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## **Transportation Secretary announces appointees to aviation committee**

Kansas Transportation Secretary Mike King has named new members to the Kansas Aviation Advisory and Review Committee.

“I appreciate the work this committee does for Kansas aviation,” said Secretary King. “Now is the time to strengthen our programs and I believe this committee will help us ensure that we are as strategic with our investment choices as possible.”

The committee advises the Transportation Secretary on aviation matters and reviews current and proposed programs. It comprises a cross section of Kansas aviation, including pilots, airport representatives, air ambulance and more.

Members of the committee include Missy Knott, Chief Operating Officer of LifeTeam, a critical care ambulance service provider; Shelli Swanson, Salina Airport Authority, Director of Administration and Finance; Jason Wojteczko, owner of Compass Rose Aviation flight training; Andy Hineman, Spencer Flight and Education Center; Brian Youngers, Signature Flight Support, Station Manager; Ken Brock, owner and founder of Names and Numbers; and Dr. Kurt Barnhart of K-State Salina.

Secretary King also announced that Nate Hinkel has been hired to fill the new position of Marketing and Outreach Manager in the Division of Aviation. Hinkel, is a pilot and graduate of Kansas State University. He served in the Kansas Air National Guard as a crew chief of a KC-135 and most recently was an aviation insurance underwriter. He will work out of Wichita and report to Jesse Romo, who was recently

promoted to Director of the Division of Aviation. Romo said Hinkel will develop stakeholder relationships, handle communication, plan events and more.

Kansas airports annually support more than 47,000 jobs, generate \$2.3 billion in payroll and produce \$10.4 billion in economic activity. Under the T-WORKS transportation program, annual state spending for the Kansas Airport Improvement Program increased to \$5 million from \$3 million.

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