



The Rise of Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) Aircraft in the U.S.

Austin City Manager Office | October 16, 2025

Introduction

What's Changing in Urban Air Mobility

- eVTOL aircraft promise faster, quieter and cleaner travel
- Cities are exploring integration into existing transport systems
- Impact on land use planning remains largely unforeseen.



The New Frontier of eVTOL

- Rapid investment and FAA certification progress
- Shift from ground-based to vertical mobility networks
- Emerging public demonstrations and growing private partnerships.

Recent News Highlights

- *Flying taxis take flight in front of a US crowd for the first time as 2 companies race to take on passengers:* Business Insider, Oct 2025 [Business Insider](#)
- *Archer unveils plans for NYC air-taxi network in partnership with United Airlines:* Reuters, Apr 2025 [Reuters](#)
- *Joby Aviation shares tumble after pricing of \$514 million discounted offering:* Reuters, Oct 2025 [Reuters](#)
- *Joby's flying taxi makes a 'major step' with its first test flight between two US airports* Business Insider, Aug 2025 [Business Insider](#)
- *Joby will buy Blade's air taxi business for up to \$125 million:* Axios, Aug 2025 [Axios](#)
- *Air taxis to ferry fans and VIPs to venues at 2028 Los Angeles Olympics:* AP News, 2025 [AP News](#)
- *Archer raises \$850 million after Trump executive order:* Reuters, Jun 2025 [Reuters](#)
- *Archer & United present plans for flying taxi network in NY:* Electrive, May 2025 [electrive.com](#)



Vertiport Design & Location Examples

- Rooftop and garage conversions for takeoff/landing pads.
- Integration with multimodal hubs and airports.
- Growing competition for downtown and suburban sites.



Land Use Implications – The Good and the Complex

- Potential for smaller ground footprint and reduced congestion.
- Challenges: zoning changes, access, and land value shifts.
- Retrofitting existing structures to meet aviation standards.

Infrastructure Ripple Effects

- Energy grid and charging infrastructure requirements.
- Impacts on parking, access roads, and ground transit.
- New aerial corridors shaping urban development.

Ground infrastructure (vertiplaces):
Vertihubs, vertiports, and vertistops



Governance and Planning Gaps

- Complex coordination across FAA, state, and local agencies.
- Need for integrated airspace and land use planning.
- Development of new modeling tools and standards.



Community Reactions and Policy Debates

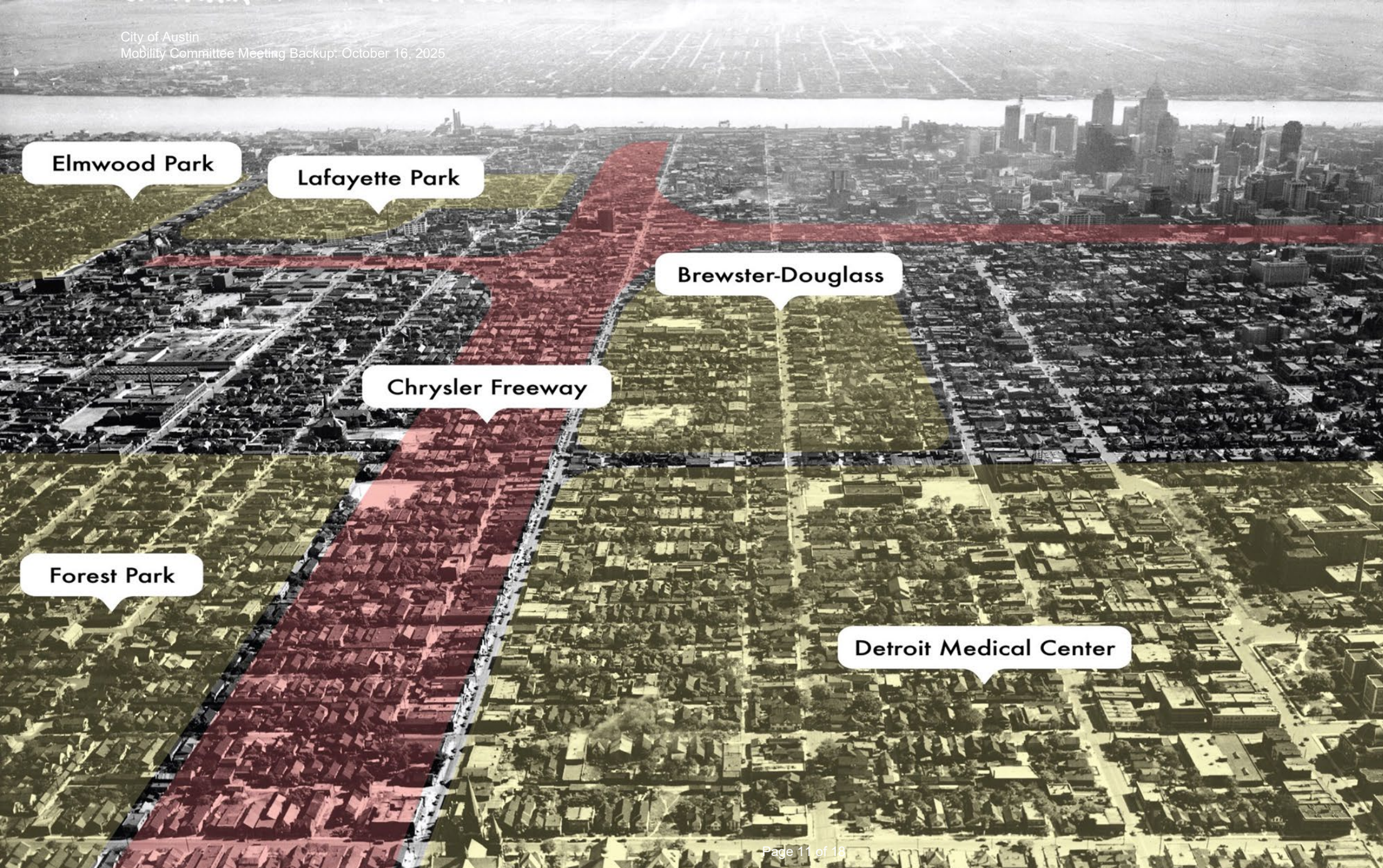
- Public skepticism on noise, safety, and privacy.
- Zoning boards and planning commissions considering rules.
- Balancing innovation with community well-being.

Los Angeles Times (2025): Residents voice concerns over vertiport siting.

Lessons from History

- Parallels to mid-20th-century highway expansion.
- Unintended sprawl and inequity risks.
- Opportunity to plan proactively and inclusively.











Ethical and Leadership Lens

- Empathy – understand community impacts.
- Ethics – ensure transparency and fairness.
- Excellence – set safety and design standards.
- Engagement – involve local stakeholders.
- Equity – promote access for all communities.

Future Outlook – eVTOLs by 2030

- Major U.S. cities anticipate limited service launches by 2026–2028.
- FAA developing frameworks for urban airspace corridors.
- Potential integration with public transportation networks.

Reuters (2025): Archer expects first passenger flights before 2026.

Preparing for Takeoff – Call to Action

- Cities must proactively address land use and infrastructure impacts.
- Integrate eVTOL planning into long-range transportation and zoning documents.
- Collaborate with aviation industry, utilities, and communities.



Questions?
