



AGENDA ITEM: 09

TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS STAFF REPORT

AGENDA TITLE: Aviation STEAM Continuum Discussion

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 28, 2025

PREPARED BY: Jeff Menasco, Director of Aviation

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive Board feedback and guidance on TTAD's Aviation STEAM Strategic Initiative, aligned with the 2025 Strategic Plan Focus Area: Social Responsibility.

BACKGROUND:

TTAD has begun developing an Aviation STEAM network by engaging with various local and regional organizations. These "stakeholders" have provided insights into how TTAD can best support STEAM education and outreach:

- Nevada County Career Technical Education (CTE)
- Truckee Tahoe Unified School District (TTUSD)
- Boys and Girls Club
- Local charter schools
- Tahoe Expedition Academy
- Civil Air Patrol (CAP)
- Truckee Tahoe Soaring Association (TTSA)
- Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)
- Round House
- Sierra Rocketry
- Truckee Robotics Club
- Mt. Lion Aviation
- Midwest Air Traffic Control
- Truckee Tahoe Airshow Committee

Note: Stakeholder participation is ongoing and open to additional contributors.

DISCUSSION:

Initial conversations focused on understanding each Stakeholder's programs and how TTAD can create a meaningful continuum of STEAM engagement. A working **framework** has emerged, broken into three categories of engagement:

- **Energize** – Inspire interest and curiosity (e.g., airshows, discovery flights)
- **Grow** – Deepen subject understanding (e.g., CTE aviation days, club activities)
- **Develop** – Build tangible skills and credentials (e.g., internships, certification programs)

Historically, TTAD's support has focused heavily on the **Energize** category. However, stakeholders have expressed a strong need for more sustained efforts in the **Grow** and **Develop** categories—areas that are more impactful but also more resource-intensive.

To better assess the **landscape**, we introduced a regional overlay of four critical factors:

- **Aviation STEAM Medium** – Existing opportunities present within the district
- **Resources (funding)** – Sufficient for short-term; more limited for sustained programming
- **Synchronization** – No centralized coordination among stakeholders
- **Facilities/Spaces** – Major limiting factor for aviation-related STEAM activities

TTAD POTENTIAL FOCUS AREAS:

Staff and stakeholders agree that TTAD is well-positioned to make a positive impact in two areas:

1. Synchronization

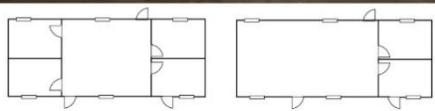
TTAD has an opportunity to synchronize and coordinate Aviation STEAM activities, including:

- (already) Created an on-line calendar to align programming and create shared awareness
- Exploring sponsorship of a CTE shadow day for aviation careers with TTUSD (Short-Term)
- Potentially facilitating a year-round aviation STEAM continuum program (Mid-Term)
- Explore implementing a high school aviation program with TTUSD (Long-Term)

2. Facilities

Currently, the EAA facility serves as the primary venue for aviation STEAM activities. However, its location on the airfield raises safety and access concerns, and the FAA has identified it as a visual obstruction, slated for future removal. Staff have investigated alternatives and recommend leasing a temporary, modular facility (~ 1,600 sq. ft.) that meets year-round operational requirements. These prefabricated office units are climate-controlled, customizable, and require minimal permitting. An ideal location would be the former pad of Hangar-2 which is already sited for a building on the Airport Layout Plan, utilities are present, affords land/air side access, has land side parking with ADA ramp. Initial cost estimates for a 12-month lease range from \$60-70K with a 90-day lead time.

Modular examples:



Location example:



PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

To date, TTAD's communication efforts around STEAM have been largely event-driven and informal. As this initiative matures, a more deliberate and strategic communications plan will be needed to support stakeholder coordination and public engagement.

SAMPLE MOTION

No motion required. For Board discussion and feedback only.

ATTACHMENTS

- TTAD Aviation STEAM Continuum Framework