



The Voice of Business Aviation in Virginia

Governor's Aerospace Advisory Council

GAAC

June 25, 2024



Bud Oakey
Virginia Aviation Business Association
President



2025 Legislative Agenda

- **Workforce**
 - Aviation Maintenance Technician Pathway
 - Commercial Pilot Pathway
 - Commercial Aviation Training Center
 - Governor's Aerospace Advisory Council
 - Special Advisor for Aviation and Aerospace
- **Aviation Parts and Supplies Tax Credits**
 - Work with the GAAC and the administration to have legislation introduced to make the aviation parts and supplies tax credit permanent for aircraft maintained at a Virginia aircraft maintenance operation.
- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**
 - Using data provided by the Virginia Department of Aviation to help direct a study by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, in collaboration with the Department of Aviation to develop a recommendation for how Virginia can be competitive in attracting the development and distribution of SAF to Virginia commercial and general aviation airports to keep up with industry demands and to assure that Virginia is competitive with other states throughout the Eastern Seaboard.
- **Noise**
 - Introduce legislation mandating a noise disclosure to be a part of residential real estate closing documents for properties within a defined distance of an air carrier airport.
- **Advanced Air Mobility**
 - Work with the GAAC and the VGAAC to build support for Sec. of Transportation and the DOAV to develop legislation to fund community-based pilot programs focused on public digital and physical infrastructure.
 - The VABA supports the harmonization of policy and infrastructure between states.
- **Abandoned and Derelict Aircraft**
 - Introduce amendments to clarify language approved during the session and amended by the Governor



Key Dates

Virginia Aviation Conference August 7-9, 2024
50th Anniversary

Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles
<https://virginiaaviationconference.com/>

VABA Legislative Reception January 29, 2025
Save the Date!



Bits of Information



Transportation Modes

Overall, trucks dominate domestic freight movement due to their versatility and infrastructure, while maritime and air transport are critical for specific types of goods and international trade. This multimodal approach ensures that a diverse range of products can be efficiently distributed across the country and globally.



- **Trucks:** Trucks carry the majority of goods by both weight and value. In 2015, trucks accounted for approximately 60.1% of the weight and 60.8% of the value of all freight transported in the U.S. This dominance is due to their flexibility and ability to handle a wide range of goods, from high-value electronics to bulk commodities ([Tyler Data & Insights](#)) ([BTS.gov](#)).
- **Maritime:** Maritime transport, including both ocean and inland waterways, is crucial for moving bulk commodities over long distances. In 2015, waterborne transportation accounted for about 5.2% of the total tonnage and 3.3% of the total value of all freight shipments. Maritime transport is particularly significant for international trade, carrying a large portion of U.S. exports and imports ([Tyler Data & Insights](#)) ([BTS.gov](#)).
- **Aviation:** Air freight, while carrying a smaller percentage of the total tonnage, plays a vital role in the transport of high-value, time-sensitive goods. Air carriers moved a significant amount of freight, with an extreme value-to-weight ratio of about \$108,500 per ton. This makes air transport essential for items like electronics, precision instruments, and pharmaceuticals ([BTS.gov](#)).

Distribution of Goods & Services

The economic impact of the trucking industry in the United States is substantial, significantly outweighing that of the aviation sector in terms of freight movement.



Trucking Industry Impact:

Revenue and Employment:

- The trucking industry generated approximately \$940.8 billion in gross freight revenues in 2022, representing 80.7% of the nation's freight bill ([American Trucking Association](#)) ([CloudTrucks](#)).
- It employs about 3.54 million truck drivers and 8.4 million people in trucking-related jobs, highlighting its critical role in the job market ([American Trucking Association](#)) ([CloudTrucks](#)).

Freight Movement:

- Trucks move around 72.6% of the nation's freight by weight, transporting 11.46 billion tons of freight annually ([American Trucking Association](#)) ([Altexsoft](#)).
- The industry is expected to grow further, with freight tonnage projected to increase by 28% from 2021 to 2032 ([CloudTrucks](#)).

Economic Contributions:

- Trucking supports nearly every sector of the economy, including agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing, emphasizing its indispensable role in supply chains and daily life ([American Trucking Association](#)).
- The sector is pivotal for both domestic and international trade, handling a significant share of the value of surface trade with Canada (61.9%) and Mexico (83.5%) ([American Trucking Association](#)).

Distribution of Goods & Services

The economic impact of trucking is more pronounced due to its extensive reach across various industries and its fundamental role in maintaining supply chains, whereas aviation complements this by handling specialized, high value, and time -sensitive freight.



Aviation Industry Impact:

Revenue and Employment:

- While the aviation industry is critical for high value, time sensitive goods its overall share in freight movement is small compared to trucking.
- The industry primarily focuses on transporting goods like electronics, pharmaceuticals and precision instruments due to their high value to-weight ratio ([BTS.gov](#)).

Freight Movement:

- Air transport handles a smaller volume of freight but is crucial for rapid delivery over long distances and international shipping. The value of air freight shipments is expected to grow significantly, driven by the need for speedy and reliable delivery of high-value goods ([BTS.gov](#)).

