

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023



# 2023 Annual Report

Division of Aeronautics



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**COVER:** The front cover of the 2023 Colorado Division of Aeronautics Annual Report features an F-16 Fighting Falcon from the Colorado Air National Guard’s (COANG) 120th Fighter Squadron. The aircraft is poised above Central Colorado Regional Airport (AEJ) located in Upper Arkansas River Valley in Buena Vista, Colorado. Stationed at Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora, Colorado, the aircraft proudly displays its captivating Colorado-themed markings in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the state’s first military aviation unit. AEJ is just one of Colorado’s 76 public-use airports and is connected to nearly \$15 million in business revenue\*.

The roots of the Colorado Air National Guard trace back to June 27, 1923, when the 120th Aero Observation Squadron joined the Colorado Army National Guard at Lowry Field in Denver. In 1946, post-World War II, the Colorado Air National Guard emerged as a separate faction within the state’s National Guard, leading to the formation of the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS). Notably, the squadron’s initial aircraft were P-51 Mustangs, distinguishing the 120th Fighter Squadron as Colorado’s first military aviation fighter unit under the COANG.

Recently celebrating its 100th Anniversary, the Colorado Air National Guard, 120th Fighter Squadron is now part of the 140th Wing, based at Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora, Colorado. The squadron currently operates F-16 Fighting Falcons, ensuring constant vigilance to safeguard the central region of the United States from airborne threats.

[\\*2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study](#)



## Message from the Director



As we take a look back at 2023 in our Division's Annual Report, the continued growth and success of aviation across Colorado has been truly remarkable. Strong levels of activity statewide resulted in another year of record revenues for our Division, allowing us to further increase our investments in airport infrastructure, aviation safety, and aviation education and workforce development. We expect our industry to remain strong into 2024, and we look forward to continuing our momentum!

This past year, we made outstanding progress on our key initiatives and programs, including the provision of over \$13.5 million in funding for our Discretionary Aviation Grant Program (CDAG), one of the highest levels of funding ever. With those state funds, 43 airports leveraged over \$8 million of local funds and over \$101 million of federal funds to undertake 48 improvement projects totaling \$123 million (not including DEN), the highest annual investment in Colorado's airport system in history. This past year also saw the single largest CDAG grant ever issued by the Division, \$4 million to the Grand Junction Regional Airport for the rehabilitation of the airport's critical crosswind runway. And as Colorado's growth continues, that investment will be even more significant in 2024.

But as we look at what we've accomplished, we also continue to look to the future. In the next several years, battery-electric, hybrid and hydrogen powered aircraft will be entering service, offering exciting opportunities for new regional air mobility and flight training activities that are quieter and less costly, using Colorado's existing system of airports. These new technologies will lower the cost of air travel and make new intrastate markets more viable, while significantly reducing our industry's environmental impact. The CAB and our Division are collaborating with industry, airports, policy makers and others to explore how we can leverage these new technologies, as well as new unleaded aviation gasolines and sustainable aviation fuels here in Colorado. In 2023, the Division kicked off an effort with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and NASA to evaluate how Coloradans move about our state, and how we can leverage these new technologies to make aviation more sustainable, accessible and equitable. A fresh look at infrastructure investments, policies, revenue streams and other considerations will be necessary for our system to support this new generation of alternatively powered aircraft, and we're excited about our collaboration with NREL- the first of its kind in the nation.

As always, this year's progress would not be possible without the sustained leadership and vision of the CAB, and of course the engagement and support of our aviation system partners and stakeholders. Most notably, as the Division's Director, I am extremely privileged to work with a dedicated and passionate Division team, one which has a deep-rooted commitment to customer service, efficiency and innovation. Collectively our team continues to support Colorado's multi-modal transportation system by advancing a safe, efficient and effective statewide aviation system through collaboration, investment, and advocacy.

With those investments, the Division supports airports that serve 7,028 registered aircraft and 24,747 active pilots in Colorado, who fly over 700,000 hours annually in general aviation aircraft. Combined, Colorado's aviation system supports over 345,000 jobs with a payroll exceeding \$16 billion, generating nearly \$49 billion of economic impact.

The CAB and our entire Division team are honored to work with this engaged and active aviation community, and together we will continue Colorado's commitment to a vibrant and sustainable aviation system, while furthering the innovation that has made Colorado's Division of Aeronautics a recognized leader among our peers across the country.

Tailwinds and Blue Skies!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ulane'.

David Ulane, A.A.E., FRAeS  
Aeronautics Director

## Our Mission

“The mission of the CDOT Division of Aeronautics is to support Colorado’s multi-modal transportation system by advancing a safe, efficient, and effective state-wide aviation system through collaboration, investment, and advocacy.”

## 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 aviation system through funding, innovation, education, and support of current and emerging technologies.”

## 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, aviation system, the Division, the Colorado Aeronautical Board, and our colleagues and stakeholders through an unwavering commitment to these values.





