



2016 Annual Report

Division of Aeronautics





Table of Contents

Letter from the Director	3
Colorado Airport System	4
Tax Revenue Disbursements	5
Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program	6
Statewide Aviation Initiatives	7
Colorado General Aviation Sustainability Program.....	8
Virtual Air Traffic Control Tower	9
Aviation Community Outreach	10
State Infrastructure Bank.....	11
Colorado Commercial Air Service.....	11
Airport Capital Improvement Program.....	12
Colorado Aeronautical Board.....	13

COVER: General aviation aircraft parked at Animas Airpark in Durango, Colorado. Photo by Shahn Sederberg.

Message from the Director



This past year has been one of significant progress for the Division of Aeronautics, progress that would not be possible without the leadership of the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) and the dedication and passion of an incredibly talented staff. As the Division's Director, I am extremely fortunate to work with such a team, and collectively we continue to commit ourselves to supporting, improving and growing a robust statewide aviation system.

Internally, the Division has been acutely focused this year on improving our financial forecasting processes and procedures, and exploring new and more efficient ways to conduct the Division's operations. Externally, we are striving to better and more frequently communicate with our stakeholders. In September 2015, for example, we began live web streaming the regular meetings of the Colorado Aeronautical Board, providing stakeholders statewide the opportunity to be informed and up to date on our latest conversations and issues, including our financial position and outlooks. These financial "dashboards" are updated monthly, and posted on our website at www.colorado-aeronautics.com.

We have also made significant progress in several other initiatives this year, most notably the implementation in June 2016 of our General Aviation Airport Sustainability toolkit. This nationally innovative, award-winning initiative is the first statewide airport sustainability program in the nation. It provides Colorado's airports with an easy to use, customizable and no-cost opportunity to create their own Airport Sustainability Program, addressing not only their environmental sustainability, but social, operational and financial sustainability as well.

But as we accomplish these, we are continuing to look forward, with several upcoming initiatives to help us chart our course. In early 2017, we will kick off the Division's first-ever strategic planning effort. This process will engage the CAB, Division staff and our key stakeholders to collaboratively define our mission, vision and values, providing us with clear direction on where we need to go, and how we get there. In late 2017, we also expect to begin updating our State Aviation Systems Plan, which was last updated in 2011. This too will be a collaborative process, one which will identify the needs of our statewide airport system, and outline key measures and goals for system maintenance, improvement and growth. Most importantly, this document will guide the CAB and the Division in investing our future discretionary airport grant resources.

And that future investment will be crucial for our state's 74 public use airports. Collectively, these airports serve 7,221 registered aircraft and 22,811 active pilots who in 2014, flew over 714,000 hours in general aviation aircraft. Combined, this Colorado Aviation community creates over 265,000 jobs, generating nearly \$37 billion of economic impact. As the Division Director, I'm honored to work with this engaged and active aviation community, and a passionate and dedicated Aeronautical Board and staff. Together, we will continue Colorado's commitment to a vibrant and sustainable aviation system, while furthering the innovation that has made Colorado a leader in aviation technology.