Comparative Analysis:

- Trucking dominates the domestic freight landscape in terms of volume and value, serving as the backbone of the U.S. economy ensuring the delivery of a vast array of goods and supporting millions of jobs.
- Aviation, while less dominant in volume, plays a crucial role in specific high-value sectors, facilitating fast and efficient transportation of goods that require quick turnaround times.

Opportunities in Aviation and Growth

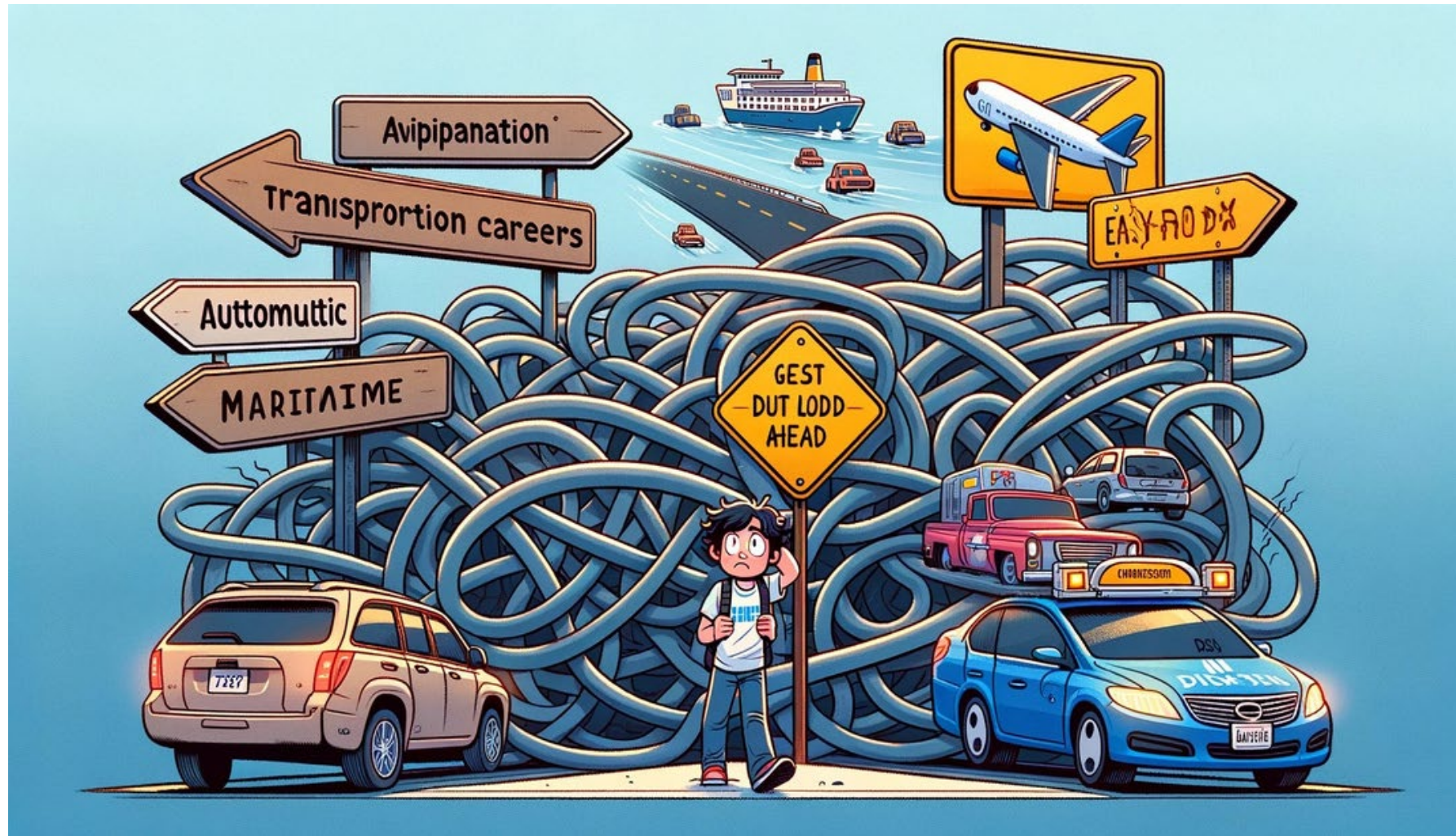


Long-Term Career Stability and Growth:

The stability and growth potential within the aviation and aerospace sectors cannot be emphasized enough. Jobs in these fields are often high-paying and offer numerous opportunities for advancement. For instance, the demand for pilots, aerospace engineers, and air traffic controllers is projected to grow, driven by increasing air travel and advancements in technology.

- Example: According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for aerospace engineers was \$118,610 in May 2020, with the job market expected to grow by 3% from 2019 to 2029 ([Tyler Data & Insights](#)).