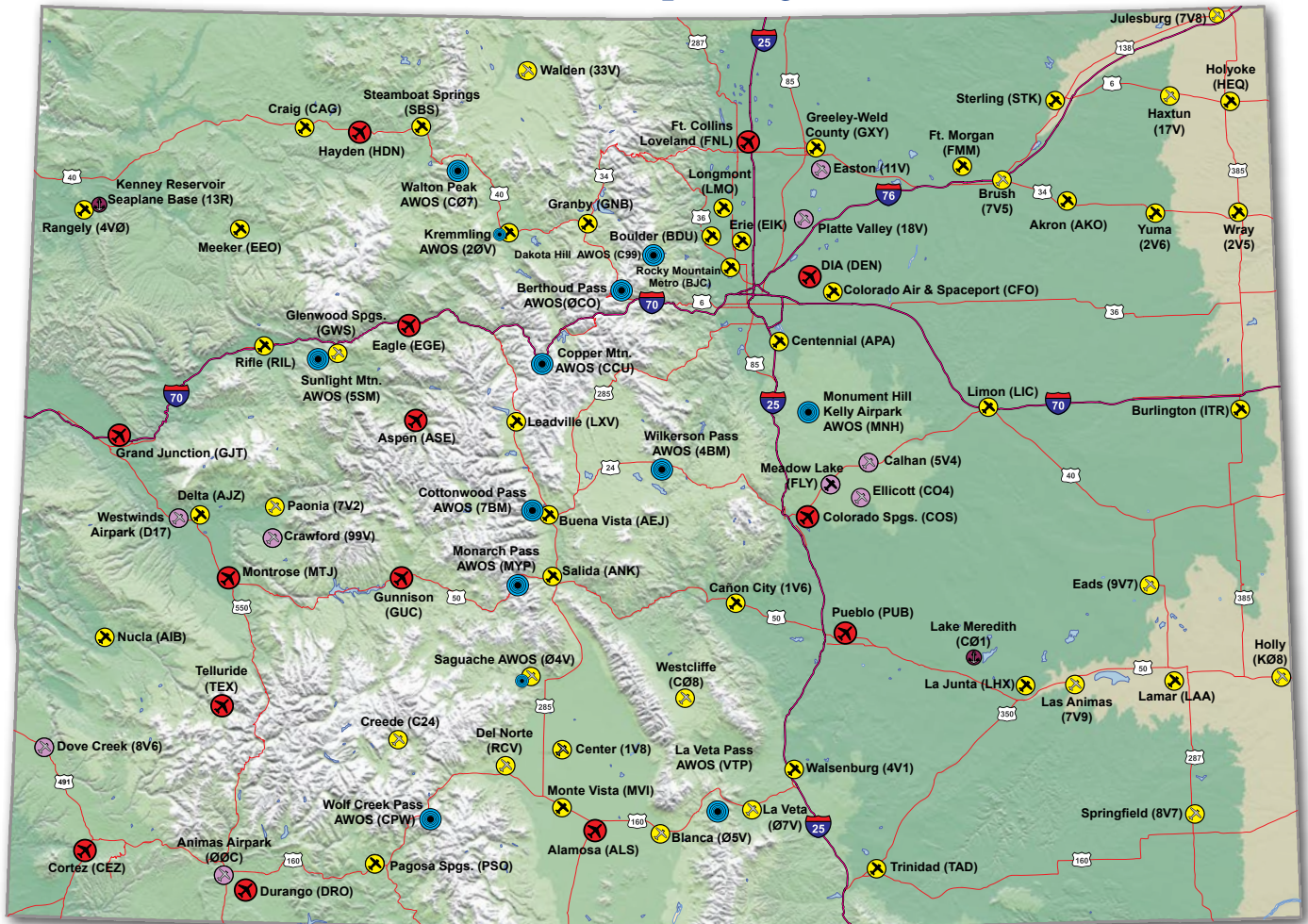
# Colorado Airport System







Colorado’s system of 76 public-use airports, including two seaplane bases, serves our state’s local communities with a variety of services ranging from commercial air transportation, emergency medical evacuation, aerial firefighting, aerial agriculture application, 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 over 345,000 people and are responsible for providing the state with a total of \$48.6 billion in business revenue\*.

*\*2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study*

## Colorado Airport System



-  **Commercial Service Airport (14)**
-  **Publicly-Owned & Operated Airport (51)**
-  **Privately-Owned Airport Open to the Public (9)**
-  **Seaplane Base (2)**
-  **Non-NPIAS Airport (Not Federally Funded) (26)**
-  **Mountain Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) (13)**

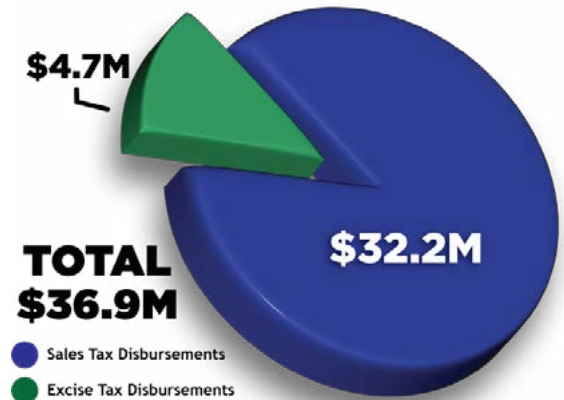
## Aviation Fuel Tax Revenue Disbursements

Eligible Colorado public-use airports are recipients of aviation fuel excise and sales tax disbursements on general aviation fuel (AvGas), \$.04 per gallon on non-commercial jet fuel, and 65% of the 2.9% sales tax collected on the retail price of jet fuel. These monthly revenue disbursements must be used by airports solely 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, and numerous beneficial statewide aviation initiatives.

## 2023 Tax Revenue Disbursements

Combined Excise & Sales Tax Disbursements on Aviation Fuel  
\*Preliminary unaudited results.



## 2023 Tax Revenue Disbursements

Combined Excise & Sales Tax Disbursements January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Akron - Colorado Plains Regional	\$5,202
Alamosa - San Luis Valley Regional	\$35,355
Aspen-Pitkin County	\$1,209,160
Boulder Municipal	\$9,417
Brush Municipal	\$62
Buena Vista - Central Colorado Regional	\$7,971
Burlington-Kit Carson County	\$10,434
Canon City - Fremont County	\$7,731
Colorado Springs - Meadow Lake	\$5,548
Colorado Springs Municipal	\$1,006,398
Cortez - Montezuma County	\$20,904
Craig - Moffat County	\$9,730
Creede - Mineral County Memorial	\$1,719
Del Norte - Astronaut Kent Rominger	\$3,554
Delta - Blake Field	\$5,870
Denver - Centennial	\$1,840,611
Denver - Colorado Air & Space Port	\$236,250
Denver - Rocky Mountain Metro	\$695,328
Denver International	\$28,759,271
Durango - La Plata County	\$222,369
Eads	\$993
Eagle - Eagle County Regional	\$731,834
Erie Municipal	\$16,676
Fort Morgan Municipal	\$5,362
Glenwood Springs Municipal	\$3,371
Granby-Grand County	\$3,050
Grand Junction Regional	\$376,013
Greeley - Weld County	\$40,417
Gunnison - Crested Butte Regional	\$118,434

Hayden - Yampa Valley Regional	\$288,695
Holyoke Municipal	\$5,610
Kremmling - McElroy Field	\$11,573
La Junta Municipal	\$5,649
Lamar Municipal	\$15,926
Leadville - Lake County	\$15,411
Limon Municipal	\$662
Longmont - Vance Brand Municipal	\$58,993
Loveland - Northern Colorado Regional	\$158,901
Meeker	\$9,916
Monte Vista Municipal	\$1,972
Montrose Regional	\$318,250
Nucla - Hopkins Field	\$4,239
Pagosa Springs - Stevens Field	\$21,833
Paonia - North Fork Valley	\$132
Pueblo Memorial	\$83,558
Rangely	\$640
Rifle-Garfield County	\$331,117
Salida - Harriet Alexander	\$8,454
Springfield Municipal	\$624
Steamboat Springs Municipal	\$5,330
Sterling Municipal	\$3,488
Telluride Regional	\$191,478
Trinidad - Perry Stokes	\$2,809
Walsenburg - Spanish Peaks Airfield	\$480
Westcliffe - Silver West	\$321
Wray Municipal	\$3,550
Yuma Municipal	\$1,225

