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ANNUAL REPORT

DETROIT REGION
AEROTROPOLIS®
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



INNOVATION & AVIATION

2021 welcomed transformational capital investments to the Detroit Region Aerotropolis. The Corporation Board's focus on building an innovation ecosystem by targeting advanced manufacturing and mobility industries led to multiple announcements including Ford Motor Company's Ion Park, Cox Automotive Mobility's EV Battery Service Center, and multiple new partnership announcements at the American Center for Mobility.

The daily work of supporting greenfield expansion by actively marketing 6,000 acres of development-ready land centered in a world-class network of transportation infrastructure remains. However, the pathway to drive corporate expansion and new investment in our region has also moved into supporting mobility in low altitude airspace.

Since 2020, the Aerotropolis communities joined efforts to build highways in the sky for advanced air mobility. This new infrastructure, grounded in authoritative municipal data, brought new advanced manufacturing prospects to the region. It also expanded on the multi-modal mobility network that is often a deciding factor when considering corporate expansion.

Our target industries, which include logistics, advanced manufacturing, and next-generation mobility are growing. Aerotropolis communities found a strong partner in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME) and others.

Whether you are an Aerotropolis partner or a company looking to expand in Southeast Michigan, we invite you to explore this report to gain a better understanding of our region and join us in celebrating the successes of 2021.

CHRISTOPHER GIRDWOOD
Executive Director

DAVID GLAAB
Chairman of the Board



THE AEROTROPOLIS ADVANTAGE

The Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation is a four-community, two-county public-private economic development partnership driving corporate expansion and new investments around Detroit Metro and Willow Run Airports.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS NETWORK

6,000 AVAILABLE ACRES 

DETROIT METROPOLITAN AIRPORT

- » 18th busiest airport in North America
- » 35 million passengers per year
- » 1,100 flights per day
- » 140 non-stop destinations on four continents
- » 464 million pounds of cargo per year

PORT OF DETROIT

- » 29 terminals handle 17 million tons of cargo every year

INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY

- » 2nd busiest border crossing in North America, providing 2 bridges and a rail tunnel to Canada

WILLOW RUN AIRPORT

- » Leading "all cargo" airport in the USA
- » 200 million pounds of cargo per year
- » U.S. Customs operation on site
- » Corporate and charter flight hub
- » 24-hour service

AMERICAN CENTER FOR MOBILITY

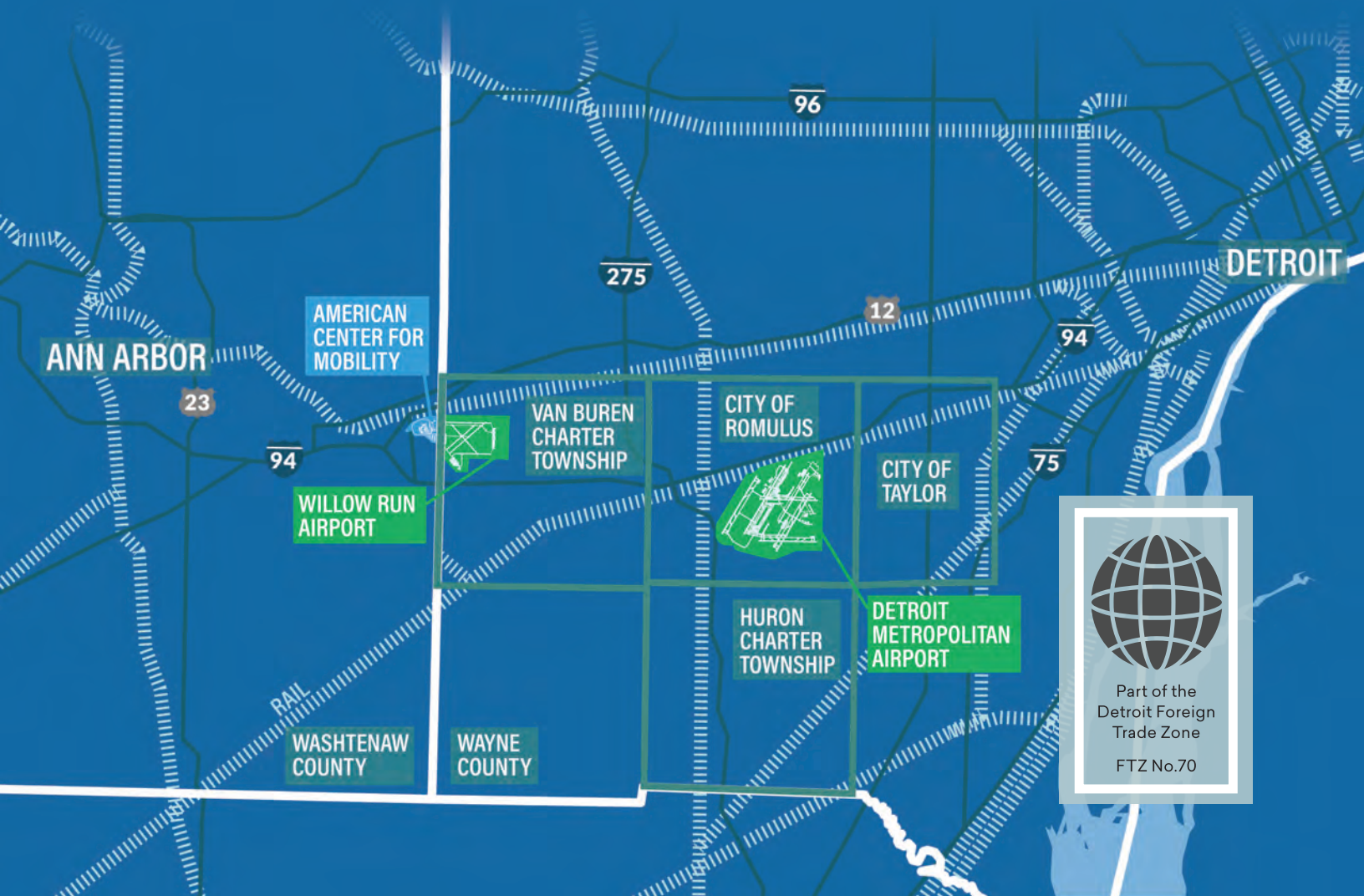
- » 335-acre test facility for connected and autonomous vehicles
- » 2.5-mile highway loop, entrance/exit ramps, reconfigurable intersection, four-seasons testing