Contrast with Current Educational Priorities:



Current Focus on Other Transportation Careers:

K-12 education systems often emphasize career tracks in automotive or general engineering fields over aviation and aerospace. This bias may stem from the perception that aviation careers are more challenging or require higher initial qualifications.

- Example: While many high schools offer courses in automotive technology, fewer provide comprehensive programs in aviation or aerospace engineering, despite similar prerequisites and durations for study.

Address Misconceptions and Barriers:



Perception of Daunting Entry Requirements:

Counter the myth that aviation and aerospace are inaccessible due to their perceived complexity or cost. Highlight programs and scholarships aimed at making these fields more accessible.

- Example: Many institutions offer introductory courses in aviation and aerospace without stringent prerequisites. Organizations like Women in Aviation International and the Experimental Aircraft Association provide scholarships and resources to support aspiring aviators and engineers.

Economic and Societal Benefits :



Economic Impact and Innovation:

Careers in aviation and aerospace are critical for national economic growth and innovation. These industries are at the forefront of technological advancements, contributing significantly to the economy.

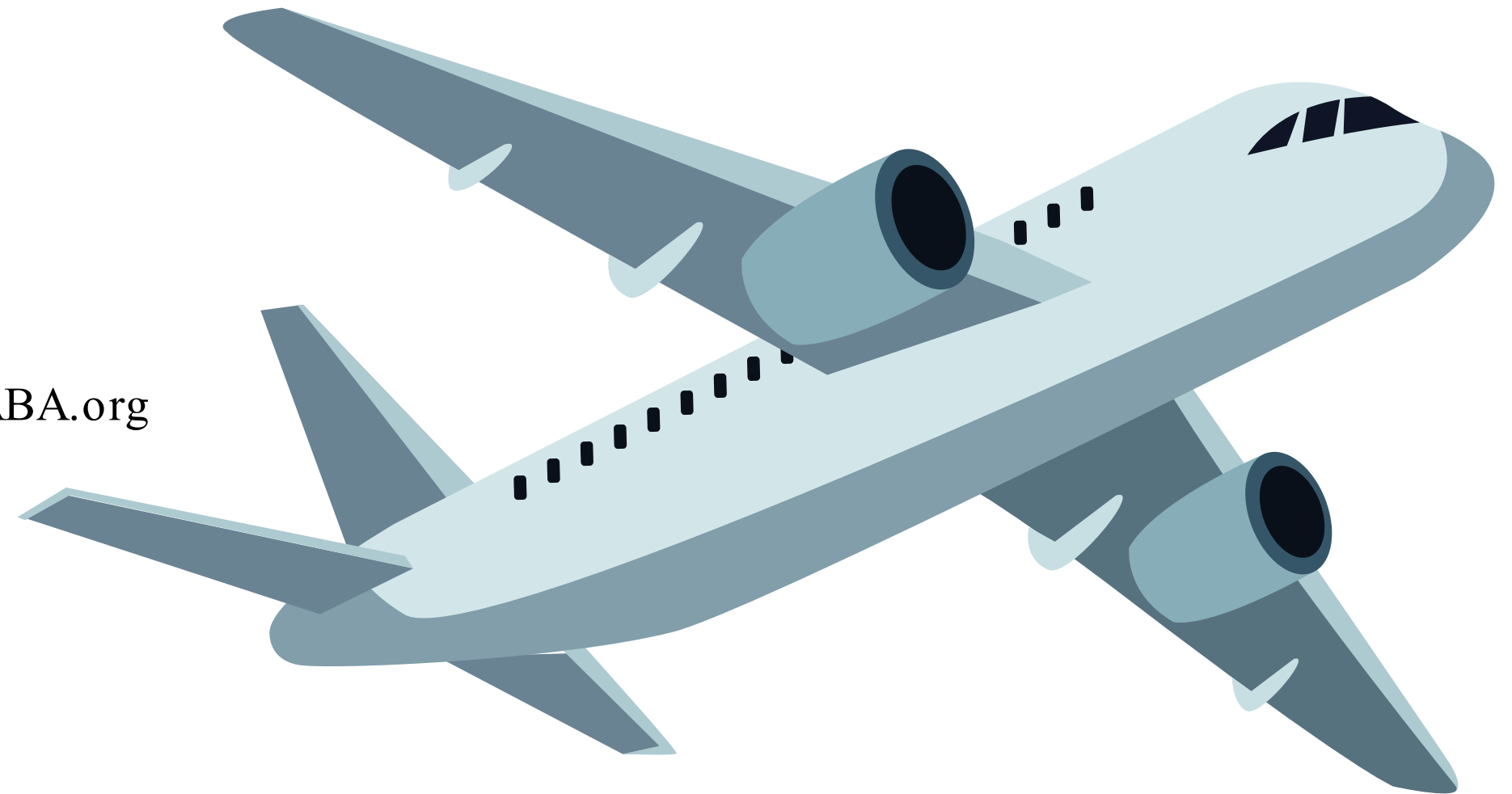
- Example: The aerospace industry contributed \$374 billion to the U.S. economy in 2018 and supported over 2.5 million jobs ([American Trucking Association](#)).

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