



# 2015 Annual Report

Division of Aeronautics





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COVER: General aviation aircraft operating at the Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport. Photo by Shahn Sederberg.

## Letter from the Director



In July of 2015, I had the privilege of joining the Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics as Director, and in those few months, I have experienced first-hand the passion, dedication and commitment by so many to the aviation system in our state. This system plays a critical role in communities of all sizes across Colorado, providing economic opportunity and local access for people and goods to a global transportation system. I'm humbled by the opportunity to help further improve, grow and promote aviation in Colorado.

During 2015, the Division faced several challenges, including record low jet fuel prices, which have dramatically impacted the Division's revenue. With approximately 85% of the Division's revenue based on the price of jet fuel sold in the state, this reduction in fuel price resulted in FY 2015 revenues of \$30.3 million, down from \$44.6 million in 2013. In the face of this reduction, the Division is continuing to diligently administer over \$9 million of outstanding grant obligations at airports across Colorado, while working to maximize available aviation fund revenues to leverage current and future year Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport improvement program funds.

Despite these challenges, the Division is furthering its tradition of aviation innovation and leadership, most notably through a partnership with the FAA that will evaluate groundbreaking new virtual air traffic control tower technology. The Division is also working with FAA to pioneer a statewide general aviation (GA) airport sustainability toolkit, which will help Colorado's critically important GA airports thrive into the future.

Those 74 public use airports serve 7,017 registered aircraft, 13,055 aviation technicians and 21,417 active pilots who in 2013, flew over 600,000 flight hours. Combined, this Colorado aviation community creates over 265,000 jobs, generating nearly \$37 billion of economic impact. As the Division Director, I am honored to work with this engaged and active aviation community, and a passionate and dedicated Aeronautical Board and Division staff. Together, we will continue Colorado's commitment to a vibrant and sustainable aviation system, while furthering the innovation that has made Colorado a national leader in aviation technology.

Sincerely,



David Ulane  
Aeronautics Director

## Tax Revenue Disbursements

Colorado public-use airports are recipients of aviation fuel excise and sales tax disbursements for fuel sold at their airport. These disbursements equal \$.04 per gallon excise tax on general aviation fuel and 65% of the 2.9% sales tax collected on the retail price of commercial service jet fuel. These monthly revenue rebates are ear-marked for aviation purposes.

The remaining 35% of the sales tax and \$.02 per gallon excise tax on avgas revenues are used to fund the Division and fund a Discretionary Grant Program.

Total Excise Tax Disbursements	\$1,206,258*
Total Sales Tax Disbursements	\$19,391,345*
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$20,597,603*</b>

\*Preliminary unaudited results.



### FY 2015 Disbursements by Airport

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

Akron-Colorado Plains Regional Airport	\$5,071.15	Hudson-Platte Valley Airpark	\$1,785.63
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional Airport	\$12,169.13	Kremmling-McElroy Field	\$4,204.29
Aspen-Pitkin County	\$501,485.15	La Junta Municipal Airport	\$1,821.67
Boulder Municipal Airport	\$8,383.25	Lamar Municipal Airport	\$4,043.34
Buena Vista-Central Colorado Regional Airport	\$1,816.41	Leadville-Lake County Airport	\$7,199.65
Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport	\$4,569.31	Limon Municipal Airport	\$867.88
Canon City-Fremont County Airport	\$6,369.62	Longmont-Vance Brand Airport	\$7,855.85
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	\$751,667.32	Meadow Lake Airport	\$1,475.10
Cortez-Montezuma County Airport	\$19,640.77	Meeker Airport	\$7,703.40
Craig-Moffat County Airport	\$3,182.39	Montrose County Regional Airport	\$122,614.58
Delta - Blake Field	\$1,118.83	Monte Vista Municipal Airport	\$4,242.83
Denver International Airport	\$16,308,561.24	Nucla-Hopkins Field	\$752.00
Denver-Centennial Airport	\$1,146,803.80	Pagosa Springs-Steven's Field	\$15,471.83
Denver-Front Range Airport	\$25,985.73	Paonia-North Fork Valley Airport	\$638.56
Denver-Rocky Mountain Metro Airport	\$275,856.79	Pueblo Memorial Airport	\$86,598.10
Durango-La Plata County Airport	\$104,701.32	Rangely Airport	\$323.39
Durango-Animas Airpark	\$1,248.12	Rifle-Garfield County Airport	\$112,822.49
Eagle County Airport	\$385,875.57	Salida-Harriet Alexander Field	\$1,792.5
Erie Municipal Airport	\$4,520.16	Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport	\$3,544.58
Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport	\$81,351.62	Sterling Municipal Airport	\$2,489.86
Fort Morgan Municipal Airport	\$2,545.03	Telluride Regional Airport	\$61,931.01
Glenwood Springs Municipal Airport	\$643.76	Trinidad-Perry Stoke Airport	\$3,535.81
Granby-Grand County Airport	\$649.52	Walden-Jackson County Airport	\$78.01
Grand Junction Regional Airport	\$276,389.59	Walsenburg-Spanish Peaks Field	\$917.22
Greeley-Weld County Airport	\$35,015.25	Westcliffe - Silver West Airport	\$156.06
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	\$39,968.85	Wray Municipal Airport	\$6,283.17
Hayden-Yampa Valley Regional Airport	\$126,409.64	Yuma Municipal Airport	\$2,522.10
Holyoke Municipal Airport	\$1,738.17		

## Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program

Each year, the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) administers the distribution of the Colorado Aviation Fund through individual airport grants and statewide aviation system improvements. A total of \$4.7 million in aviation grants were awarded in FY 2015. The awards in FY 2015 leveraged \$55.2 million in federal funds. Combined State, Local and Federal funds for Capital Improvement Projects totalled \$61.3 million in FY 2015.

The awarded grants were used to fund projects that included pavement maintenance, safety enhancements, local match for federally-funded airport improvements, long-term planning, and system-wide safety and support programs.

Total Individual Grants to Airports	\$3,353,649
Total Statewide Aviation Pgm. Grants	\$1,390,000
<b>TOTAL AVIATION GRANTS</b>	<b>\$4,743,649</b>

### Statewide Aviation Program Grants

USDA - Wildlife Mitigation	\$255,000
Automated Weather Observing System Development and Maintenance	\$500,000
Airfield Maintenance-Crack Sealant Rebate Program	\$260,000
Pavement Condition Index (PCI)	\$110,000
Professional Services	\$50,000
Communications/Pilot Outreach	\$90,000
5010 Safety Airport Inspections	\$20,000
National Business Aviation Association Convention	\$50,000
General Aviation Airport Sustainability Program	\$55,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,390,000</b>

### State Aviation Grants to Airports

Pitkin County Regional Airport - Aspen	\$206,565
Centennial Airport - Englewood	\$277,777
Colorado Spgs. Muni. Airport - Colorado Springs	\$550,000
La Plata County Regional Airport - Durango	\$476,870
Eagle County Regional Airport - Eagle	\$474,008
Front Range Airport - Denver	\$16,666
Ft. Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport	\$42,222
Emily Warner Field-Grand Co. Airport - Granby	\$16,666
Grand Junction Regional Airport	\$126,050
Greeley-Weld County Airport	\$27,777
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	\$65,212
Harriet Alexander Airport - Salida	\$33,332
Lake County Airport - Leadville	\$8,333
Limon Municipal Airport	\$17,655
Meadow Lake Airport - Colorado Spgs.	\$24,592
Montrose Regional Airport	\$48,056
Perry Stokes Airport - Trinidad	\$8,333
Pueblo Memorial Airport - Pueblo	\$8,333
Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport - Denver	\$8,333
Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport	\$8,333
Sterling Municipal Airport - Sterling	\$8,333
Stevens Field - Pagosa Springs	\$261,855
Telluride Regional Airport - Telluride	\$353,733
Vance Brand Municipal Airport - Longmont	\$16,666
Yuma Municipal Airport - Yuma	\$267,949
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,353,649</b>

The Aviation Fund Balance remaining as of June 30, 2015 was \$303,344.



Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport. Photo by Shahn Sederberg.

## Statewide Aviation Program Grants

A total of \$1.39 million in statewide aviation program grants was administered by the Division of Aeronautics in FY 2015. Aviation program grants directly support specific aviation-related programs that benefit airport safety, airport pavement maintenance and communication outreach to the general aviation flying public.

### USDA Wildlife Mitigation Program - \$255,000

This program funds efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to assist Colorado airports with effective and approved wildlife mitigation programs. This successful program has significantly helped to reduce wildlife aircraft strikes and damage to airport infrastructure at Colorado's Airports.

### Crack Sealant Rebate Program - \$260,000

Funding for the crack sealant rebate program directly benefits Colorado airports with a 75% rebate up to \$5,000 for crack sealant materials purchased through the state bid. This program is designed to encourage Colorado airports to use preventative asphalt maintenance practices proven to extend the lifespan of asphalt runways, taxiways and apron surfaces.