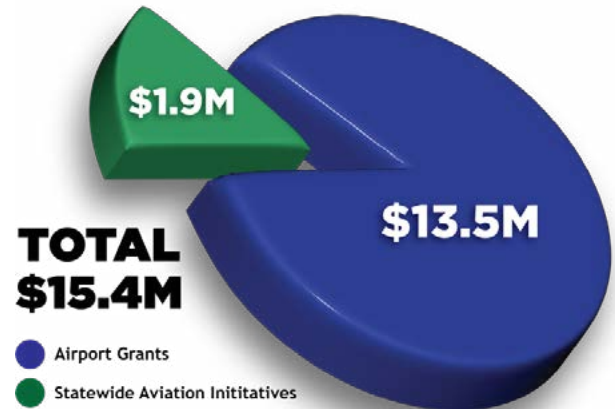
**Grand Total** \$36,939,871

## Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program (CDAG)

Each year, the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) administers the distribution of the Colorado Aviation Fund through the Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant (CDAG) Program. The projects and statewide initiatives funded by this program correlate directly to the Division’s overall mission and vision to support Colorado’s multi-modal transportation system by advancing a safe, efficient and effective statewide aviation system.

The Division holds two grant hearings, a State and Local CDAG hearing in January and a Federal Match CDAG hearing in April. A total of \$13.5 million in CDAG airport grants were awarded in 2023.

### 2023 Aviation Funding Statewide Aviation Initiatives & Airport Grants



### 2023 State and Local Aviation Grants Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program (CDAG)

Airport Name	Project	State	Local	Total
Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport (Del Norte)	Runway 6/24 Overlay Future Taxiway Development Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$1,750,000.00	\$194,445.00	\$1,944,445.00
Blake Field (Delta)	Airport Utility Infrastructure Installation	\$123,750.00	\$13,750.00	\$137,500.00
Craig-Moffat Airport	Overmatch for Federally Funded Runway and Taxiway Rehabilitation	\$400,000.00	\$44,445.00	\$444,445.00
Fort Morgan Municipal Airport	Airport Water Utility Upgrades	\$29,700.00	\$3,300.00	\$33,000.00
Fremont County Airport (Canon City)	Overmatch for Federally Funded Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$275,000.00	\$30,556.00	\$305,556.00
Glenwood Springs Municipal Airport	Airport Layout Plan Development	\$100,000.00	\$11,112.00	\$111,112.00
Granby-Grand County Airport	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$225,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$250,000.00
Grand Junction Regional Airport	Runway 4/22 Rehabilitation	\$4,023,000.00	\$447,000.00	\$4,470,000.00
Greeley-Weld County Airport	Overmatch for Federally Funded Runway Rehabilitation	\$500,000.00	\$55,556.00	\$555,556.00
Haxtun Municipal	Runway Lighting Installation	\$58,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$65,000.00
McElroy Field (Kremmling)	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$300,000.00	\$33,334.00	\$333,334.00
Mineral County Memorial Airport (Creede)	Airport Layout Plan Development	\$112,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$125,000.00
Northern Colorado Regional Airport	Overmatch for Federally Funded Runway Expansion Design Airport Governance Study	\$475,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$550,000.00
Rifle Garfield County Airport	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$400,000.00	\$44,445.00	\$444,445.00
Silver West Airport (Westcliffe)	Fuel Farm Upgrade	\$225,000.00	\$225,000.00	\$450,000.00
Southeast Colorado Reg. Airport (Lamar)	Runway 8/26 Pavement Maintenance	\$200,000.00	\$22,223.00	\$222,223.00
Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport	Self-Serve Fuel System Construct Fuel Truck Parking	\$300,000.00	\$211,112.00	\$511,112.00
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>\$9,497,450</b>	<b>\$1,455,278</b>	<b>\$10,952,728</b>





