



2017 Annual Report

Division of Aeronautics





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COVER: A regional jet departs the Montrose Regional Airport (MTJ) in Montrose, Colorado. Photo by Shahn Sederberg.

Message from the Director



This past year has been another marked by 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 Division 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 air and space system.

The Division continues our acute focus on our financial position, particularly our financial forecasting acumen. During 2017, the Division continued to refine our forecasting tools and processes, and we will continue to do so going forward. We are putting the final touches on a detailed financial contingency model that will hedge against future swings in Division revenues, and allow us to proactively communicate any necessary program and funding changes. Thanks to increased aviation activity statewide, and a great partnership with our airports and other stakeholders, the Division is poised for continued financial success in 2018 and beyond.

We have again this year made outstanding progress on a number of key initiatives, including our pioneering remote air traffic control project at the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL). In partnership with FNL and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), we are developing the world's first remote air traffic control tower that will combine visual and radar/track based data to provide the highest levels of air traffic service safety, capacity and efficiency at the lowest possible cost. During this past year, FAA selected a vendor for this project, and system infrastructure installation is expected to begin before the end of 2017.

But as we endeavor to ensure that our current initiatives go well, the Division team is constantly looking to the future, working to proactively capitalize on our strengths and leverage opportunities. As noted in last year's report, we are nearly complete with the Division's first-ever strategic planning initiative. This process has engaged 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. A key product of that effort has been the newly adopted mission, vision and values statements included in this report.

However, our planning for the future is not vested solely in our strategic plan. In late 2017, we will begin the process to select a consultant to develop a new State Aviation System Plan, a plan which was last revisited 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 effectively 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 7,149 registered aircraft and 23,484 active pilots who in 2015, flew over 653,000 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 air and space 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 fire fighting, flight training, and high-altitude flight testing.

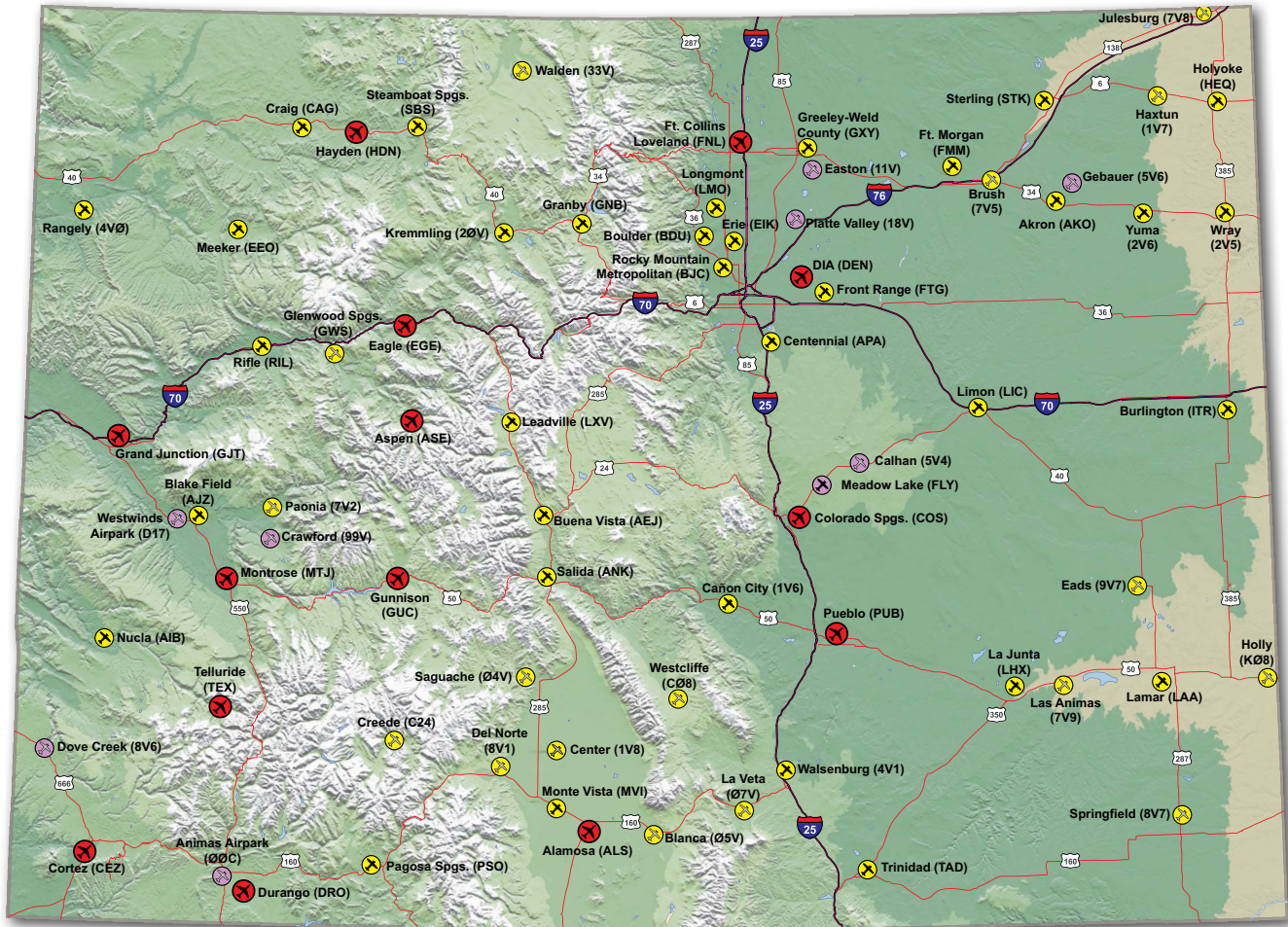
In addition to providing the citizens and visitors of Colorado with critical air transportation services, Colorado’s airport system is also essential to supporting a diverse business base. Airports in Colorado support the employment of thousands of people and are responsible for providing the state with a total of \$36.7 billion* in overall annual economic output.

