



## MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Miles Weaver  
**From:** Matt Solak  
**Date:** October 2021  
**Re:** MAAE Monthly Legislative Report

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### Overall State Issues

#### Michigan's Independent Redistricting Commission Moving Forward with Maps

In 2018, Michigan voters passed a Constitutional amendment establishing an independent redistricting commission to redraw legislative maps as required every ten years. Since the beginning of the year the Michigan Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission (MICRC) has been working through the process to draw these new legislative maps. Most recently, the MICRC had been working collaboratively to build nine maps for consideration by the Commission. In addition, to the nine collaborative map proposals—three each for Congress, State House and State Senate—individual members will be submitting maps in the coming days prior to the 45-day public comment period.

Here's the process going forward:

- Once proposed maps are finalized the public will get 45 days to weigh in on which map they prefer.
- On December 30, the Commission is slated to return to approve final maps for House, Senate and Congress. A final map will need at least seven votes -- two Republicans, two Democrats, two independents and one more among the 13.
- If no map receives the necessary combination of votes, the winning map will be decided based on ranked-choice voting. If that doesn't settle the matter, the Secretary of State will pick the winning map at random among those submitted.

Redistricting and the final maps will play a critical role in the 2022 elections. While Michigan leans slightly Democratic statewide the current legislative maps have slightly favored Republicans the last ten years leading to a 58-52 Republican majority in the State House and a 22-16 Republican majority in the State Senate.

## Airport Issues

### AIP/ARAP Funding Issue

As members are aware from recent communications from MAAE and State Aeronautics when the FAA transferred the traditional AIP funding for 2021 AIP grants they comingled AIP funds with the America Rescue Plan Grant (ARPA) funds. As a result, traditional AIP funds cannot be released to Aeronautics until the ARPA funds have been appropriated by the legislature.

MAAE is aware that this has resulted in airports being unable to receive funding through Aeronautics for approved projects. MAAE is coordinating with Aeronautics on a response to the Legislature and Governor Whitmer's State Budget Office to make sure they are aware of the problem.

Additionally, MAAE continues to reach out directly to key lawmakers to try and resolve the matter for airports. MAAE is asking members to reach out to their state Senator or state Representative to discuss the problem with them directly—especially if you have already been negatively impacted by the situation. Talking points on the issue have been provided to members. If members need additional assistance, please contact MAAE to assist in communications to lawmakers.

### Congress Passes Infrastructure Bill

Last week, the House passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). The legislation that passed Friday night will deliver \$550 billion of new federal investments in America's infrastructure over five years, including money for roads, bridges, mass transit, rail, airports, ports and waterways. Specifically relating to airports, the legislation invests \$25 billion in airports to address repair and maintenance backlogs, reduce congestion and emissions near ports and airports.

### Senate Republican Listening Tour

On August 9, KDA arranged a listening tour in Marquette with Senate Republicans and several of its Upper Peninsula based clients to discuss issues important to the UP and their respective industries. Duane R. DuRay C.M., Director of Operations at Sawyer International Airport was able to participate in the event, represent the MAAE and discuss aviation statewide and the critical services airports provide with key Michigan lawmakers.

### House Supplemental Budgets

Beyond the general government that was passed an additional \$10 billion in federal, COVID relief, dollars remain available for the State Legislature. MAAE is coordinating with MDOT on supplemental budget requests. Requests include:

- Automated Weather Observation Station Upgrade - \$4 million to upgrade the 41 station Michigan AWOS Network that is beyond its useful life. General fund request.
- Air Service Program Revitalization - increase funding made available for air carrier recruitment and retention - \$1.5 million general fund
- State / Local Airport Development Program - Michigan has not been able to provide non-federally eligible airports with grant assistance for many years. This request would provide vital support to these airports. \$2 million general fund.
- Unmanned Aircraft System Program Funding - \$350,000 for education and outreach activities +1 FTE, \$500,000 for initial analysis of state operated airspace management system - 850,000 general fund

#### Peer-to-peer Carsharing Legislation (HB 4915-HB 4917) Introduced

On May 25, bipartisan legislation was introduced to regulate peer-to-peer carsharing service companies. These companies include Turo, Getaround and Maven. Peer-to-peer carsharing (also known as person-to-person carsharing and peer-to-peer car rental) is the process whereby existing car owners make their vehicles available for others to rent for short periods of time..

These companies may be operating without a service agreement at some airports in likely violation of those airport's ground transportation regulations. The MAAE Board has taken a position of support on this legislation as the bills require these companies to enter into operational agreements with airports.

MAAE worked previously on a similar issue when Lyft and Uber wanted to operate on airport property without complying with any type of ground transportation agreement with airports or any payment to the airport like other ground transportation companies.

MAAE is finalizing a letter to share with Committee Members advocating for passage of the legislation.