### 2023 Federal Match Grant Program

Federal Airport Improvement Program (AIP)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Airport Name	Project	State	Local	Federal	Total
Aspen-Pitkin County Airport	Airfield Rehabilitation - Entitlements Only	\$340,896	\$340,898	\$6,136,139	\$1,944,445
Blake Field (Delta)	Apron Rehabilitation and Reconfiguration Apron Rehabilitation and Reconfiguration - BIL	\$72,725	\$72,728	\$1,309,073	\$1,454,526
Boulder Municipal Airport	Apron Pavement Maintenance - BIL Apron Reconfiguration - BIL	\$7,333	\$7,334	\$132,000	\$146,667
Burlington-Kit Carson County	Backup Airfield Generator - BIL	\$16,888	\$16,890	\$304,000	\$337,778
Centennial Airport	Part 150 Study Main Parking Lot & Roads Reconstruction - BIL	\$200,388	\$200,391	\$3,607,000	\$4,007,779
Central Colorado Regional Airport (Buena Vista)	Apron Rehabilitation - AIP/BIL	\$78,134	\$78,137	\$1,406,429	\$1,562,700
Colorado Plains Regional Airport (Akron)	Apron Construction Design	\$15,555	\$15,557	\$280,000	\$311,112
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	Taxiway Rehabilitation	\$250,000	\$950,000	\$10,800,000	\$12,000,000
Cortez Municipal Airport	Apron Expansion Design Access Road Rehabilitation	\$15,388	\$15,389	\$584,750	\$615,527
Craig-Moffat Airport	Runway Rehabilitation & Lighting	\$250,000	\$408,052	\$5,922,460	\$6,580,512
Durango-La Plata County Airport	Terminal Expansion/Rehabilitation Phase 1A - BIL Terminal Expansion Phase 1B Design ARFF Truck Acquisition	\$199,526	\$199,530	\$4,515,412	\$4,914,468
Eagle County Regional Airport	Taxiway A Rehabilitation Taxiway B Grading & Drainage Phase II - Entitlement Only	\$575,054	\$908,390	\$13,350,976	\$14,834,420
Erie Municipal Airport	AWOS Relocation and Replacement - BIL	\$16,888	\$16,890	\$304,000	\$337,778
Fremont County Airport (Canon City)	Pavement Maintenance - BIL	\$8,833	\$8,834	\$159,000	\$176,667
Granby-Grand County Airport	AWOS III P/T Relocation - BIL	\$6,111	\$6,112	\$110,000	\$122,223
Grand Junction Regional Airport	Runway Grading and Drainage Terminal Program Design - BIL	\$375,115	\$1,045,117	\$12,782,087	\$14,202,319
Greeley-Weld County Airport	Runway 10/28 Rehabilitation	\$250,000	\$456,302	\$6,356,712	\$7,063,014
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	Apron Rehabilitation-AIP/BIL	\$279,065	\$279,067	\$5,023,182	\$5,581,314
La Junta Municipal Airport	NAVAID Improvements - BIL	\$14,750	\$14,750	\$265,500	\$295,000
Monte Vista Municipal Airport	Taxilane Design - BIL	\$3,832	\$3,832	\$68,976	\$76,640
Montrose Regional Airport	Terminal Expansion and Renovation - AIP/BIL	\$201,124	\$201,126	\$3,620,246	\$4,022,496
Northern Colorado Regional Airport (Loveland/Fort Collins)	Runway 15/33 Widening Design - BIL	\$13,235	\$13,236	\$238,235	\$264,706
Perry Stokes Airport (Trinidad)	Apron and Taxiway Rehabilitation AIP/BIL	\$36,330	\$86,334	\$1,103,972	\$1,226,636
Pueblo Memorial Airport	Runway 8R/26L Rehabilitation and Taxiway A2 Removal - AIP/BIL	\$276,521	\$322,600	\$11,383,278	\$11,982,399
Rifle Garfield County Airport	Pavement Maintenance	\$8,333	\$8,334	\$150,000	\$166,667
Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport	Taxiway O & D Construction/Reconstruction Design Basin 160 Drainage Construction - BIL	\$77,916	\$673,900	\$1,402,500	\$2,154,316
San Luis Valley Regional Airport-Bergman Field (Alamosa)	SRE/ARFF Building Construction - AIP/BIL	\$113,103	\$113,105	\$4,297,934	\$4,524,142
Spanish Peaks Airfield (Walsenburg)	Apron Rehabilitation - AIP/BIL	\$16,888	\$16,890	\$304,000	\$337,778
Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport	Terminal Area Improvements	\$20,666	\$20,668	\$372,000	\$413,334
Sterling Municipal Airport	Apron Rehabilitation - AIP/BIL	\$68,819	\$68,823	\$1,238,773	\$1,376,415

(Continued on page 8)



Airport Name	Project	State	Local	Federal	Total
Stevens Field (Pagosa Springs)	Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL) Replacement	\$8,833	\$8,834	\$159,000	\$176,667
Telluride Regional Airport	Airport Layout Plan Update	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$450,000	\$500,000
Wray Municipal Airport	Taxiway A Construction Phase II North Taxilane Construction - BIL	\$51,101	\$51,103	\$919,834	\$1,022,038
Yampa Valley Regional Airport	Airfield Pavement Maintenance - BIL Taxiway and Connector Rehabilitation, Runway 28 Blast Pad Installation, and Connectors Installation & Removal Design	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$2,106,000	\$2,340,000
Yuma Municipal Airport	Taxiway A2 Reconstruction Design	\$8,333	\$8,334	\$150,000	\$166,667

**Grand Totals**

State	Local	Federal	Total
\$4,019,683	\$6,779,487	\$101,313,468	\$112,112,638

Airport Improvement Program (AIP)	\$2,948,826	\$5,652,891	\$80,054,698	\$88,656,415
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)	\$1,070,857	\$1,126,596	\$21,258,770	\$23,456,223



Photo Left: On February 3, 2023, Colorado Governor Jared Polis presents Grand Junction Regional Airport (GJT) with a \$4 million “big check” for the rehabilitation of the airport’s secondary Runway 4-22. This was one of 17 state/local aviation grants approved by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) and is the largest grant ever awarded in the Program’s history. Photo L-R: CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew, GJT Director Angela Padalecki, CDOT Aeronautics Division Director David Ulane, Colorado Governor Jared Polis, CAB Chair Kenneth Maenpa.

Photo Below: Grand Junction Regional Airport officially opens its newly rehabilitated runway 4-22 with a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 21st, 2023.



## Statewide Aviation Initiatives & Annual Expenditures

In 2023, there was a total of \$1.9 million in expenditures that funded a number of statewide aviation system initiatives administered directly by the Division of Aeronautics. These initiatives directly support aviation-related programs that benefit airport safety, airport pavement maintenance and communication outreach to the general aviation flying public.

### Airfield Maintenance & Crack Sealant Program - \$112,119

Funding for the crack sealant program directly benefits Colorado airports with a 90% reimbursement up to \$10,000 per state fiscal year for crack sealant materials purchased through approved statewide price agreements. Additionally, the Division will provide grants to select public use airports for the purchase of new crack fill machines and then reimburse 100% of maintenance expenditures on this equipment. This program is designed to encourage Colorado airports to use preventive pavement maintenance practices proven to extend the lifespan of both concrete and asphalt runways, taxiways and apron surfaces.

### Airport Internship Program - \$58,801

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 an intern's salary. Airport management internships support aviation education as prescribed by the Division's enabling legislation C.R.S. 43-10.

### Airport Inspections (5010 & PCI) - \$76,769

This funding is allocated to conduct regular safety and Pavement Condition Index (PCI) inspections at Colorado public-use airports. 5010 Safety Inspections are performed to update the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Master Record Form and Chart Supplement, giving pilots accurate airport data and safety information. PCI inspections are required for airports that are eligible for federal funding, and the results are used to develop comprehensive airport pavement maintenance plans.

The Division of Aeronautics is tasked with conducting Pavement Condition Index (PCI)

### 2023 Statewide Aviation Initiative Expenditures

Airfield Maintenance - Crack Seal Program	\$112,119
Airport Internship Program	\$58,801
Airport Inspections (PCI/5010)	\$76,769
Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS)	
• Airport AWOS Program	\$93,791
• Mountain AWOS Program	\$87,747
Aviation Community Outreach	\$32,691
Aviation Education & Workforce Development	\$309,420
Communications & Publications	\$90,918
Digital Air Traffic Control Program	\$145,388
Surplus Airport Equipment Program	\$747,660
USDA Wildlife Hazard Mitigation	\$101,649

**Total** **\$1,856,953\***

\*Reflects total 2023 expenditures, not CAB approved allocation amount.

