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25

ANNUAL REPORT

DETROIT REGION
AEROTROPOLIS[®]
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



INNOVATION & AVIATION

2025 welcomed many new and impactful 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 the Stellantis announcement of a "Megahub" facility in Van Buren Township.

The daily work of supporting greenfield expansion by actively marketing 4,000 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 the new aerospace economy.

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 2025.

CHRISTOPHER GIRDWOOD
CEO

KEVIN McNAMARA
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

4,000 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

5 RAIL LINES 

INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY

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

3 FREEWAYS 

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

2 AIRPORTS 

1 AMERICAN CENTER FOR MOBILITY 




Part of the Detroit Foreign Trade Zone
FTZ No.70

MARKETING & ADVERTISING

In 2025, the Aerotropolis team worked closely with the Wayne County Airport Authority to promote economic development, in addition sharing the safety and security work that has been completed at DTW and Willow Run: <https://www.metroairport.com/>

The Aerotropolis team placed 13 advertisements in 5 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.

COMPANIES ARE INVESTING AND
LANDING HERE

DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS®
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

- 6,000 AVAILABLE ACRES
- 5 RAIL LINES
- 3 FREEWAYS
- 2 AIRPORTS
- 1 AMERICAN CENTER FOR MOBILITY

The best transportation and logistics network in the nation.

WHERE WILL YOU LAND YOUR NEXT EXPANSION PROJECT?

Part of the Detroit Foreign Trade Zone FTZ No. 70

DETROIT-METRO • WILLOW RUN
WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
www.metroairport.com

Join these companies and many others in the Detroit Region Aerotropolis

AMAZON | BROSE | FORD | KROGER | MOPAR | OUR NEXT ENERGY | PENSKE

Detroit Region Aerotropolis | Wayne County, Michigan | www.detroitaero.org | (734) 992-2286