*2013 Colorado Economic Impact Study for Colorado Airports.



An agricultural aerial spraying aircraft prepares to depart the Yuma Municipal Airport (2V6). Photo by Shahn Sederberg.

Colorado Airport System



- ✖ Commercial Service Airport (14)
- ✖ Publicly-Owned & Operated Airport (51)
- ✖ Privately-Owned Airport Open to the Public (9)
- ✖ Non-NPIAS Airport (National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems) (25)

Tax Revenue Disbursements

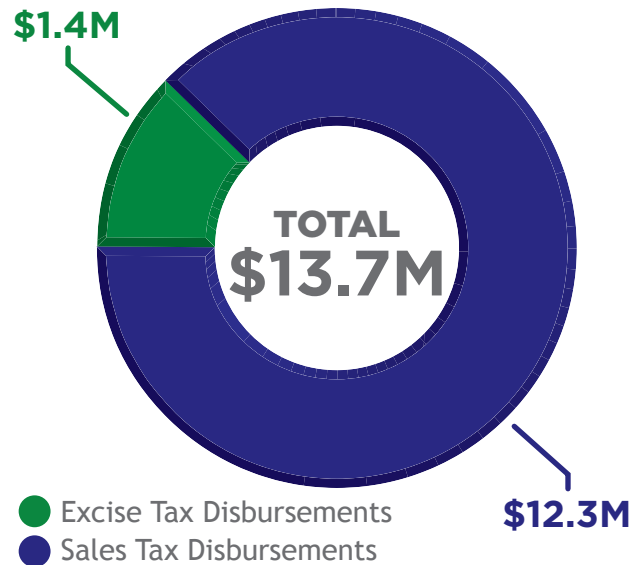
Colorado public-use airports are recipients of aviation fuel excise and sales tax disbursements for fuel sold at their airport. These disbursements equal \$.04 per gallon excise tax on general aviation fuel and 65% of the 2.9% sales tax collected on the retail price of commercial service jet fuel. These 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’s operations, the Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program (CDAG), and numerous statewide aviation initiatives.

2017 Tax Revenue Disbursements

Excise Tax & Sales Tax on Aviation Fuel

*Preliminary unaudited results.