### Communications & Pilot Outreach - \$90,000

This aviation program funds the production of the [Colorado Airport Directory and Colorado Aeronautical Chart](#) as well as safety information outreach to pilots who fly in Colorado. These publications give pilots the most current information in order to safely plan and navigate while flying in Colorado.

### 5010 Airport Safety Inspections - \$20,000

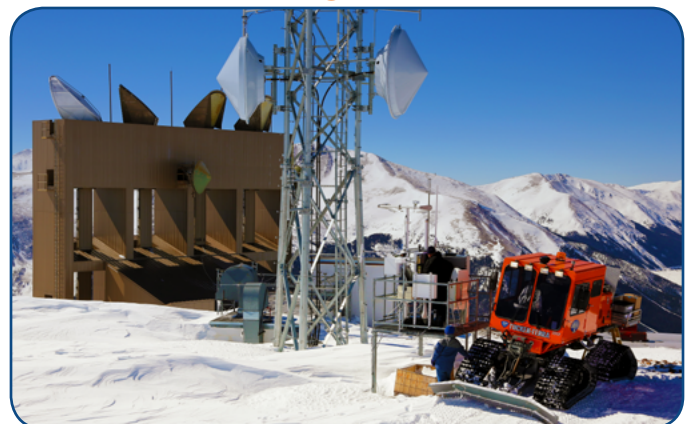
Funding for this program allows the Colorado Division of Aeronautics to conduct regular safety inspections at Colorado airports. These inspections are structured to update the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Master Record Form to give pilots the most current airport data and safety information.

### Automated Weather Observing System Development and Maintenance - \$500,000

This program funds the maintenance and repair of Colorado's network of 12 mountain automated weather observing systems (AWOS). A portion of this program grant funded the research and development for an additional AWOS site location under construction and the relocation of the Mt. Werner AWOS. The Mountain AWOS program significantly increases the safety of pilots flying through Colorado's Rocky Mountains.



## Mountain AWOS Program



Technicians performing maintenance & repair of the Berthoud Pass AWOS on Mines Peak. Photo Shahn Sederberg.  
[VIDEO LINK: Colorado AWOS Maintenance.](#)

## Colorado GA Airport Sustainability Program

Over the past year, the Division has been undertaking a nationally-ground breaking initiative to provide a sustainability framework and toolkit for the state's general aviation (GA) airports. This is the first project in the nation to look at statewide airport sustainability, not just from an environmental perspective, but operationally, politically and financially.

When complete in late 2015, this project will provide GA airports in the state with an effective and easy to use online toolkit to help them easily create a sustainability plan, create and track metrics, and report on achievements. This toolkit is integrated with the Division's Web-based Information System (WIMS) program and will, when implemented by airports, allow for statewide airport sustainability reporting and tracking by the Division.

## Virtual Air Traffic Control Tower

In 2015, the Virtual Air Traffic Control Tower (VATCT) testing and assessment program moved forward. The Division of Aeronautics is working in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to develop VATCT testing and assessment.

The equipment necessary for the research project is expected to be installed at the Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport by spring of 2016, with initial testing and assessments of the new virtual technology commencing shortly thereafter.

This leading edge aviation technology will employ ground-based video and aircraft ground detection components to provide data monitored by air traffic controllers working in a central off-airport location. The high-tech array will provide an enhanced level of air safety at a cost dramatically lower than the expense required to construct and staff a traditional air traffic control tower.

This CDOT Aeronautics Division-led initiative to test VATCT technology in Colorado will further solidify CDOT and the Colorado Division of Aeronautics as a national leader in airspace technology innovation, enhancing aviation safety, capacity and efficiency, while minimizing the overall capital and operating costs. The \$10 Million in funding for the test phase of this monumental project is being provided by the Colorado Aviation Fund and unanimously approved by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB).



The Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport (FNL) will be the initial test facility for VACT technology. Photo by Shahn Sederberg.

## Aviation Community Outreach

The Division of Aeronautics strives to be actively engaged in the aviation community by promoting the importance of general aviation in Colorado's local communities, aviation education and career development, and flying safety.

The Division of Aeronautics participated in several local aviation community events including the 2015 Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association (AOPA) Fly-in, 2015 Girls in Aviation Day Proclamation reading, Metropolitan State University of Denver New Student Orientation, and the Colorado Aviation Legislative Reception. During these events, the Division of Aeronautics directly interacted with the aviation community and stakeholders by distributing Colorado Airport Directories, Colorado Aeronautical Charts, Colorado Airport Economic Impact Studies, Colorado Aviation System Plans, and promoted the Colorado Airport Internship Program.

