



Northeast Ohio Flight Information Exchange (NEOFIX)  
Stakeholder Meeting

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 1 PM (EST)

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 9 AM (EST)

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 12:30 PM (EST)

**Hosts:** Stuart Mendel, Baldwin Wallace University Project Director  
John Eberhardt, ATA, LLC  
Scott Drew, ATA, LLC  
Chelsea Treboniak, Critical Ops  
Howard Thompson, Manufacturing Works

**Stakeholders:** <https://bw-centers-tech-partnerships.org/members-supporters/>

**Meeting Recording:** Zoom (upon request)

**NEOFIX Site:** <https://oh-fix.com/index.html>

### Minutes

**Legislative Briefing (October 23, 2023):** Baldwin Wallace University hosted local, state, and federal legislators, government officials, and staff for a legislative briefing on the NEOFIX. The team defined and described NEOFIX, including Northeast Ohio's role in leading AAM. Each level of government has the opportunity to invest in NEOFIX financially and through policies. As legislators consider policies related to AAM, it is important they understand where NEOFIX fits so it may operate. The group was thrilled with this exciting opportunity for the region and eager to help the continued growth.

**Briefing to County Council (October 24, 2023):** The team shared updates on the NEOFIX with County Executive Chris Ronayne, members of Council, and various departments. The County's investment in NEOFIX has created a platform for UAV operations. Medical delivery and public safety operations are the two most immediate projects benefitting from NEOFIX. More businesses, jobs, and opportunities are predicted throughout the region. Continued information will be shared relative to implementation, engagement throughout communities, and financial/economic benefits.

**NEOFIX Stakeholders (October 25, 2023):** Stakeholders gathered for an update on 3D geo-mapping of the Cleveland downtown service area. Features included critical infrastructure, such as ground storage tank facilities and additional high-rise building data. Stakeholders offered assistance with analysis requirements. Pending data additions include the Cleveland Metroparks, regional sewers, and shed data.

Stakeholders observed multiple live drone flight operations in NEOFIX with detailed tracking in the University Circle and greater Cleveland area. Discussions included FAA compliance, privacy, security, and data stewardship; the group considered a verified

drone operating program. *Of note, some flights did not appear to have LAANC approval and were operating in areas requiring additional permissions.*

The group discussed the need for a deeper analysis of sensor placement. Ideal sensors include weather visibility, surveillance (service areas), connectivity, dew point, temperature, flood, lightening, wind at various altitudes, and accident monitors. Discussions of placement requirements are based on future funding allotments.

### **Stakeholder Discussions**

Roundtable conversations focused on the following:

- Provisional NEOFIX accounts and advisories (updated on a case-by-case basis by Scott Drew).
- Need for FAA engagement in the near term. Stakeholders feel the time is right to include FAA FSDO office in operational discussions.
- Sensor use cases, redundancy, integrity, and opportunities to include enhanced weather sensing in parallel to tracking sensors was discussed.

### **Action Plan**

- Virtual workgroups will be contacted with additional tasking needs.
- In person participation from FAA FSDO would be ideal.

### **Next Meeting**

- Virtual workgroups will be scheduled for late November.
- The next meeting is pending for December based on stakeholder commitments and holiday schedules.