FY 2017 Disbursements by Airport

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Akron-Colorado Plains Regional Airport	\$4,429.79	Haxtun Municipal Airport	\$384.89
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional Airport	\$13,685.68	Hayden-Yampa Valley Regional Airport	\$107,096.60
Aspen-Pitkin County Airport	\$436,093.83	Holyoke Municipal Airport	\$986.63
Boulder Municipal Airport	\$6,005.45	Hudson-Platte Valley Airpark	\$1,084.28
Brush Municipal Airport	\$22.92	Kremmling-McElroy Field	\$4,699.54
Buena Vista-Central Colorado Regional Airport	\$5,361.20	La Junta Municipal Airport	\$5,620.68
Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport	\$5,213.99	Lamar Municipal Airport	\$4,454.23
Canon City-Fremont County Airport	\$4,732.13	Leadville-Lake County Airport	\$7,870.68
Center-Leach Field	\$296.47	Limon Municipal Airport	\$1,397.25
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	\$474,934.78	Longmont-Vance Brand Airport	\$12,092.49
Cortez-Montezuma County Airport	\$20,509.97	Meadow Lake Airport	\$2,591.11
Craig-Moffat County Airport	\$2,995.64	Meeker Airport	\$8,907.60
Del Norte - Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport	\$1,310.27	Montrose County Regional Airport	\$124,242.23
Delta - Blake Field	\$1,200.37	Monte Vista Municipal Airport	\$886.55
Denver International Airport	\$9,920,650.72	Nucla-Hopkins Field	\$3,872.61
Denver-Centennial Airport	\$1,042,159.79	Pagosa Springs-Steven’s Field	\$11994.08
Denver-Front Range Airport	\$33,052.53	Pueblo Memorial Airport	\$75,844.69
Denver-Rocky Mountain Metro Airport	\$267,038.64	Rangely Airport	\$817.56
Durango-La Plata County Airport	\$92,424.83	Rifle-Garfield County Airport	\$104,476.49
Durango-Animas Airpark	\$624.62	Salida-Harriet Alexander Field	\$1,991.25
Eagle County Airport	\$404,797.23	Springfield Municipal Airport	\$374.74
Eads Municipal Airport	\$9,989.27	Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport	\$6,620.98
Erie Municipal Airport	\$3,263.71	Sterling Municipal Airport	\$3,208.19
Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport	\$79,447.93	Telluride Regional Airport	\$79,643.19
Fort Morgan Municipal Airport	\$746.83	Trinidad-Perry Stoke Airport	\$1,780.81
Glenwood Springs Municipal Airport	\$2,448.89	Walden-Jackson County Airport	\$1,026.09
Granby-Grand County Airport	\$1,268.34	Walsenburg-Spanish Peaks Field	\$505.81
Grand Junction Regional Airport	\$176,296.17	Westcliffe - Silver West Airport	\$78.05
Greeley-Weld County Airport	\$36,488.84	Wray Municipal Airport	\$4,547.09
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	\$42,328.38	Yuma Municipal Airport	\$1,153.40

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 \$1.6 million in airport grants were awarded in FY 2017. The awards in FY 2017 leveraged \$43.7 million in federal funds. Combined State, Local and Federal funds for Capital Improvement Projects totalled \$49.2 million in FY2017.

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.

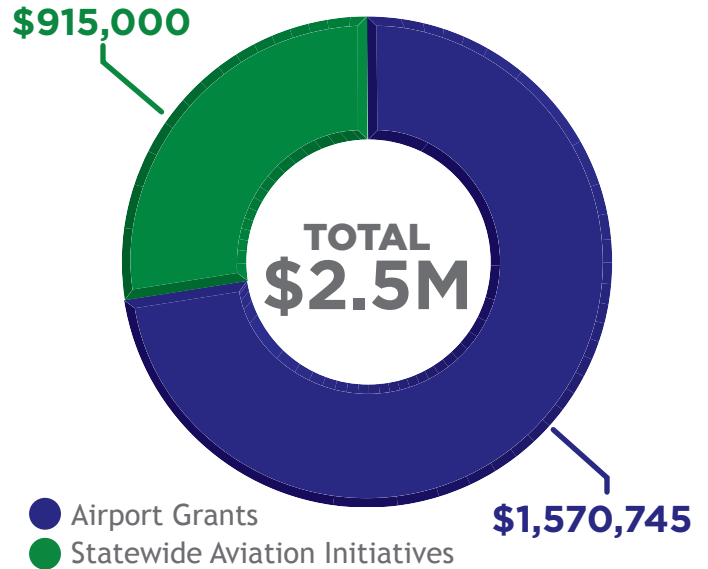
Statewide Aviation Initiatives

USDA - Wildlife Hazard Mitigation	\$160,000
Automated Weather Observing System Development and Maintenance	\$155,000
DEN Surplus Airport Equipment Program	\$155,000
Internship Program	\$80,000
Pavement Condition Index (PCI)	\$140,000
Airfield Maintenance-Crack Sealant Rebate Program	\$90,000
Communications/Pilot Outreach/Safety	\$70,000
5010 Safety Airport Inspections	\$10,000
Remote Tower Project	\$135,000
TOTAL	\$915,000



Colorado airport managers participating in the 2017 DEN Surplus Airport Equipment Sale take a gander at the equipment available at this year's sale. Photo by Kaitlyn Westendorf.