Inspections 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.



The Division's Aviation Planners Kaitlyn Westendorf (left) and Scott Storie (right) perform a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) inspection at Centennial Airport (APA).



### Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) Program

The State of Colorado has a diverse landscape that ranges from the eastern plains to the towering Rocky Mountains. This vast difference in geography creates unique atmospheric challenges for pilots and history has shown that weather conditions are common factors in general aviation accidents in Colorado. The eastern plains struggle with ever-changing winds and severe thunderstorms while Colorado’s mountain regions require higher cruising altitudes, causing many smaller general aviation aircraft to operate near or at the limits of their performance capabilities. These factors, coupled with high density altitude and rapidly changing weather make Colorado a challenging place to fly.

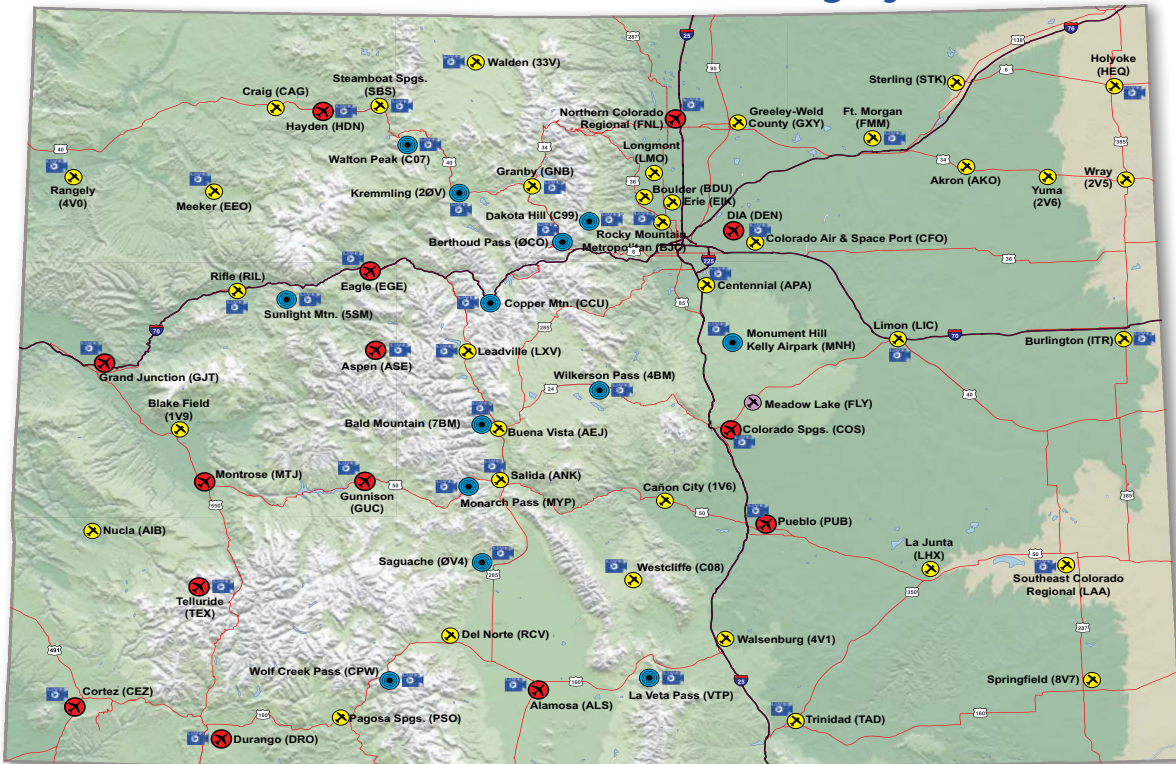
In order to better inform pilots and increase the overall safety of the flying public, a vast network of 64 automated weather observation systems has been developed throughout the State. This network consists of 46 Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS) and 20 Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS). Each AWOS is owned and operated by the Division (13 units - Mountain AWOS Program) or by an individual airport (33 units - Airport AWOS Program) while all of the ASOS units are owned and operated by the FAA.

### Airport AWOS Program - \$93,791

Beyond the Division’s Mountain AWOS Program, 33 airports throughout Colorado own and operate AWOS units to provide accurate weather for the pilots operating in the vicinity of each of these airfields. These non-state owned AWOS units are indispensable to providing critical enroute weather information for overflying pilots and to the National Weather Service to develop regional forecasts. Individual airport sponsors are responsible for all costs associated with maintaining their systems; ongoing scheduled maintenance as well as unscheduled repairs to equipment malfunctions may exceed \$10,000 annually.

Since safety is a key aspect of the Division’s mission statement, the Division allocates funding for the Airport AWOS program on an annual basis to ensure that this vital network continues to provide widely accessible weather data. Each airport that owns and operates an AWOS and has its weather information continuously disseminated to the National Weather Database is eligible for reimbursement of maintenance expenses not to exceed 90% of eligible costs up to \$10,000 of state funding annually. This reimbursement can be used

## Automated Weather Observing Systems



Mountain AWOS Program    
 GA Airport With AWOS    
 Commercial Service Airport with AWOS    
 FAA Weather Camera [WeatherCams.faa.gov](http://WeatherCams.faa.gov)



to help offset the expenditures for most items associated with sustaining an AWOS. However, to ensure that funding for this program has the greatest benefit statewide, the Division expects to maintain Cooperative Purchasing Agreements with authorized vendors that provide AWOS maintenance services.

These agreements are to include hourly rates along with prices for Tri-Annual Inspections and Unscheduled Service Visits for each airport-owned unit around the state along with an explanation of the service levels provided. Although encouraged, airports are not required to use a vendor with whom the state has a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement to be eligible for reimbursement. However, they must perform a competitive bid process, as locally required, when selecting a vendor that is not party to such an agreement.

#### **Mountain AWOS Program - \$87,747**

The Mountain AWOS program, made up of 13 state-owned units was developed by the Division in 1999 to help reduce weather related accidents, and provide pilots operating in Colorado's mountainous regions with more accurate localized weather information. These sites were situated on several critical mountain passes along established flight routes, none of which had adequate weather information available prior to this program.

