



Michael J. Landguth, A.A.E.
President & CEO

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RALEIGH-DURHAM AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Chair Hall-Roberts presided. Present: Hankins, Ghosh, Kushner, Polanco-Galdamez, Szlosberg-Landis and Winters. Staff present included: President and CEO Landguth, and General Counsel Locklear, and other staff members and guests.¹

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ghosh to add a closed session to the end of the agenda; Second by Hankins

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

Motion by Ghosh to approve the agenda as amended; Second by Szlosberg-Landis

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Polanco-Galdamez noted her review of the minutes of the committee work session held on February 12, 2026, and regular meeting of the Board held on February 19, 2026, and asked if any edits were needed.

Motion by Polanco-Galdamez to adopt the minutes; Second by Ghosh

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

III. CHAIR COMMENTS

Welcome

- Good afternoon, and welcome to the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority Board's first meeting of 2026. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and that your new year is off to a great start.

Concessions Grand Opening

- The Airport Authority had an exciting morning, as we celebrated the grand opening of seven dining and shopping concepts in Terminal 1, including:
 - ACC Café,

¹ The meeting was live streamed on YouTube.

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Nana Asante-Smith

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Shelley Winters, **Treasurer**

DURHAM COUNTY
Yesenia Polanco-Galdamez, **Secretary**
Nil Ghosh

WAKE COUNTY
Ellis Hankins
David Kushner



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- Brightleaf News & Gift,
- Five Points News & Gift,
- Natalie's Candy Jar,
- The District by Root & Branch,
- Puro Gusto, and
- Raleigh Beer Garden.
- Board members and Team RDU joined our concessionaires for ribbon cuttings and food tastings.
- RDU also welcomed a popular local pub to Terminal 2 recently, when Cary-based brewery Bond Brothers Kitchen & Bar opened at Gate D3.
- The new concepts are part of Reimagine RDU, a campaign that is reimagining the airport experience with nearly 20 new restaurants, stores and amenities.
- We invite you to stop by and visit them during your next journey through RDU.

State of RDU

- On January 23, I was honored to join CEO Michael Landguth and Board members to deliver the State of RDU Address at the Regional Transportation Alliance's 24th annual meeting.
- The event gave us the opportunity to share recent accomplishments and introduce the Transform RDU campaign to the regional business community.
- Our vice-chair, Nina Szlosberg-Landis, and our treasurer, Shelley Winters, participated in a panel discussion about air service and infrastructure.
- We were excited to talk about what is in store for RDU in 2026 and the capital projects that will enhance the airport experience in the years to come.

Black History Month

- Team RDU celebrates Black History Month each February in recognition of the many African-American aviators, airport staff and community leaders who shaped today's landscape and paved the way for future flyers.
- This year, we're recognizing some of the trailblazers with ties to RDU and North Carolina who have left their mark on aviation.
 - South Carolina-born Shirley Tyus began her aviation career as a United Airlines flight attendant in 1972, but her love for piloting brought her to RDU, where she piloted cargo aircraft for Wheeler Airlines.
 - Ultimately, Tyus entered history books as United's first Black female pilot.
 - The late Vernon V. Haywood served in the U.S. Army Air Force as commanding officer of the 332nd Fighter Group's 302nd Fighter Squadron.
 - One of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, the Raleigh native was one of the U.S. Air Force's first Black jet pilots and instructors.

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- Even if you aren't familiar with the name of late Durham architect Phil Freelon, you'll recognize his work.
- He was part of the architectural vision for RDU's Terminal 2, the central parking deck and the former Terminal C — as well as the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.
- Captain Warren Wheeler began operating Wheeler Flying Service, later known as Wheeler Airlines, out of RDU in 1973. It became the first Black-owned airline certified by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- The Durham-born Wheeler previously made history as Piedmont Airlines' first Black pilot in 1966.
- Finally, eight Black men and women have served as chair of the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority Board — the group responsible for developing and overseeing RDU's policy agenda and governance.
- I am honored to be included on that list, along with:
- Farad Ali,
- Pete Allison,
- Bert Collins,
- Bill Clement,
- Ken Gibbs,
- Ron Gregory, and
- Patrick Hannah.

WRAP UP

- That concludes my remarks. Now let's turn to today's business.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS²

Dr. Jean Spooner

Good afternoon, Dr. Jean Spooner. Today, I would like to speak to you as myself, a private citizen. I was in a surgical procedure, not mine, my partner's during the meeting and there's a lag in your video and I would request that you not have it cut off right at like you stopped at noon, but there was more in the middle of Nina's questions. But better yet, all your local government owners record their meetings and have them available on their website for viewing afterwards. I think that that would be a great service to the community if you could have those available and I would like to know Nina's answer to Nina's question at some point. But yeah, it was about the power in the Duke and the payment. I also want to give you a little background. I owned three small planes, a Twin Beech, a Cessna, a Tri Pacer that have landed here. Although

² Generated with AI.

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I think small planes belong in the other airports. From personal experience with my professional hat I was a professor at NC State University in water quality and stormwater management. In fact, I helped hire Bill Hunt, who you have now employed to monitor and impact assess your submerged gravel wetlands at PE3. And so I have travelled the world on here also with my NC State head. I orchestrated workshops nationwide. They came here. We went there. A project nationwide. The point there is that I, like many citizens, appreciate and want a good RDU International Airport. Also, just like many citizens, I appreciate and value the assets of a property that we share 2.6 miles of a common boundary with William Umstead State Park, and I firmly believe, as I said before, we work together. We have a better of the whole for our community. We have two great resources. That's the perspective that I always come from and I appreciate that. Thank you so much for your time.