2017 Aviation Funding Statewide Aviation Initiatives & Airport Grants



2017 State Aviation Grants to Airports

Central Colorado Regional Airport	\$27,885
Colorado Plains Regional Airport	\$23,807
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	\$150,000
Durango-La Plata County Airport	\$143,060
Eagle County Regional Airport	\$150,000
Erie Municipal Airport	\$16,666
Fremont County Airport	\$18,874
Front Range Airport	\$25,000
Grand Junction Regional Airport	\$105,272
Greeley-Weld County Airport	\$16,666
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	\$55,555
Hopkins Field	\$150,000
La Junta Municipal Airport	\$33,333
Lamar Municipal Airport	\$16,666
McElroy Field	\$16,666
Meeker Airport	\$16,666
Montrose Regional Airport	\$66,805
Northern Colorado Regional Airport	\$55,555
Pueblo Memorial Airport	\$150,000
Rifle Garfield County Airport	\$33,332
Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport	\$40,000
San Luis Valley Regional Airport-Bergman Field	\$150,000
Spanish Peaks Airfield	\$13,888
Sterling Municipal Airport	\$8,550
Yampa Valley Regional Airport	\$69,833
TOTAL	\$1,570,745

Statewide Aviation Initiatives

In FY 2017, a total of \$915,000 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 - \$160,000

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 - \$90,000

Funding for the crack sealant rebate program directly benefits Colorado airports with a 90% rebate up to \$10,000 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 - \$70,000

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 - \$155,000

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.

Pavement Condition Index (PCI)- \$140,000

The Division of Aeronautics is tasked with inspecting Colorado airport pavement surfaces once every three years as a requirement of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for airports that receive federal funding. The final results of these inspections are utilized by the Division and the FAA to determine the priority of distribution of federal and state funds for pavement maintenance, capital improvement projects, and the development of airport pavement maintenance plans.

Statewide Aviation Initiatives

Internship Program - \$80,000

The Division of Aeronautics currently partners with eight Colorado airports to support internship education programs. Grants provided to participating airports cover up to 50% of a \$16 per hour of an intern's salary. Airport management internships support aviation education as prescribed by the Division's founding legislation C.R.S. 43-10.

DEN Surplus Airport Equipment Program - \$155,000

The Division partners with Denver International Airport (DEN) to coordinate and administer an annual sale of DEN's used airport equipment including snow plows, snow blowers, and dump trucks. The Division provides up to 80% grants to Colorado airports for the purchase of this equipment. This program allows airports to purchase equipment they otherwise would not be able to afford.

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 (except DEN) 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 (2018-2022) includes nearly \$522 million in planned projects statewide and it is not likely that funds will be available to support all of the projects; this expected shortfall makes prioritizing projects extremely important.



Telluride Regional Airport (TEX), October 2017 | Photo by Shahn Sederberg

Remote Air Traffic Control Tower Project

In 2017, the Division’s innovative Remote Air Traffic Control Tower (RATCT) initiative at the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL) made significant progress. The Division of Aeronautics is collaborating closely with FNL and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), who is developing RATCT the testing and assessment program at FNL.

This pioneering 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 at capital and operational costs dramatically lower than that needed to construct and staff a traditional air traffic control tower. In July, after significant efforts to develop the project requirements and scope, the FAA selected Searidge Technologies to design, install, test and certify the remote tower equipment at FNL.

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 significantly reducing the overall capital and

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.*

operating costs associated with a traditional air traffic control tower. The \$8.8 million in funding for the test phase of this monumental project is being provided by the Colorado Aviation Fund as unanimously approved by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB).