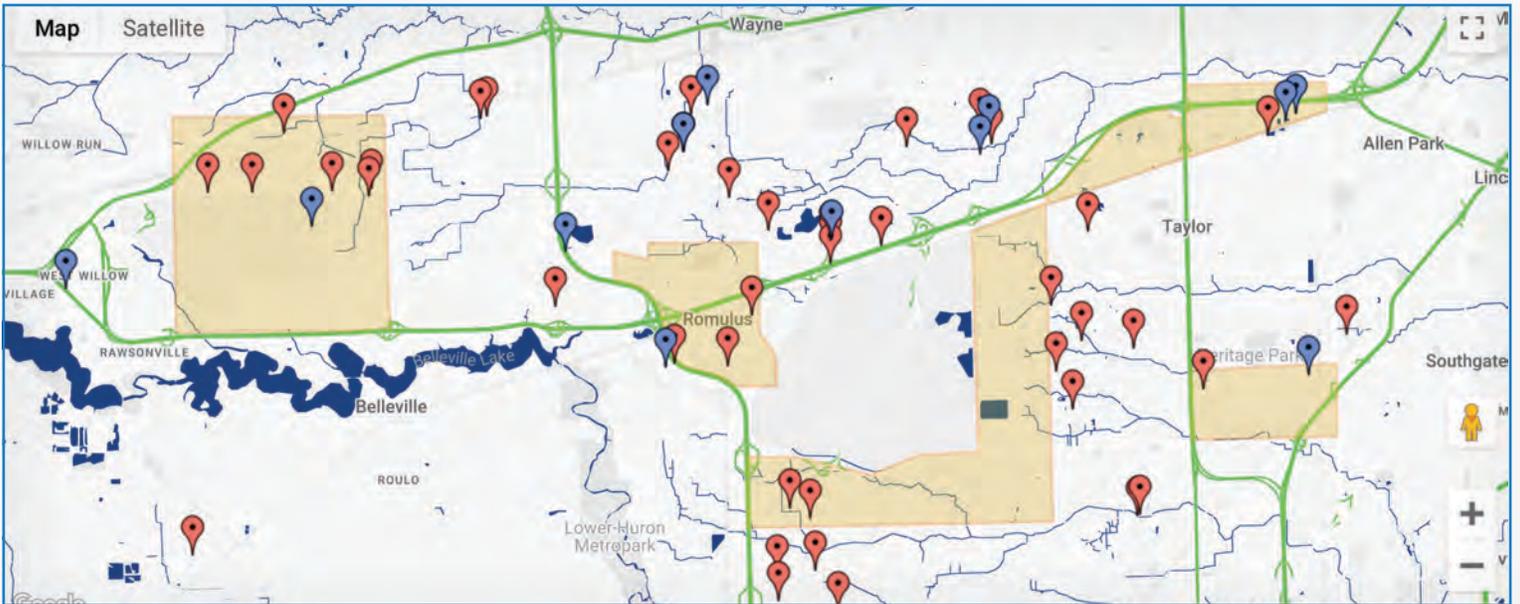
MEDIA COVERAGE

- 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
- Detroit Magazine
- Destination Downriver
- FOX 2 News
- GovLoop
- Livability.com
- Michigan.com
- MI Tech News
- MLIVE
- WDIV Click on Detroit
- WDIV Live in the D
- WhereNext Magazine

BUSINESS ATTRACTION AND EXPANSION

One of the pillars of Aerotropolis' business development strategy is connecting with our target audience. In 2025, the Aerotropolis submitted over 200 vacant buildings and 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 11

71

BUSINESS ATTRACTION & EXPANSION
PROJECTS 

24 

RESPONSES
TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RFIS)

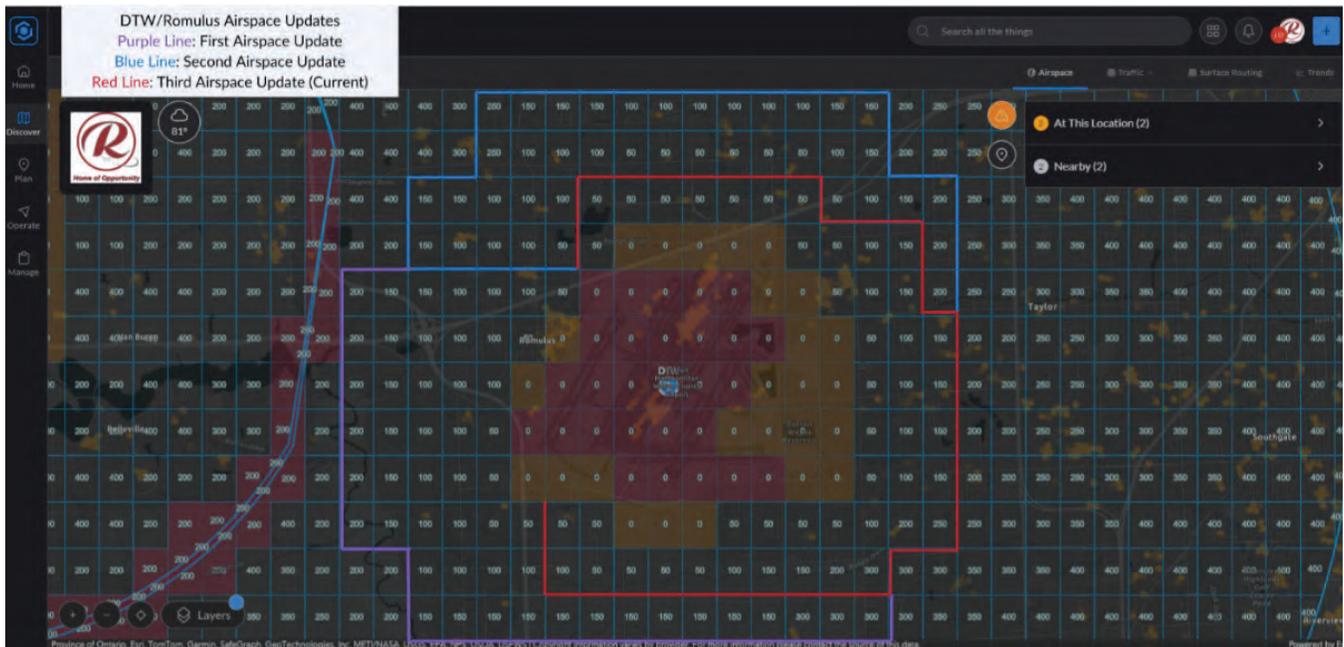
203 

SITES
SUBMITTED FOR LOCATION CONSIDERATION

17 

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 is used for building safe “Highways in the Sky” that are in harmony with Aerotropolis community interests.

The City of Romulus was thrilled to announce a significant advancement in aviation technology with the expansion of drone-accessible airspace near the Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW). This development, made possible through changes implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), marks a significant step forward for Romulus in embracing innovation, economic growth, and enhanced community life.