Sincerely,



David Ulane

Aeronautics Director

Colorado Airport System

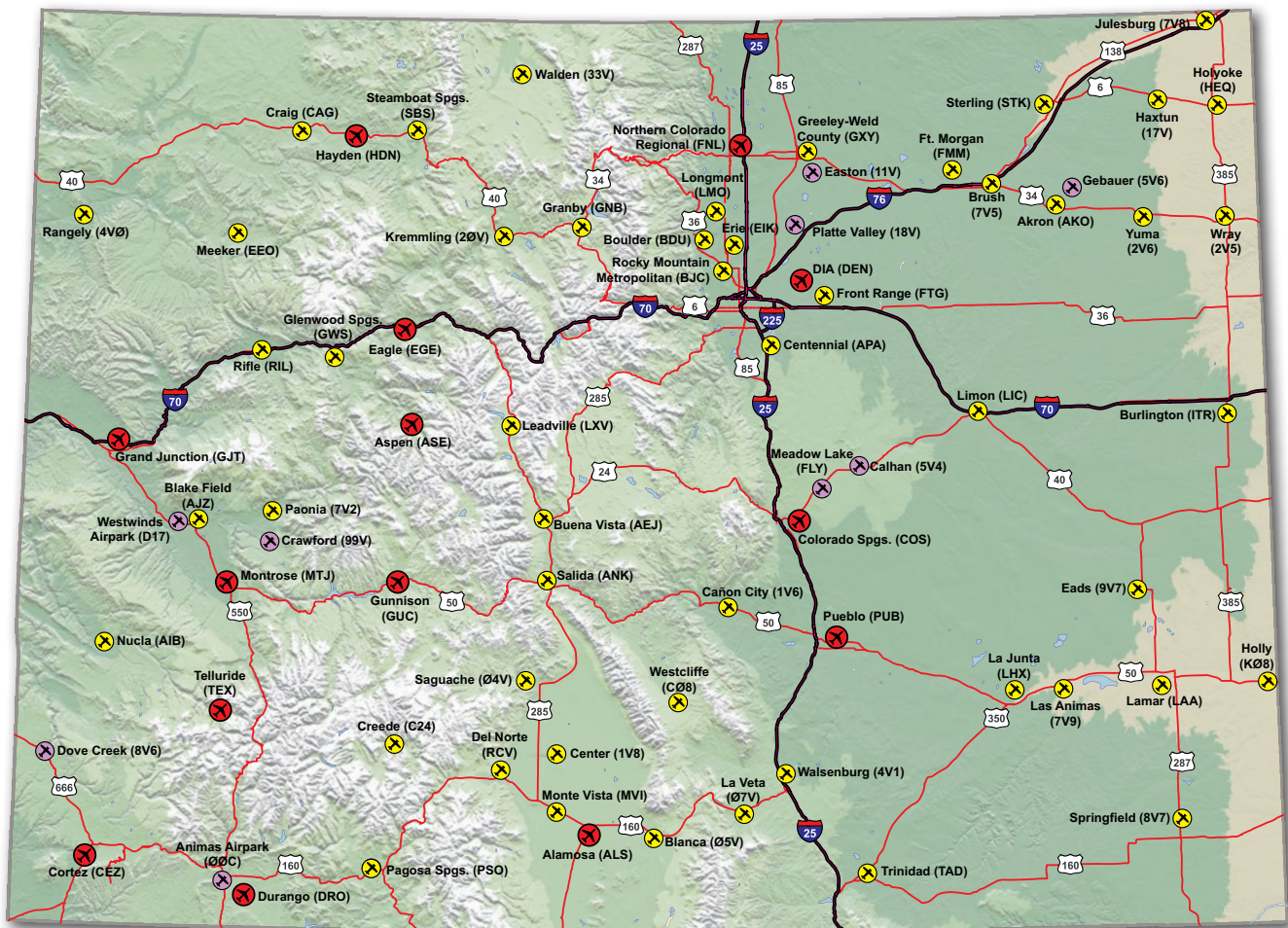
Colorado’s system of 74 public-use airports serve Colorado’s local communities with a variety of services ranging from commercial air transportation, emergency medical evacuation, aerial firefighting, flight training, and high-altitude flight testing.

In addition to providing the citizens and visitors of Colorado with critical air transportation services, Colorado’s airport system is also essential to supporting a diverse business base. Airports in Colorado support the employment of thousands of people and are responsible for providing the state with billions of dollars in overall annual economic output.



A Flight for Life medical evacuation aircraft departs the Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport in Del Norte, CO.