System infrastructure installation at FNL is expected to begin in late 2017, with an estimated two-year test and evaluation period to follow, beginning in mid-2018. Detailed project information and progress reports will be posted on a project specific website that will be live before the end of 2017.

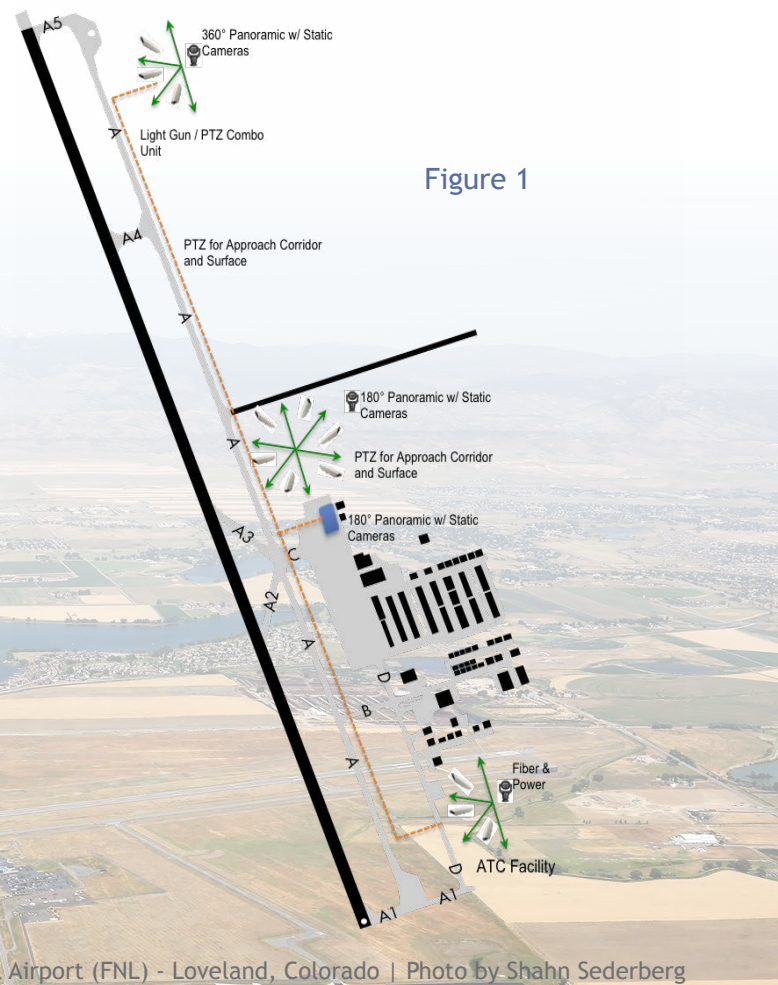


Figure 1

Charting a Clear Course Forward

In 2017, the Division embarked on its first-ever strategic planning effort, an inclusive and collaborative endeavor to help the CAB and the Division chart a clear course forward. Many of the Division's responsibilities, such as fuel tax disbursement and our discretionary grant program, are mandated by statute, and will always be part of our mission. However, the CAB and the Division have significant latitude and flexibility to leverage the Division's resources for initiatives that benefit our statewide air and space system. The strategic plan process is designed to help us determine what matters most to our stakeholders, and what we should be focused on in the near future.

The facilitated strategic plan process continues to move ahead under the guidance of an engaged planning committee, comprised of internal and external stakeholders. Participants include representatives from the CAB, Division staff, FAA, Metropolitan State University of Denver's Aerospace Science department, and Colorado's airport, pilot and aviation business associations.

As part of this process, the committee developed, and the CAB formally adopted the following new Mission, Vision and Values statements for the Division. These statements define what our Division does, what we aspire to be, and how we conduct ourselves.