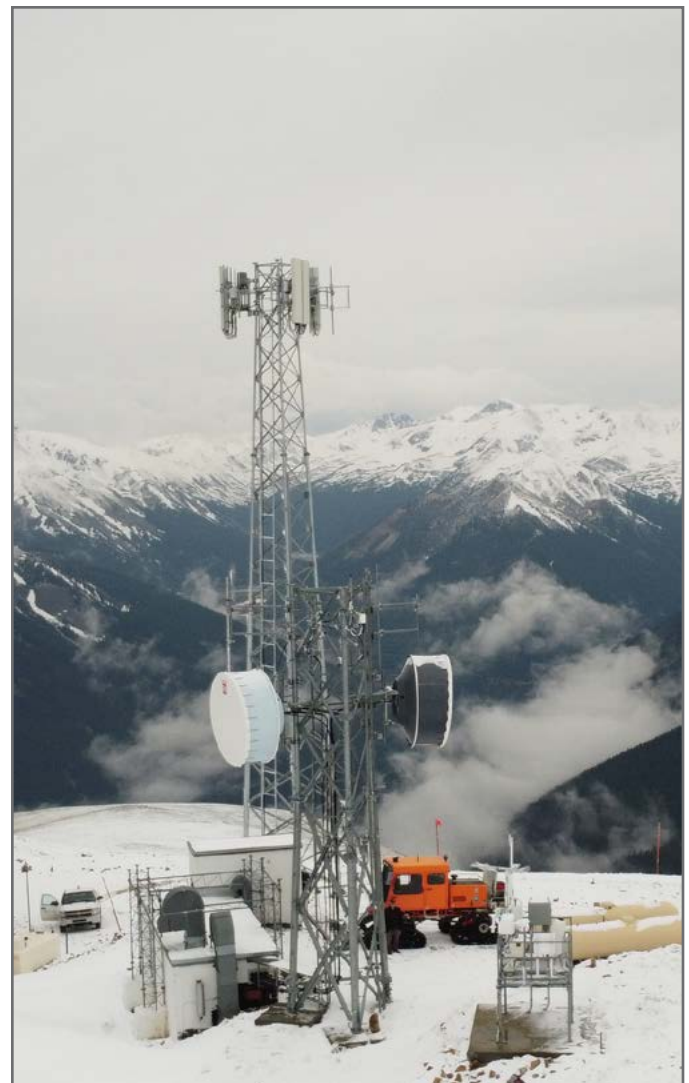
The Division is directly responsible for the installation and support for each of the 13 units and camera systems, and contracts annually with the State of Colorado's Division of Public Safety (DPS) to provide ongoing maintenance and certification for each site. To ensure this important service is performed in a timely manner, DPS has integrated a network of certified AWOS technicians at various locations in the State. AWOS repair and maintenance can be a daunting proposition since most sites are located atop remote mountain passes.

The Division is also responsible for ensuring the weather information from each unit is disseminated through the National Database to the flying public. The Division contracts with DBT to perform this critical service for all 13 sites.

#### **Aviation Community Outreach - \$32,691**

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 & workforce development, and flying safety.

Additionally, the Division takes a proactive approach in distributing pertinent aviation information to its public and private stakeholders through a coordinated use of social media including Facebook, YouTube, X, the Division of Aeronautics web page, mass email communication, the Mountain Wave News Bulletin, and most recently, Instagram.



Crews perform routine maintenance on the Mines Peak/Berthoud Pass Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS). This is one of 13 state-owned AWOS units maintained under contract with the Colorado Division of Public Safety. Photo by Shahn G. Sederberg.

## 2023 Outreach Events

Building an Airplane Showcase	January 28
DEN & DSST Industry Night @ Aurora Science and Technology	March 7
Emily Warner and Women Airline Pilots Joint Assembly Proclamation @ the CO State Capitol	March 8
Meet the Planes and Pilots of the CO Airport Directory and CO Aero Chart	March 11
Aerospace Day at the CO State Capitol	March 13
CPA CFI Safety Event at APA	March 18
DEN & DSST Industry Night @ Green Valley Ranch MS	March 22
Aeronautics Presentation at EAA Chapter 1627 @ BDU	March 23
Aeronautics Presentation for 99's @ APA	April 8
Presentation for MSUD "Job Targeting" class	April 13
Colorado Air and Space Port Planes and Pancakes	April 29
Centennial Airport UL94 Media Event	May 3
2023 Aviation Symposium @ Wings Exploration of Flight	May 13
Aerospace Frontiers Education Committee	May 15
EAA Chapter 1627 Aviation Careers Panel	May 17
Boulder EAA Airport Day!	June 18
2023 Fly-In Pancake Breakfast @ GNB	July 1
EAA AirVenture! 2023	July 23-26
Aims Aviation Day	August 12
Erie Air Fair! @ EIK	September 10
DCSD Legacy Campus Aviation Advisory board meeting	September 22
Aspen Higher Learning Flight Academy Event (ASE)	October 6-7
Southwest Airlines Aviation Discovery Day	November 4

### Aviation Education & Workforce Development - \$309,420

In 2023, the CAB approved \$540,000 of FY2024 funding for the Education Grants and Workforce Development Program. In 2023, there was a total of \$309,420 in grant drawdowns. This funding allowed the Division to conduct one round of grant solicitations and approvals for fiscal year 2024.

In March 2023, following the grant process timeline, the application period was opened in order to attract organizations and entities that focus on aviation education and workforce

development, and that help develop the talent pipeline needed to support the future aviation system needs within the State of Colorado. Each applicant was asked nine questions that closely followed Section 6 of the Programs and Procedures Manual.

The application period closed on May 1, 2023, with a total of twenty application submittals. Total requested funds were \$1,110,306. On June 22nd, 2023, the CAB approved twelve of the twenty grant applications in the amount of \$539,921.



Photos: (top) Division Director David Ulane coaches a group of students on the Division's Redbird flight simulator at the Southwest Airlines Aviation Discovery Day on November 4, 2023. (bottom) A young lady explores the cockpit of a Boeing 737 through virtual reality (VR) goggles at the Aspen Flight Academy Open House in Aspen, Colorado.