Colorado Airport System



- Commercial Service Airport (14)
- Publicly-Owned & Operated Airport (51)
- Privately-Owned Airport Open to the Public (9)

Tax Revenue Disbursements

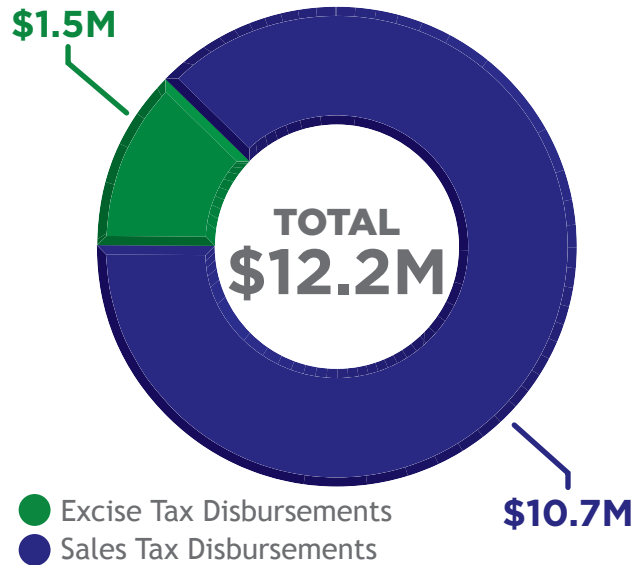
Colorado public-use airports are recipients of aviation fuel excise and sales tax disbursements for fuel sold at their airport. These disbursements equal \$.04 per gallon excise tax on general aviation fuel and 65% of the 2.9% sales tax collected on the retail price of commercial service jet fuel. These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

2016 Tax Revenue Disbursements

Excise Tax & Sales Tax on Aviation Fuel

*Preliminary unaudited results.



FY 2016 Disbursements by Airport

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

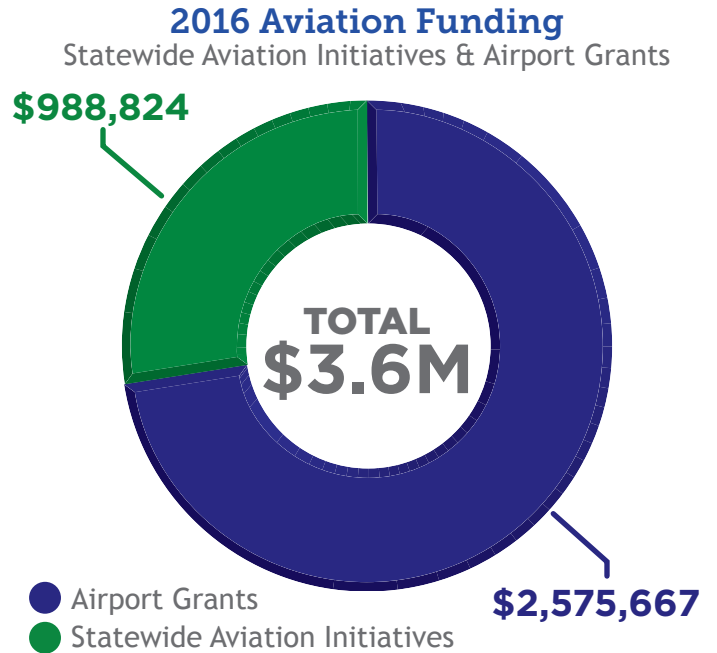
Akron-Colorado Plains Regional Airport	\$4,9261.61
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional Airport	\$14,317.03
Aspen-Pitkin County Airport	\$469,765.64
Boulder Municipal Airport	\$10,003.63
Buena Vista-Central Colorado Regional Airport	\$1,557.12
Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport	\$4,685.17
Canon City-Fremont County Airport	\$3,661.76
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	\$440,505.65
Cortez-Montezuma County Airport	\$8,742.46
Craig-Moffat County Airport	\$4,445.33
Del Norte - Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport	\$292.61
Delta - Blake Field	\$1,033.12
Denver International Airport	\$8,356,226.04
Denver-Centennial Airport	\$1,139,464.33
Denver-Front Range Airport	\$27,284.77
Denver-Rocky Mountain Metro Airport	\$269,858.22
Durango-La Plata County Airport	\$98,985.49
Durango-Animas Airpark	\$331.53
Eagle County Airport	\$367,392.83
Eads Municipal Airport	\$503.75
Erie Municipal Airport	\$3,413.54
Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport	\$85,510.55
Fort Morgan Municipal Airport	\$3,506.66
Glenwood Springs Municipal Airport	\$607.64
Granby-Grand County Airport	\$408.20
Grand Junction Regional Airport	\$233,339.14
Greeley-Weld County Airport	\$32,345.19
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	\$35,839.94