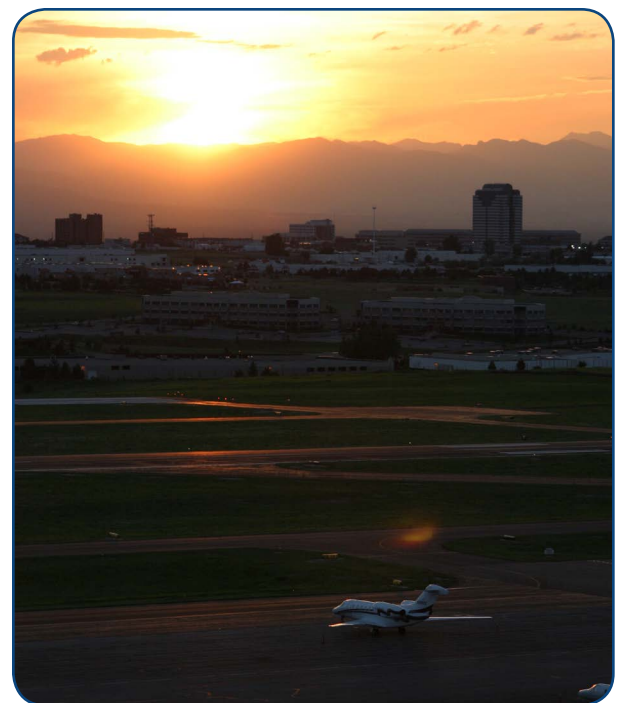
With this foundation, the strategic planning committee is developing near term goals and objectives as this report is being draft. The ultimate product of this effort will be a prioritized Division work plan for consideration by the CAB in early January 2018. But of course, this will not be the end. Strategic planning is a constant cycle of plan, do, measure, update and repeat, an effort the Division looks forward to continuing as we endeavor to meet the expectations, desires and priorities of all of our constituents, and be the leading state aviation organization.

Our Mission

"The mission of the CDOT Division of Aeronautics is to support the State's multi-modal transportation system by advancing a safe, efficient, and effective state-wide air and space system through collaboration with stakeholders, investment in education, innovative programs, and advocacy of responsible policy and legislation."

Our Vision

"The vision of the CDOT Division of Aeronautics is to be the leading state aviation organization by enhancing the efficiency, economic benefit, and sustainability of Colorado's air and space system through funding, innovation, education, and pioneering initiatives."



Our Values

PASSION

We value the passion, enthusiasm, drive, and commitment each person contributes to fulfilling the Division’s Strategic Plan, engaging all interested stakeholders, and reaching their own personal goals. We celebrate victories and milestones!

INTEGRITY

We value doing the right thing - each and every time. We are transparent, honest, open, ethical, and genuine in all of our interactions.

INNOVATION

We value thoughtful and imaginative entrepreneurial spirit that anticipates change and strategically develops and implements pioneering ideas, systems, and programs.

RELATIONSHIPS

We value, build, and respect relationships with our colleagues, stakeholders, and families through collaboration, kindness, and empathy.

COMMITMENT

We are dedicated to the success of Colorado’s multi-modal transportation system, Air and Space System, the Division, the Colorado Aeronautical Board, and our colleagues and stakeholders through an unwavering commitment to these values.

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 \$7.8 million in outstanding loan balances as of June 30, 2017.

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

- Centennial Airport
- Colorado Springs Airport
- Front Range Airport
- Grand Junction Regional Airport
- Greeley-Weld County Airport
- Rocky Mountain Metro 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 2016

Denver International	28,267,394	↑7.56%
City of Colorado Springs Municipal	657,694	↑10.86%
Aspen-Pitkin County/Sardy Field	254,392	↑8.94%
Grand Junction Regional	218,319	↑1.83%
Durango-La Plata County	187,789	↑0.53%
Eagle County Regional	163,840	↑4.40%
Montrose Regional	116,272	↑13.15%
Yampa Valley Regional	107,339	↑14.32%
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional	34,979	↑1.65%
Cortez Municipal	4,564	↑98.18%
Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal	4,559	↑32.34%
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional	3,863	↑24.41%
Pueblo Memorial	2,377	↓35.30%
Telluride Regional	133	↑189.13%
TOTAL PASSENGERS	30,023,514	↑7.04%

Data Provided by the Federal Aviation Administration.

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 2017, the Division of Aeronautics participated in several local aviation community events including Dream BIG Eads, Aviation Day at Denver International Airport (DEN), 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.



Hundreds of middle and high school students had an opportunity to be immersed in everything aviation at DEN’s Aviation Day. The Division’s Director David Ulane gives flying pointers on the Division’s Redbird flight simulator.



COLORADO Aeronautical Board

The Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) is the policy-making body that oversees the operation of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics. The CAB is a seven-member Type 1 Board appointed by the Governor to serve three year terms as representative of defined constituencies in the aviation community.



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