

## Questions for Connecticut Airport Authority Board of Directors Nominee

By: Heather Poole, Principal Analyst  
April 24, 2023 | 2023-R-0056

### Connecticut Airport Authority ([CGS § 15-120bb](#))

The Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) is a quasi-public agency responsible for developing, improving, and operating Bradley International Airport; five of the general aviation airports in the state (Danielson, Groton-New London, Hartford-Brainard, Waterbury-Oxford, and Windham); and any other airports it subsequently owns, operates, and manages. CAA's powers and duties include executing contracts, borrowing money, issuing bonds, and hiring employees. It is governed by an 11-member board comprised of gubernatorial and legislative appointees and state officials. Appointed board members must have business and management experience as well as experience and expertise in one or more of the following areas: financial planning, budgeting and assessment, marketing, master planning, aviation, and transportation management.

### Questions

#### *General*

1. Why do you want to serve on the CAA board? What will be your priorities and what do you hope to accomplish during your tenure?
2. How should CAA ensure that its capital projects are coordinated with the state's other transportation projects?
3. What role should CAA play in marketing the state's airports? What is the size of the airports' potential market? What does CAA need to do to increase the airports' market share?
4. What effect do the state's airports have on its economy? What types of businesses are supported by Bradley Airport and by the general aviation airports? How can CAA better leverage its airports to grow the state's economy?

## ***Bradley Airport***

1. The new ground transportation center at Bradley [opened](#) in July 2022. It houses the airport's rental car companies and additional public parking and will eventually receive high-frequency bus service to better connect the airport to public transit. How can Bradley make the most of the center? What should it do with the land the rental car companies vacated when they moved into the transportation center?
2. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bradley recently announced new [Breeze Airways](#) nonstop routes, the return of the [Aer Lingus route](#) to Dublin, and a new nonstop flight to [Jamaica](#). How can Bradley continue to be competitive with other airports for routes? How can Bradley attract more international routes?
3. In 2022, Bradley Airport was [named](#) the second best airport in the U.S. by CondéNast Traveler's annual Readers' Choice Awards. How can Bradley build on this success and further improve travelers' experiences?

## ***Other Airports***

1. What opportunities exist at Connecticut's general aviation airports? How can CAA help the general aviation airports reach their full potential?
2. In the past year, there has been a renewed push for the closure of the Hartford-Brainard Airport. Last year's budget implementer act ([PA 22-118](#), § 426) required the Department of Economic and Community Development to have an entity analyze the benefits and opportunity costs to Hartford and the state of the current and alternative uses of the Brainard Airport property. The analysis is due in October of this year. What are your thoughts on the issue? What role should CAA play in determining Brainard Airport's future?
3. CAA is seeking to acquire Sikorsky Memorial Airport from the city of Bridgeport, but the sale has been [complicated](#) by environmental remediation responsibilities and costs. Do you think CAA's acquisition should move forward? Should the legislature provide funding or regulatory relief to allow the acquisition to proceed?
4. Tweed-New Haven Airport, the state's second largest airport, is pursuing [expansion](#), and Avelo Airlines has indicated that it plans to add more routes to its New Haven hub. Tweed is not managed by CAA, but by the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority. What is the relationship between the CAA and Tweed's Authority? How should the two work together to improve air service in the state?

HP:kl