5 RAIL LINES 

3 FREEWAYS 

2 AIRPORTS 

1 AMERICAN CENTER FOR MOBILITY 



MARKETING & ADVERTISING

In 2021, the Aerotropolis worked closely with the Wayne County Airport Authority to promote economic development, in addition to sharing the safety and security work that has been completed at DTW and Willow Run: <https://www.metroairport.com/travel-alerts>

The Aerotropolis team placed 17 advertisements in 11 publications, reaching millions of readers worldwide in print and digital formats. The target audience of these increased efforts are C-suite decision makers, site consultants, and corporate real estate professionals.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- Ann Arbor News
- CBS 62 Michigan Matters
- City of Taylor Sportsplex
- Crain's Detroit Business
- Crain's Chicago Business
- Crain's New York Business
- DBusiness Magazine
- Detroit Driven
- Detroit Free Press
- Detroit News
- FOX 2 News
- GovLoop
- Livability.com
- Michigan.com
- MI Tech News
- MLIVE
- MSN.com
- WDIV Click on Detroit
- WhereNext Magazine

Together

WITH DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS, WE DRIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OUR REGION.

The **WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY** drives economic activity. Its airports are not only responsible for creating jobs, but also sustaining more than 86,000 jobs throughout the state. The world-class Detroit Metro Airport is one of the world's leading air transportation hubs with more than 1,100 flights per day to and from four continents.



WILLOW RUN AIRPORT is an international cargo and general aviation facility. This premier location is surrounded by 6,000 acres of development-ready land, centered with access to secure, timely, and reliable supply chain and logistics infrastructure.



DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS



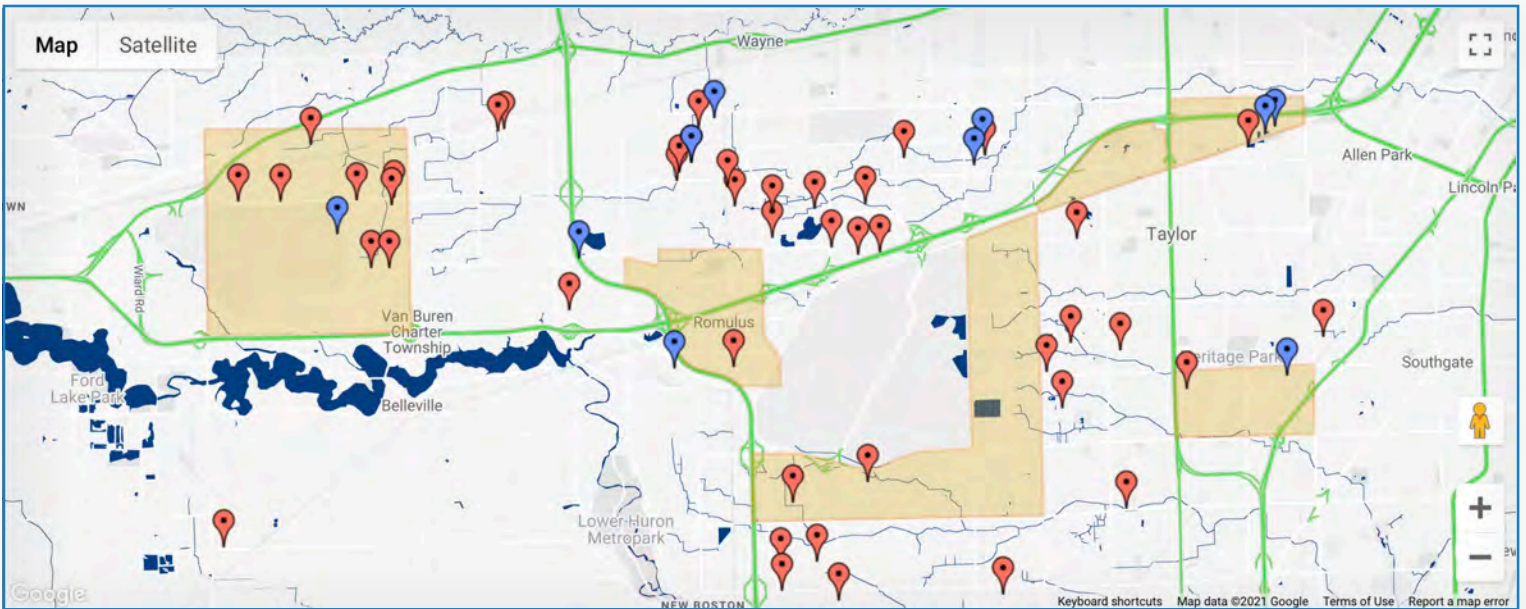
Detroit Region Aerotropolis • 11895 Wayne Rd. • Suite 101A • Romulus, MI 48174 • 734-992-2286

Learn more: DETROITAERO.ORG

BUSINESS ATTRACTION AND EXPANSION

One of the pillars of the Aerotropolis' business development strategy is connecting with our target audience. In 2021, the Aerotropolis submitted over 234 sites (10+ acre sites noted in red below) to compete for high quality jobs in the region. The blue marks below indicate vacant industrial properties that the Aerotropolis team markets daily.

Working with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Detroit Regional Partnership, Wayne County and the Aerotropolis communities we have built a strong team approach to economic development.



VISIT DETROITAERO.ORG/PROPERTIES/ TO ACCESS INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY DATA SHEETS.

BY THE NUMBERS



CONDUCTED
SITE TOURS 6

74

BUSINESS ATTRACTION & EXPANSION
PROJECTS



14

RESPONSES
TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RFIS)



234

SITES
SUBMITTED FOR LOCATION CONSIDERATION



23

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRADESHOWS AND
CONFERENCES





BUILDING HIGHWAYS IN THE SKY

Since January 2020, Detroit Aerotropolis licensed the Airspace Link AirHub platform to establish and test a new low altitude drone infrastructure in the region. The complete AirHub platform including AirHub for Pilots and AirHub for Government was developed and implemented for all four Aerotropolis communities.

Data from the communities, county, state, local and commercial sources were collected, processed, and analyzed to identify relevant hazards and risks associated with UAS operations occurring within Aerotropolis used for building safe “Highways in the Sky” that are in harmony with Aerotropolis community interests.

In partnership with Michigan’s Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME) Aerotropolis supported a virtual event titled Strengthening Michigan’s Aerial Mobility Ecosystem Series “Advanced Aerial Mobility (AAM) – Making it in MI!”. As the state looks to become a leader in this emerging industry, the event helped attendees better understand and prepare for the logistical complexities, rigorous safety requirements, and how to leverage the state’s manufacturing know-how to build the advanced air mobility industry.

In August, Aerotropolis worked in collaboration with Airspace Link, a Detroit based startup providing leading drone infrastructure software, to bring a technology showcase to the Detroit Region, specifically in the Community of Taylor, exhibiting the Region’s next step forward in connecting air and ground technologies. Zing Drone Deliveries & DroneDek mailbox systems worked in tandem to demonstrate new & fun ways to quench the thirst and cravings of golfers.

