



Click the link below to follow the \$1.5 million DECD study on the BFJ website as it progresses:

[BFJ Study](#)

Hartford Brainard Airport Association, Inc. (HBAA)

is a grass-roots organization of general aviation, private and commercial pilots, business leaders and others dedicated to preserving the airport as a valuable community asset and vital economic resource that supports Connecticut's economy and provides significant benefits to the capital city and region. HBAA works to promote the educational opportunities that already exist at Brainard, encouraging city residents to pursue careers in the fields of aviation and aircraft maintenance.

Results of Brainard Airport Study Due This Month

HBAA says study may fall short

HBAA Editorial Comment



After almost a year of study costing the state \$1.5 million, five public information sessions, and virtually no exploration of businesses operating at Brainard Airport, the consultant retained by the **CT Department of Economic and Community Development** to study the airport will report its findings and recommendations to the agency and the legislature next month.

In an [opinion published in the Hartford Courant](#) last month, HBAA president Dr. Michael Teiger said consultant **BFJ Planning's** final meeting in August ended in a "very unsatisfying way". It lacked "substantive information regarding the economics of closure, specific land contamination data, or realistic building options in view of the recent flooding." Study consultants have not, to this point, interviewed business owners and other officials who operate on site at Brainard Airport who could provide critical information about their present contribution to economic activity at the airport and how they support general aviation, Hartford and the region with jobs and tax revenue.

Not only does this "glaring deficiency" undermine the credibility of the report, according to the editorial, but an incomplete and unclear study will make it difficult for lawmakers to decide on the future of the airport. Any study should "clearly outline the bright future Brainard will have if allowed to flourish."

Arulampalam Wins Hartford Democratic Mayoral Primary



On Tuesday, Sept. 12, **Arunan Arulampalam** won the Democratic mayoral primary in Hartford.

The victory makes the 37-year old Arulampalam the overwhelming favorite in the general election to succeed Luke Bronin as mayor of the capital city. Democrats outnumber Republicans by a 13-1 margin in Hartford. Arulampalam, who defeated state senator **John W. Fonfara** and former state senator and recently retired judge **Eric D. Coleman**, will face Republican **Mike McGarry** in the November election.

Arulampalam, CEO of Hartford Land Bank, has said he would like to await the results of the study of Brainard Airport before he takes a position on its future, while McGarry has indicated his support for the airport. Judge Coleman also supported the airport. **J. Stan McCauley**, president of the Greater Hartford African American Alliance, who has pledged his support for Brainard, is one of several petitioning candidates on the November 7th ballot.

Fonfara, who pushed for the \$1.5 million Brainard Airport study, was asked in an [interview](#) with the *Hartford Business Journal* whether land surrounding Brainard Airport can be redeveloped for some other purpose if the facility is closed. He said, "Maybe the study comes back and says that the airport has great value. If it does, you'll never hear from me again, other than just to support the airport to make it everything it could be."

Please consider a donation to support HBAA's efforts to keep Brainard Airport open:



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HBAA Takes Spotlight Connecticut Host for Introductory Flight



In August, **Morgan Cunningham**, host of radio program *Spotlight Connecticut*, participated in an introductory flight out of Brainard Airport with HBAA president Dr. Michael Teiger that was [featured on WTIC-AM 1080 on Sept. 9, 2023](#). Spotlight Connecticut is a “local show embracing and highlighting everything fun about Connecticut”.

Cunningham, who personally visited Brainard and took the time to do an in-depth review of the airport, talked about all that is happening at the facility. He highlighted the numerous important businesses on site that are critical to general aviation and the future of the industry, support the facility and promote business activity in Hartford.

Dr. Teiger helped dispel many myths about general aviation and discussed education, safety and training, and why the airport is critical to Hartford and its future success. “Contrary to popular belief, aviation is incredibly safe and statistics bear that out over and over again,” said Dr. Teiger. “There are rules and regulations that are extremely strict about how you manage your aircraft, how you take care of it, how you have it inspected and the training you have to go through in order to become a private pilot.”

The 40-minute introductory flight with Cunningham, flown by Dr. Teiger primarily west of Brainard and over Farmington Valley, was recorded and featured in detail on the program.



CT Port Authority May Merge With CT Airport Authority

At a meeting of the board of **Connecticut Port Authority** early last month, its chairman announced that state officials are discussing whether to merge the maritime agency into the **CT Airport Authority**. CAA oversees operations of Bradley International Airport and other state-owned aviation facilities, including Brainard Airport. CT Port Authority manages Connecticut’s harbors and deep water ports and has been criticized for questionable spending, millions of dollars in cost overruns on the state pier project in New London, and ethics violations.

CAA board members and officials later commented on the merger and expressed concerns. According to [NBC Connecticut](#), board members say it would achieve savings, and the port authority would adopt some of CAA’s management practices. Executive Director Kevin Dillon pointed out, however, that not all of CAA’s resources could be used to oversee the port authority, since the Federal Aviation Administration has strict rules on how airports are run.

If the agencies merge, the “finances of the aviation assets have to be kept strictly separate from the finances of the port authority”, Dillon said. According to NBC Connecticut, board members expressed concerns that absorbing the port authority could become a distraction to the CAA’s main mission of maintaining safe and reliable aviation services in Connecticut.

In a statement, the Office of Policy and Management said the administration is exploring the possibility of a merger that would require legislation proposed by the Governor and approval by the General Assembly.



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www.hfdbaa.org

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