Romulus’s active participation in the Detroit Region Aerotropolis, a collaborative effort to transform the region into a manufacturing, logistics, and aviation hub, was crucial in this process. The city’s involvement in Aerotropolis’s initiative to integrate drone technology into regional infrastructure significantly contributed to the success of these airspace changes.

This expanded airspace access is expected to unlock a wealth of economic opportunities, enabling local businesses and individuals to explore various UAS technologies. The applications are diverse, encompassing everything from medical and package delivery to infrastructure inspection and public safety use cases.

This change is anticipated to fuel economic expansion, stimulate job growth, forge new educational avenues in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and is likely to bring improvements in public health and safety while introducing unique recreational activities, such as drone parks.

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS:

NEW FEDEX HUB ILLUSTRATES KEY CROSS-SECTOR COMMITMENT TO AIRPORT'S CAPABILITIES



Credit: John F. Martin Photography

At nearly double the size and with a vastly increased sorting capacity, the new FedEx facility at the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) allows the global courier and shipping company to improve automation, streamline operations and better scale to meet future demands, officials said.

As a result, DTW and its surrounding developments have established Metro Detroit as a long-term freight and logistics leader, said Ken Wilson, FedEx's senior vice president for network operations.

"DTW is one of the busiest airports in the country and offers extensive cargo handling capabilities. This makes it an ideal location for a FedEx ramp facility to efficiently handle a large amount of air freight," Wilson said. "Having a presence in Detroit helps FedEx enhance its operational efficiency and better serve its customers."

This facility is a consolidation of operations for FedEx, Wilson explained. The Federal Aviation Administration mandated a taxiway realignment at its previous site to avoid reducing aircraft-parking capacity at DTW. Also, FedEx needed larger sorting capacity in Detroit as this location processes one of the highest daily outbound freight volumes in the U.S.

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

AEROTROPOLIS AND MEDC RELEASE MARKETING MATERIALS FOR 440 ACRE SITE IN VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP!

Located within the Detroit metro area, this property is more than 400 acres and owned by a local economic development organization. Zoning is M-2 General Industrial. Multiple due diligence studies have been conducted that provide insight into the developable areas of the property.

Air service is an asset of this area, with robust passenger service offered at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) approximately 9.0 miles from the property, and general aviation service at Willow Run Airport (YIP) located 0.5 miles from the property. Highway access includes two nearby interstates, I-275 and I-94, each approximately two miles from the property. Rail service can be provided by Norfolk Southern.

Aerotropolis received \$18.6 million to acquire 440 acres in Van Buren Township, Michigan in 2024.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS

Stellantis announces a \$388 million investment in a Van Buren Township “Megahub” to enhance service parts distribution efficiency for Mopar. Hearn Industrial Services announced a 100,000 sq. ft. expansion to an existing facility in Taylor, Michigan!



Photo Credit: <https://blog.stellantisnorthamerica.com/>

500 NEW **JOB**S
ESTIMATED



2 CLOSED **PROJECTS**



MILLION IN CAPITAL **\$400M**
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 2025 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!

“2025 BROUGHT NEW COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS TO OUR REGION. IT IS BECAUSE OF STRONG PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS LIKE THE DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CELEBRATE THESE SUCCESS IN 2025 AND BEYOND.”

- Kevin McNamara, Chairman of the Board



CITY OF ROMULUS



CITY OF TAYLOR



HURON CHARTER TOWNSHIP



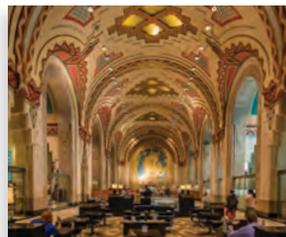
MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP



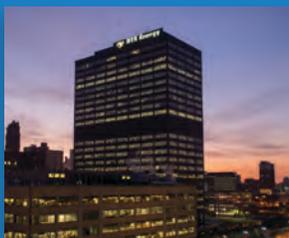
WASHTENAW COUNTY



WAYNE COUNTY



WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY



DTE ENERGY

“Aerotropolis continues to be one of our most successful economic partnerships that has yielded tremendous benefits for Wayne County. As we move forward into 2026, I look forward to maintaining this momentum and what that will mean for our community.”

- Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans

X @DetroitAero

in Detroit Region Aerotropolis

DetroitAero.org

DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS® DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