Johnathan Hinton

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Jonathan Henson, and I was on the website earlier this week or maybe last week, and I did see some information about Colonel Vernon Haywood. I just wanted to thank the Airport Authority for taking the time to recognize Colonel Brennan Haywood. I met some of his family years ago and he was an extraordinary guy who was a Tuskegee Airman from Raleigh, NC as I am. He was a pilot like I am. That's all I want to do is just take the time to thank the Airport Authority for recognizing Colonel Vernon Haywood. Thank you very much.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Operations Committee – Ghosh reported Board members met during the Committee work session held on February 12, 2026, and discussed the following:
 - a. Board Update – GHG Baseline, Energy Management Plan Task Order #2, and Duke Energy Presentation
No board action was taken.
2. Construction Committee – Ghosh reported Board members met during the Committee work session held on February 12, 2026, and discussed the following:
 - a. Consideration of FY25-26 Staff Augmentation Amendments - Year 4

Motion by Ghosh to amend the Master Services Agreements with Parsons, STV, AECOM, WSP and Jacobs to provide a maximum payment for the period April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027; Second by Hankins

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

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- b. New Runway 5L/23R Status Update and Early Completion Incentives Discussion
No board action was taken. For the purposes of assessing consensus for a potential future request for contract approval, Board members individually indicated their support/non-support for a contract incentive coupled with disincentives in the form of liquidated damages. Four Board members indicated support of and three Board members indicated non-support of that type of contract incentive.
3. Finance Committee – Winters reported Board members met during the Committee work session held on February 12, 2026, and discussed the following:
 - a. FY26/27 RDU Business Plan
No board action was taken.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Consideration of Approval of Duke Energy Easement – Substation
- b. Consideration of Agreement Extension for Audit Services

Motion by Ghosh to approve items a and b; Second by Hankins

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

- c. Status Update – Expanded Alcohol Sales Pilot Program

Motion by Polanco-Galdamez to eliminate the time restrictions allowing alcohol sales to begin upon restaurant opening and authorization for the President and CEO to formally implement the expanded sales; Second by Ghosh

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

VII. GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT – No items were reported.

VIII. PRESIDENT AND CEO’S REPORT – President and CEO Landguth reported on recent Airport activities

Welcome

- Good afternoon, Board members, Team RDU, business partners and guests who are joining us today.

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Air Service

- A total of 1,004,017 passengers traveled through RDU last month – down 3.4 percent from January of last year.
- Winter storms had a significant impact on passenger traffic, with 20,000 flights canceled across the county from January 24th through the 26th.
- I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Team RDU, our airline partners, federal agencies, concessionaires and others who stepped up during back-to-back weekends of winter weather to keep the airport operating.
- Your teamwork and willingness to go the extra mile truly showed.
- We are grateful for everything you do and proud to have such dedicated employees and partners.
- In air service news, Delta had 25.9 percent of RDU's market share in January, followed closely by American at 25 percent. Southwest had 13.7 percent of the market.

Breeze Expansion

- Breeze Airways will expand its network of nonstop destinations from RDU with some new domestic and international routes.
- Breeze will begin flying to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in March.
- In May, they will launch service to:
 - Bangor, Maine,
 - Stewart, New York,
 - Vero Beach, Florida,
 - San Antonio, Texas,
 - Madison, Wisconsin,
 - And Orange County, California.
- Breeze will also start nonstop service to Atlantic City, New Jersey, in June.

ConfirmID

- As of February 1st, passengers who do not show a REAL ID or other acceptable identification at security checkpoints may verify their ID using TSA ConfirmID.
- For a \$45 ConfirmID fee, TSA will attempt to verify your identity. The process takes an average of 10 to 15 minutes, but it could take 30 minutes or more.
- Using TSA ConfirmID is optional. If you choose not to use it and don't have an acceptable form of ID, you may not be allowed through security and may miss your flight.
- For full details about TSA ConfirmID, visit [TSA's website](https://www.tsa.gov/confirmid).

State of RDU Video

- Finally, as Chair Hall-Roberts mentioned, board members and I launched the Transform RDU capital program at the State of RDU event back in January.

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- Our major capital projects are moving forward at an accelerated pace, while we continue to meet the day-to-day needs of our passengers, partners, and the broader community.
- To help tell that story, we created a short video that we think brings Transform RDU to life.

Wrap Up

- As we continue to transform RDU in the years ahead, we're committed to keeping the public and our partners informed every step of the way.
- You can learn more at TransformRDU.com.
- That concludes my remarks.

IX. MEMBERS COMMENTS

Hankins attended the grand opening of multiple concessions and congratulated staff on getting back to where we need to be with our concessions and acknowledged TSA employees. Winters thanked staff for the grand opening and gave an honor to Black History Month and Mr. Flood. Polanco-Galdamez thanked Winters for mentioning Mr. Flood and gave thanks for the grand opening.

X. CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Polanco-Galdamez to enter closed session to consult with an attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3) and to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1) and (6); Second by Hankins

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hankins to adjourn; Second by Winters.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

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