## 2023 Aviation Education/Workforce Development Grant Awards

Aims Community College Aviation Program	Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) Fleet Upgrade	\$50,000
Colorado Northwest Community College	New Crew-Resource Management (CRM) Simulator	\$85,500
Colorado Pilots Association	Technology Upgrades for Mountain Flying Training Course	\$9,900
Colorado State University Drone Program	Two Advanced UAS for First Responder Training	\$58,000
District 11 Aviation Pathways Program	Aircraft Engine/Avionics for Low-Income Student Aviation Maintenance Program	\$90,000
Eagle Young Aviators	Redbird Flight Simulator	\$11,514
Legacy High School	Flight Computers/Plotters for Aviation Education Program	\$990
Mancos School District	UAS Equipment/Licensing for Drone Pathway Program	\$18,000
MSU Denver Aviation & Aerospace Program	Development of Virtual Reality (VR) Laboratory for Flight Training, Aircraft System Familiarization, Unmanned Aerospace Systems, UAS Pilot Training	\$109,000
Pueblo Community College	Development of Engineering New Heights Drone Technology Program	\$30,600
Sargent High School	Mobile Devices for STEM Aviation Program for Access to Aviation Resources	\$17,017
St. Vrain Innovation School	UAS Equipped with LiDAR for STEAM Education Program	\$59,400
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$539,921</b>

### Communications & Publications - \$90,918

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 navigate through the skies of Colorado.

### Digital Air Traffic Control Tower Program - \$145,388

In 2023, the Division’s innovative Digital Air Traffic Control Tower initiative at the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL) paused in October as a result of technology provider Searidge opting out of the FNL effort. 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 digital facility. This new air traffic concept will ultimately 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.

With this transition, Raytheon/Frequentis, a well-known firm in this technology space,

is expected to take over the FNL digital tower system in 2024. While the pause was unfortunate, the assumption of work by Raytheon will align well with their ongoing installation of digital tower equipment at the FAA’s Technical Center in Atlantic City, NJ. There, Raytheon will be working with FAA on digital tower system design approval, a process which will also necessitate future testing at an operational airport. With that requirement, the FNL project is poised to move forward later in 2024. During this transition, full class E control tower services will continue at FNL by means of a mobile tower that was installed in March 2020.

This CDOT Aeronautics Division-led initiative to test digital tower technology in Colorado has further solidified 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 operating costs associated with a traditional air traffic control tower. Ultimately, this technology could cost effectively expand ATCT services to other Colorado airports from a centralized control facility, a concept of which the CAB and Division are strongly supportive. Look for more information in 2024 about the new path of this innovative project.



## Surplus Airport Equipment Program - \$747,660

The 2023 Surplus Equipment Sale took place on Thursday, August 31st. It was an overwhelming success, breaking yet another record as our largest turnout in the history of the program. Thirty airports participated in the sale, with equipment available from five Colorado public-use airports. The 2023 Surplus Equipment Program placed over 50 pieces of airport-specific equipment at 29 different Colorado airports.

As in recent years, the Division's participation level was 80% state and 20% local for an airport's first pick and 50% state and 50% local for picks two and three. There were 29 pieces purchased at 80/20 and 23 pieces at 50/50 this year. In total, the 53 pieces of equipment totaled \$1,002,000 with the state's portion at \$747,660 and the local funding at \$254,340.

## 2023 Surplus Airport Equipment Sale

August 31, 2023

Airport Name	Equipment Purchased	State	Local	Total
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional	Dump Truck w/ Sander Truck w/ Deicing Unit	\$35,250	\$11,250	\$46,500
Boulder Municipal	Front End Loader w/ Snowplow	\$28,600	\$7,600	\$36,200
Buena Vista-Central Colorado Regional	Dump Truck w/ Deicing Unit & Snowplow	\$32,600	\$8,600	\$41,200
Burlington-Kit Carson County	Dump Truck w/ Deicing Unit & Snowplow	\$14,700	\$3,900	\$18,600
Canon City-Fremont County	Front End Loader	\$24,000	\$6,000	\$30,000
Colorado Spring Municipal	Pickup Truck w/ Deicing Unit	\$13,600	\$3,400	\$17,000
Colorado Springs-Meadow Lake	Dump Truck w/ Deicing Unit	\$15,000	\$3,800	\$19,000
Denver-Colorado Air & Space Port	Dump Truck w/ Front-Mount Snow Blower	\$31,500	\$13,500	\$45,000
Denver-Rocky Mountain Metropolitan	Aviation Fuel Truck	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
Durango-La Plata County	Dump Truck w/ Deicing Unit	\$32,000	\$8,000	\$40,000
Eagle County	Front End Loader & Snowplow	\$28,600	\$7,600	\$36,200
Granby-Emily Warner Field	Pickup Truck w/ Deicing Unit	\$16,600	\$3,400	\$17,000
Grand Junction Regional	Dump Truck w/ Runway Broom (x2)	\$49,000	\$31,000	\$80,000
Greeley-Weld County	Front End Loader w/ Snowplow (x2)	\$15,500	\$9,500	\$25,000
Kremmling-McElroy Field	Snowplow	\$960	\$240	\$1,200
La Junta Municipal	Dump Truck w/ Sander	\$15,200	\$3,800	\$19,000
Lamar-Southeast Colorado Regional	Front End Loader w/ Snowplow (x2)	\$27,200	\$10,200	\$47,400
Limon Municipal	Front End Loader	\$28,000	\$7,000	\$35,000
Longmont-Vance Brand	Pickup w/ Deicing Unit	\$13,600	\$3,400	\$17,000
Loveland-Northern Colorado Regional	Dump Truck w/ Deicing Unit & Snowplow	\$32,600	\$8,600	\$41,200
Monte Vista Municipal	Tractor w/ Mower & Snowplow	\$4,600	\$1,600	\$6,200
Pagosa Springs-Stevens Field	Front-Mount Snow Blower	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
Rifle-Garfield County Airport	Pickup w/ Deicing Unit Front End Loader w/ Snowplow	\$41,600	\$17,600	\$59,200
Salida-Harriet Alexander Field	Front End Loader w/ Snowplow (x2)	\$21,200	\$6,200	\$27,400
Sterling Municipal	Dump Truck w/ Sander Dump Truck w/ Snowplow	\$40,100	\$16,100	\$56,200
Springfield Municipal	Grader w/ Box Snowplow Front End Loader w/ Box Snowplow	\$57,800	\$29,000	\$86,800
Trinidad-Perry Stokes	Pickup Truck w/ Deicing Unit Pickup w/ Fueler	\$16,850	\$6,650	\$23,500
Walsenburg-Spanish Peaks	Front End Loader	\$28,000	\$7,000	\$35,000
Wray Municipal	Dump Truck w/ Deicing Unit & Snowplow	\$15,800	\$4,400	\$20,200
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$747,660</b>	<b>\$254,340</b>	<b>\$1,002,000</b>

### USDA-Wildlife Mitigation Program - \$101,649

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 helped significantly to reduce aircraft wildlife strikes and damage to airport infrastructure at Colorado's Airports.