Hayden-Yampa Valley Regional Airport	\$100,989.84
Holyoke Municipal Airport	\$1,641.40
Hudson-Platte Valley Airpark	\$412.50
Kremmling-McElroy Field	\$2,729.82
La Junta Municipal Airport	\$5,180.90
Lamar Municipal Airport	\$6,306.48
Leadville-Lake County Airport	\$6,826.92
Limon Municipal Airport	\$867.88
Longmont-Vance Brand Airport	\$8,188.78
Meadow Lake Airport	\$3,054.74
Meeker Airport	\$7,454.27
Montrose County Regional Airport	\$116,824.76
Monte Vista Municipal Airport	\$1,734.78
Nucla-Hopkins Field	\$1,712.17
Pagosa Springs-Steven's Field	\$15,877.78
Paonia-North Fork Valley Airport	\$386.03
Pueblo Memorial Airport	\$71,161.88
Rangely Airport	\$936.09
Rifle-Garfield County Airport	\$100,552.72
Salida-Harriet Alexander Field	\$1,367.24
Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport	\$3,671.45
Sterling Municipal Airport	\$1,739.03
Telluride Regional Airport	\$81,984.80
Trinidad-Perry Stoke Airport	\$3,070.88
Walsenburg-Spanish Peaks Field	\$435.12
Westcliffe - Silver West Airport	\$585.04
Wray Municipal Airport	\$6,250.90
Yuma Municipal Airport	\$281.22

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 initiatives. A total of \$2.6 million in airport grants were awarded in FY 2016. The awards in FY 2016 leveraged \$67.3 million in federal funds. Combined State, Local and Federal funds for Capital Improvement Projects totalled \$74.9 million in FY 2016.

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



Statewide Aviation Initiatives

USDA - Wildlife Hazard Mitigation	\$175,000
Automated Weather Observing System Development and Maintenance	\$330,000
DEN Surplus Airport Equipment Program	\$184,500
Internship Program	\$104,324
General Aviation Airport Sustainability Program	\$70,000
Pavement Condition Index (PCI)	\$55,000
Airfield Maintenance-Crack Sealant Rebate Program	\$30,000
Communications/Pilot Outreach/Safety	\$30,000
5010 Safety Airport Inspections	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$988,824

2016 State Aviation Grants to Airports

Centennial Airport	\$250,000
Colorado Plains Regional Airport	\$16,666
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	\$250,000
Craig-Moffat County Airport	\$23,888
Durango-La Plata County Airport	\$18,831
Eagle County Regional Airport	\$250,000
Erie Municipal Airport	\$2,816
Fort Morgan Municipal Airport	\$8,333
Fremont County Airport	\$14,459
Grand Junction Regional Airport	\$250,000
Greeley-Weld County Airport	\$250,000
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	\$250,000
Holyoke Municipal Airport	\$25,000
Meeker Airport	\$12,479
Montrose Regional Airport	\$66,736
Perry Stokes Airport	\$250,000
Rangely Airport	\$12,423
Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport	\$250,000
San Luis Valley Regional Airport-Bergman Field	\$7,894
Sterling Municipal Airport	\$8,333
Stevens Field	\$16,666
Telluride Regional Airport	\$250,000
Vance Brand Municipal Airport	\$14,079
Wray Municipal Airport	\$8,056
Yampa Valley Regional Airport	\$60,675
Yuma Municipal Airport	\$8,333
TOTAL	\$2,575,667



Aviation Planners Kaitlyn Westendorf (left) and Todd Green (right) perform Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Inspections.

Statewide Aviation Initiatives

In FY 2016, a total of \$988,824 was allocated to fund a number of statewide aviation initiatives administered directly by the Division of Aeronautics. These initiatives directly support specific aviation-related programs that benefit airport safety, airport pavement maintenance and communication outreach to the general aviation flying public.