Additionally, the Division takes a proactive and consistent approach in distributing pertinent aviation information to its public and private stakeholders through a coordinated use of social media including Facebook, YouTube, the Division of Aeronautics web page, mass e-mail communication, the Mountain Wave News Bulletin, and live streaming of Colorado Aeronautical Board meetings.



Two young ladies test their piloting skills in a flight simulator at Metropolitan State University of Denver's World Indoor Airport during the 2015 Girls in Aviation Day event. Photo by Shahn Sederberg. [YouTube Video Link](#).

## State Infrastructure Bank

The Colorado Transportation Commission supports local operators of transportation facilities with funds available through a low interest revolving loan program. This unique program was enacted by the Colorado Legislature in 1998, and adopted by CDOT in 1999. The Aviation Element of the Colorado State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) currently administers five loans, benefiting five Colorado communities, with \$7.2 million in outstanding loan balances as of June 30, 2015.

Loans awarded to airports from the SIB have been used for projects such as capital airport improvements; air traffic control towers, snow removal equipment, and pavement reconstruction. Loans have also been utilized for land acquisitions protecting airports from incompatible adjacent land uses.

### Airports with SIB Loan Balances

- Front Range Airport
- Colorado Springs Airport
- Centennial Airport
- Rocky Mountain Metro Airport
- Grand Junction Regional Airport

*Current SIB loan interest rate 2.5%.*



## Colorado Commercial Air Service

Commercial air service plays a critical role in the economic well-being of our State. The efficient movement of people and goods depends on improving aviation facilities that provide safe, timely, and economical delivery throughout Colorado.

Airline hub services through airports such as Denver International Airport serve several international markets. National and Regional carriers bring passengers and goods into statewide markets. Colorado’s tourism industry relies heavily on Commercial air service to introduce new visitors and bring return visitors to Colorado’s mountain destinations with point to point direct service from many of the nation’s major cities.

### Commercial Airline Passenger Activity CY 2014

Denver International	26,000,591	▲1.98%
City of Colorado Springs Municipal	624,317	▼5.11%
Aspen-Pitkin County/Sardy Field	217,648	▲5.30%
Grand Junction Regional	214,313	▲1.53%
Durango-La Plata County	193,764	▲.50%
Eagle County Regional	165,004	▼1.29%
Yampa Valley Regional	92,245	▲.46%
Montrose Regional	90,630	▲7.15%
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional	31,743	▲3.13%
Pueblo Memorial	6,785	▲.64%
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional	3,920	▼43.86%
Cortez Municipal	3,835	▼53.33%
Telluride Regional	3,590	▼44.51%
Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal	2,080	▼23.67%
<b>TOTAL PASSENGERS</b>	<b>27,650,465</b>	<b>▲1.77%</b>

Data Provided by the Federal Aviation Administration.



A commercial air charter flight arrives at the Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport. Photo by Shahn Sederberg.

## Airport Capital Improvement Program

With the assistance of a grant from FAA, the Division develops and maintains a five year Capital Improvement Plan for each of the 49 federally eligible and 25 non-federally eligible public use airports throughout Colorado. Performing the capital improvement planning for all 74 public use airports in Colorado enables the Division to create a plan that shows a statewide view of airport needs over the next five years.

The Division and the FAA work in concert with each of the airports and airport sponsors to select the highest priority projects that enhance the safety, security, capacity, and efficiency of the Colorado Airport System. Along with prioritizing the projects, costs must be continually compared to projected

Federal, State, and local funding. The current Capital Improvement Plan (2016-2020) includes nearly \$588 million\* in planned projects statewide and it is not likely that funds will be available to fund all of the projects; this expected funding shortfall makes prioritizing projects extremely important.

*\*This figure does not include federal funding for Denver International Airport.*



An Agricultural spraying aircraft departs the Yuma Municipal Airport (2V6). The Yuma Municipal Airport was awarded a \$268,000 aviation grant in FY2015 to reconstruct the main runway. Photo Shahn Sederberg.



# COLORADO

## Aeronautical Board

The Colorado Aeronautical Board is the policy-making body that oversees the operation of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics. It is an honorary seven-member Board appointed by the Governor to serve three year terms as representative of defined constituencies in the aviation community.



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# COLORADO

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