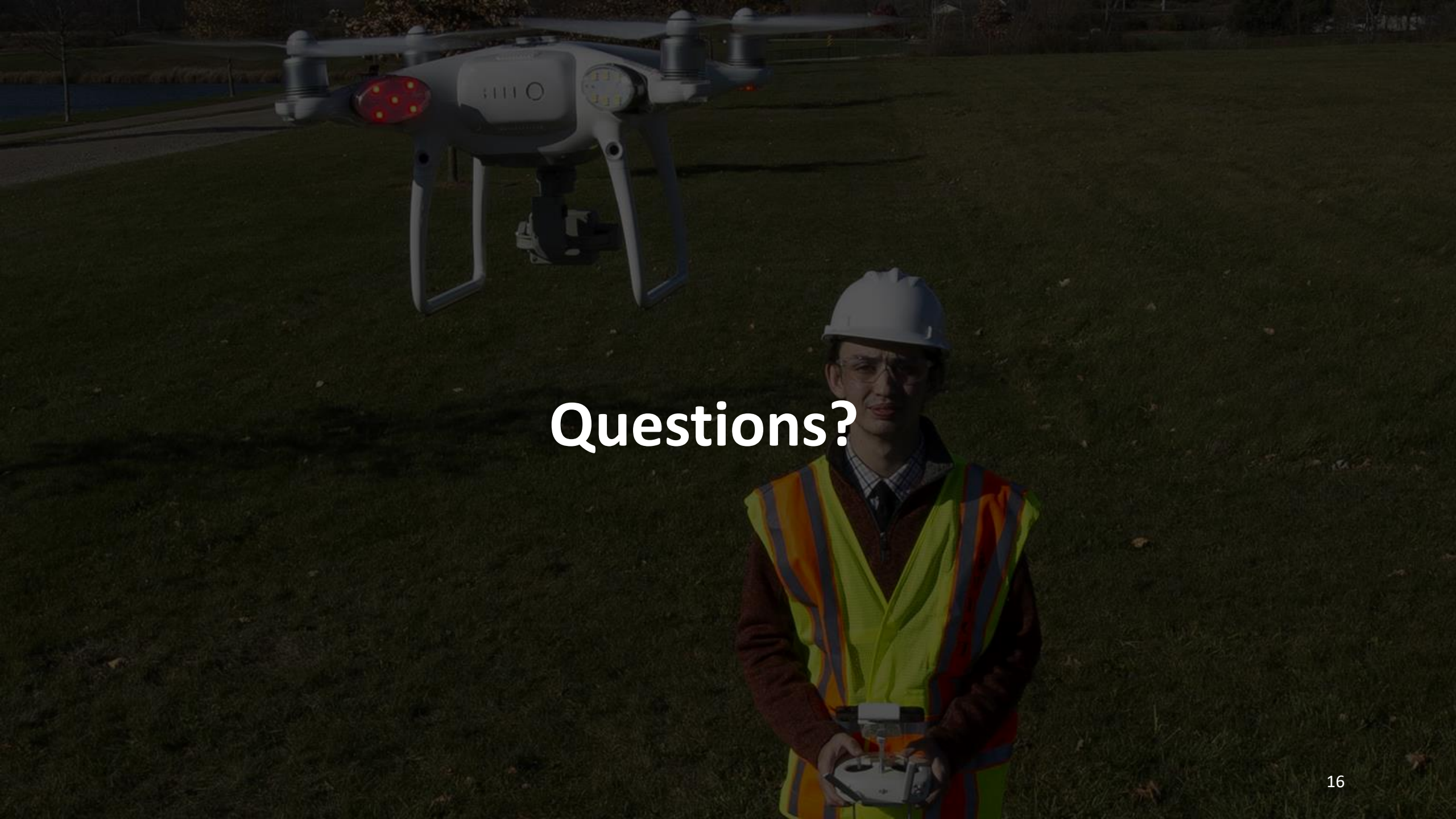
Aviation Services in Action – Airport and Airspace Safety

Aviation Services in Action – Electronic Facilities





Aviation Services in Action – Emerging Aviation



Questions?