USDA Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Program - \$175,000

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 - \$30,000

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 & Safety - \$30,000

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 - \$10,000

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 - \$330,000

This program funds the maintenance and repair of Colorado's network of 13 mountain automated weather observing systems (AWOS). A portion of this funding was allocated for the installation of a new AWOS located on Dakota Hill. The Dakota Hill AWOS serves pilots with certified weather information while flying through Rollins Pass. The Mountain AWOS program significantly increases safety for pilots flying above Colorado's Rocky Mountains.



Mountain AWOS Program



Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) Technician Curtis Nations performs the installation of the new Dakota Hill AWOS near Central City, Colorado. Photo Shahn Sederberg. [VIDEO LINK: Colorado AWOS Maintenance.](#)

Colorado GA Airport Sustainability Program

During 2016, after nearly two years of development, the Division implemented a nationally-ground breaking initiative to provide a sustainability framework and toolkit for the state’s general aviation (GA) airports.

This is the first such effort in the nation to look at statewide airport sustainability, not just from an environmental perspective, but operationally, socially and financially as well. The Division’s sustainability program provides 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 Management System (WIMS) program, allowing for future statewide airport sustainability reporting and tracking by the Division. In June, the project’s three pilot airports-Centennial, Rifle/Garfield County and Fremont County all submitted the first three sustainability plans.

In recognition of this accomplishment, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper officially recognized each airport with their own “Airport Day”, noting each airport’s commitment to the state’s aviation system and their local community. The Division is extremely excited about this program, and will be working with additional GA airports to facilitate their participation in this beneficial program.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has acknowledged that (a) there exists a need to promote the safe operation and accessibility of general aviation and intrastate commercial aviation in our state; (b) improvement of general aviation and intrastate commercial aviation transportation facilities will promote diversified economic development across our state; and (c) accessibility to airport facilities for state residents is critical in the event of a medical or other type of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Colorado’s system of 74 public use airports, including 60 public use general aviation airports, are essential to the transportation, economic development, emergency response, and other needs of communities of all sizes across our state; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation’s Division of Aeronautics is continuing its nationally-recognized innovation, and has developed and implemented the nation’s first statewide General Aviation Airport Sustainability Program, designed to easily and cost-effectively assist Colorado general aviation airports to become more environmentally, financially, operationally, and socially sustainable; and

WHEREAS, Centennial Airport has elected to participate in the State’s General Aviation Sustainability Program by implementing an Airport Sustainability Plan, officially demonstrating its outstanding commitment to being a responsible and sustainable transportation asset to its local community and to Colorado’s entire aviation system; and

WHEREAS, such participation reflects highly on Centennial Airport in addition to the Denver South Metropolitan community, and clearly demonstrates the Airport’s commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado recognizes Centennial Airport for its participation in the Colorado Division of Aeronautics’ General Aviation Sustainability Program, and commends its management, staff, and supporters for their dedication and commitment to the airport, the community, and the entire Colorado aviation system;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the entire State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, forever after, June 3, 2016, as

CENTENNIAL AIRPORT DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this third day of June, 2016



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor





Remote Air Traffic Control Tower Project

In 2016, the Remote Air Traffic Control Tower (RATCT) testing and assessment program at the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL) continued to progress. The Division of Aeronautics is collaborating with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), who is developing the RATCT and the testing /assessment program at FNL.

This leading edge project will be the first in the world to integrate both ground-based video and aircraft track-based/radar components to provide necessary air traffic data to air traffic controllers working in a remote facility. The high-tech array will provide an enhanced level of efficiency and aviation safety with capital and operational costs dramatically lower than the that needed to construct and staff a traditional air traffic control tower.

This CDOT Aeronautics Division-led initiative to test RATCT 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

Figure 1: This depiction (right) shows how Remote Air Traffic Control technology will utilize strategically-placed camera equipment to monitor air traffic at airports. **This illustration is conceptual.*

costs. The \$10 Million in funding for the test phase of this monumental project has been provided by the Colorado Aviation Fund and unanimously approved by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB).