- Drone Delivery of beverages & snacks, landing in a DroneDek drone-specific mailbox for golfer convenience.
- Drone flights from the Clubhouse, safely flying 0.5-2 miles around the lakes & course; operations by Zing Drones.
- Delivery Process Detail: Exhibiting how to safely plan for, fly and winch down drone delivered products using licensed drone operators.



PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

CBS62 NEWS MICHIGAN MATTERS: POWERING EVS, WIRELESS CHARGING ROADS AND DRONES

DBUSINESS MAGAZINE: DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS' FLYSAFE PROGRAM, POWERED BY AIRHUB, LEADS THE WAY IN DRONE INTEGRATION

CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS 'NOT JUST A FLYOVER ZONE' TIME FOR METRO DETROIT TO LEAD THE TRANSITION TO A NEW MOBILITY ECONOMY



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS

In July 2021, Ford announced that the Detroit Aerotropolis region will be the home of its new global battery center of excellence – Ford Ion Park – which is accelerating the company’s research and development of battery and battery cell technology – including future battery manufacturing.

“Ford already is delivering on our plan to lead the electric revolution with strong new vehicles including Mustang Mach-E, 2022 E-Transit available late 2021 and the 2022 F-150 Lightning available from spring next year,” said Anand Sankaran, Ford Ion Park director. “The new lab will help Ford speed up the battery development process to deliver even more capable, affordable batteries and is part of Ford’s renewed commitment to making Michigan a centerpiece of its focus on EVs.”

“Ford’s investment in battery research and development in Romulus will support hundreds of good-paying jobs, attract innovative talent to Michigan, and help us continue leading the world in advanced mobility and manufacturing,” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. “Ford is an American icon that has left its mark on the world over a century, and with the research that will take place at Ford Ion Park, they will shape the next century while reducing emissions and accelerating electrification.”



20  CLOSED
PROJECTS

500  NEW
JOBS

 \$250M
MILLION IN CAPITAL
INVESTMENT

COMMUNITIES & PARTNERS

Regional economic development is only as strong as the individual parties that comprise “the region” and the Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation is no exception.

Our success in 2021 and beyond would not be possible without the continued collaboration with and commitment of our communities and partners. Each of the following communities, counties, and organizations – both public and private are critical to the success of our business attraction efforts. To each, we say thank you!

“2021 BROUGHT NEW CENTERS OF INNOVATION TO AEROTROPOLIS, INCLUDING FORD’S ION PARK AND COX AUTOMOTIVE MOBILITY’S EV BATTERY CENTER. IT IS BECAUSE OF STRONG PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS LIKE THE DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CELEBRATE THESE SUCCESS IN 2021 AND BEYOND.”

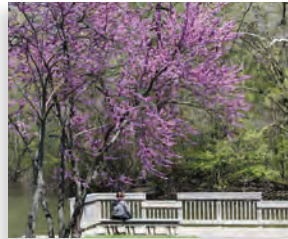
- DAVID GLAAB, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



CITY OF ROMULUS



CITY OF TAYLOR



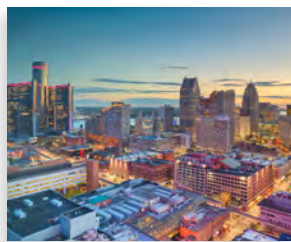
HURON CHARTER
TOWNSHIP



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION



VAN BUREN
TOWNSHIP



DETROIT REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIP



WAYNE COUNTY



WAYNE COUNTY
AIRPORT AUTHORITY



DTE ENERGY

“ I APPLAUD THE DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS BOARD AND STAFF FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THE NEXT GREAT MOBILITY LEAP, ADVANCED AERIAL MOBILITY. THE TEAM IS WORKING TIRELESSLY TO LAUNCH NEW INTERMODAL AND MULTIMODAL CAPABILITIES FOCUSED ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RAIL, GROUND VEHICLES AND AERIAL VEHICLES (DRONES) TO OFFER OUR CUSTOMERS A ROBUST AND RESILIENT TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE. WAYNE COUNTY WILL BE ONE OF THE FIRST REGIONS IN THE COUNTRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE AEROTROPOLIS. ”

- WARREN EVANS, WAYNE COUNTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

 @DetroitAero

 Detroit Region Aerotropolis

 DetroitAero.org

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