## Airport Capital Improvement Program

The Division develops and maintains a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 48 of the 49 federally eligible (DEN manages their own CIP) and 18 non-federally eligible (but state-eligible) public-use airports throughout Colorado. Performing the capital improvement planning for these 66 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 (2024-2028) accounts for just over \$1.2B 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.

## Alternatively Powered Aircraft Infrastructure Study

In 2023, the Division entered a partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to conduct a study to help identify future opportunities and potential challenges posed by the introduction of alternatively powered aircraft in Colorado. This is the first partnership of its kind in the United States to address the next generation of aircraft and aviation fuels. In 2022, the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) approved an allocation of \$400,000 from the Colorado Aviation Fund to support the study being conducted by NREL.

For more than 40 years, NREL's world-class research staff has devised solutions to transform the way energy is generated, consumed, stored, and distributed. NREL's support of the Division's landmark aviation study reflects a broad, coordinated [sustainable aviation research](#) strategy that paves the way for research, development, demonstration, and deployment—leading to solutions for decarbonizing aviation.



A digital rendering of the battery-electric powered eFlyer currently under development in Colorado by Bye Aerospace based at Centennial Airport (APA). Courtesy Bye Aerospace.

This study is aimed at helping Colorado effectively leverage the benefits of the latest advancements in aviation technology and will inform planning efforts for necessary investments in Colorado's airport infrastructure, increased utility demand, policy and regulatory considerations, and future funding implications. As part of the study process, the Colorado Division of Aeronautics established a study advisory committee comprised of a wide range of stakeholders representing Federal and State government agencies, public utilities, aircraft manufacturers, and others. The committee will offer expert insight into the subject matter and will assist with the review of the study's reporting and final deliverables.

The study's specific objectives include:

- Identify and summarize new alternatively powered general aviation (GA) and regional air carrier aircraft that could utilize Colorado's existing system of 76 public use airports.
- Track how Coloradans currently move about the state and explore opportunities to make future travel faster and more efficient utilizing the latest advancements in aviation technology, while broadening access to air travel and reducing the overall impact to the environment.
- Evaluate and summarize necessary local utility infrastructure needs at key Colorado airports required to support and accommodate new aircraft and aviation fuel technology.
- Identify Colorado airports where new battery-electric GA aircraft could likely be deployed, lowering the cost of flight training, while minimizing noise and other environmental impacts.
- Identify governmental policy and regulatory considerations, financial implications, and potential incentives geared to encourage and support new aviation technology.

The CAB and Division are eager to support this next generation of aircraft technology, leading the way to help create opportunities to make transportation in Colorado more accessible and equitable, while exploring practical solutions to reduce travel costs and lower environmental impacts. The study is expected to take 18 months to complete with final results being published in late 2024.

## State Infrastructure Bank

The Colorado Aeronautical Board supports local operators of airport facilities with funds available through a low-interest revolving State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan program. This unique program was enacted by the Colorado Legislature in 2001. The Aviation Element of the (SIB) currently administers loans benefiting four Colorado communities, with \$19.2 million in outstanding loan balances as of December 31, 2023.

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. As of December 31, 2023, the total value of the SIB revolving loan fund, including forecast accrued interest, was approximately \$33 million.

### Airports with SIB Loan Balances

**Centennial Airport**  
**Colorado Springs Airport**  
**Grand Junction Regional Airport**  
**Rocky Mountain Metro Airport**

*\*Current SIB loan interest rate 3.5%. Listing current as of December 31, 2023*



## 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.

**Photo below:** An aerial view of the Montrose Regional Airport (MTJ). MTJ saw a 23.75% increase in commercial airline service passenger activity and ranks as Colorado’s fourth busiest commercial service airport\*. According to the 2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study, Montrose Regional Airport is linked to 2,850 jobs producing over \$111 million in payroll, and \$327 million in overall business revenue.

## Commercial Airline Service Passenger Activity

CY 2022\*

Denver International	33,773,832	17.90%
City of Colorado Springs Municipal	1,080,060	14.67%
Aspen-Pitkin County Airport	299,840	20.52%
Montrose Regional	233,094	23.75%
Grand Junction Regional	221,682	-12.13%
Eagle County Regional	214,998	6.57%
Yampa Valley Regional	197,088	31.27%
Durango-La Plata County	183,273	-8.48%
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional	52,040	34.18%
Northern Colorado Regional	13,058	148.82%
Telluride Regional	11,650	74.11%
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional	10,044	-16.21%
Pueblo Memorial	7,984	-17.04%
Cortez Municipal	6,998	12.96%
<b>TOTAL PASSENGERS</b>	<b>36,305,641</b>	<b>17.47%</b>

*\*Data Provided by the Federal Aviation Administration. \*CY 2023 data will be available June 2024.*





# 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 representatives of defined constituencies in the aviation community.

## 2023 CAB Meetings

**January 31, 2023** - Denver, CO  
Colorado Airport Operators Winter Conference  
State & Local Grant Hearing

**April 19, 2023** - Denver, CO  
CDOT Headquarters  
Federal Match Grant Hearing

**June 22, 2023** - Colorado Springs, CO  
Colorado Airport Operators Spring Conference  
General Meeting

**August 22, 2023** - Watkins, CO  
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room  
CAB Workshop

**August 23, 2023** - Watkins, CO  
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room  
General Meeting

**October 11, 2023** - Burlington, CO  
Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport  
General Meeting

**December 13, 2023** - Watkins, CO  
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room  
General Meeting



**Kenneth Maenpa**, Chair  
Western Slope Governments



**Kent Holsinger**, Vice Chair  
Western Slope Governments



**Daniel Melia**  
Eastern Slope Governments



**Chaz Tedesco**  
Eastern Slope Governments



**Mark Van Tine**  
Aviation Interests-at-large



**Trimbi Szabo**  
Pilot Organizations



**Steve Lee**  
Statewide Association of Airport  
Managers



**COLORADO**  
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