Equipment installation at FNL is expected to begin in early 2017, with an estimated two year test and evaluation period to follow. Detailed project information and progress reports will be posted on the Division's website once the project is underway.

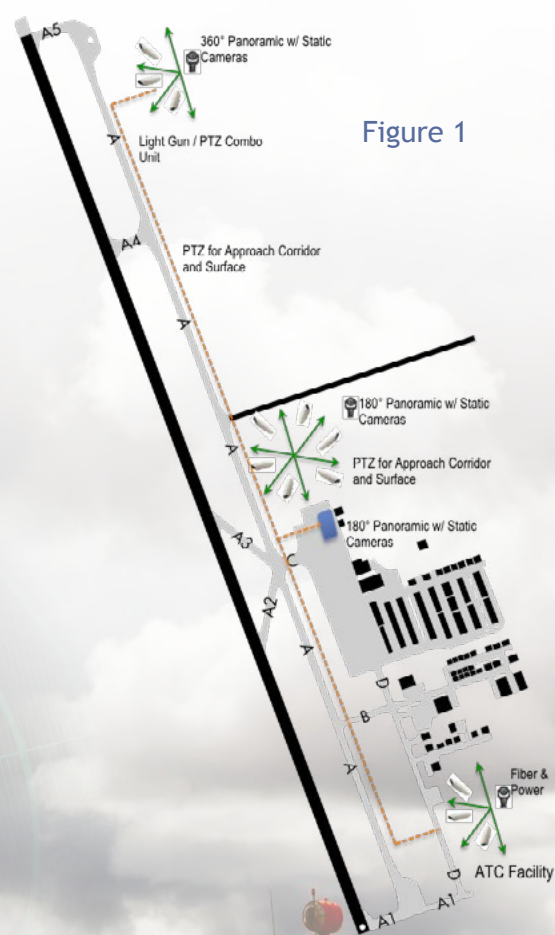


Figure 1

Aviation Community Outreach & Engagement

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, as well as aviation education and career development, and flying safety.

In FY 2016, the Division of Aeronautics participated in several local aviation community events including the Boulder Airport Day, Longmont Airport Expo, 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, Mountain Wave News Bulletin, and live streaming of Colorado Aeronautical Board meetings.



The Division's Communications Manager Shahn Sederberg at the 2016 Longmont Airport Expo.

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 loans benefiting five Colorado communities, with \$10 million in outstanding loan balances as of June 30, 2016.

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
- Greeley-Weld County Airport

New 2016 SIB Loans

- Greeley-Weld County Airport-
\$1,000,000
- Colorado Springs Airport-
\$3,341,183

**Current SIB loan interest rate 2.25%.*

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 2015

Denver International	26,280,043	▲1.07%
City of Colorado Springs Municipal	593,246	▼4.98%
Aspen-Pitkin County/Sardy Field	233,512	▲7.29%
Grand Junction Regional	214,404	▲0.04%
Durango-La Plata County	186,800	▲0.50%
Eagle County Regional	156,937	▼4.89%
Montrose Regional	102,756	▲13.38%
Yampa Valley Regional	93,896	▲1.79%
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional	34,412	▲8.41%
Pueblo Memorial	3,674	▼45.85%
Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal	3,445	▲65.63%
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional	3,105	▼20.79%
Cortez Municipal	2,303	▼39.95%
Telluride Regional	46	▼98.72%
TOTAL PASSENGERS	27,908,579	▲0.93%

Data Provided by the Federal Aviation Administration.



Airport Capital Improvement Program

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 (2017-2021) includes nearly \$542 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.



In FY 2016, the Yuma Municipal Airport received \$4.8 million in federal funding, and a \$268,000 matching grant to rehabilitate its main runway. This image was captured on July 12, 2016 as paving operations began on the new runway 16/34. This runway paving project was nominated for the Colorado Asphalt Paving Association's "Best in Colorado" Award (airports category). Photo by 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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