

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION **AERONAUTICS DIVISION**



2001 ANNUAL REPORT

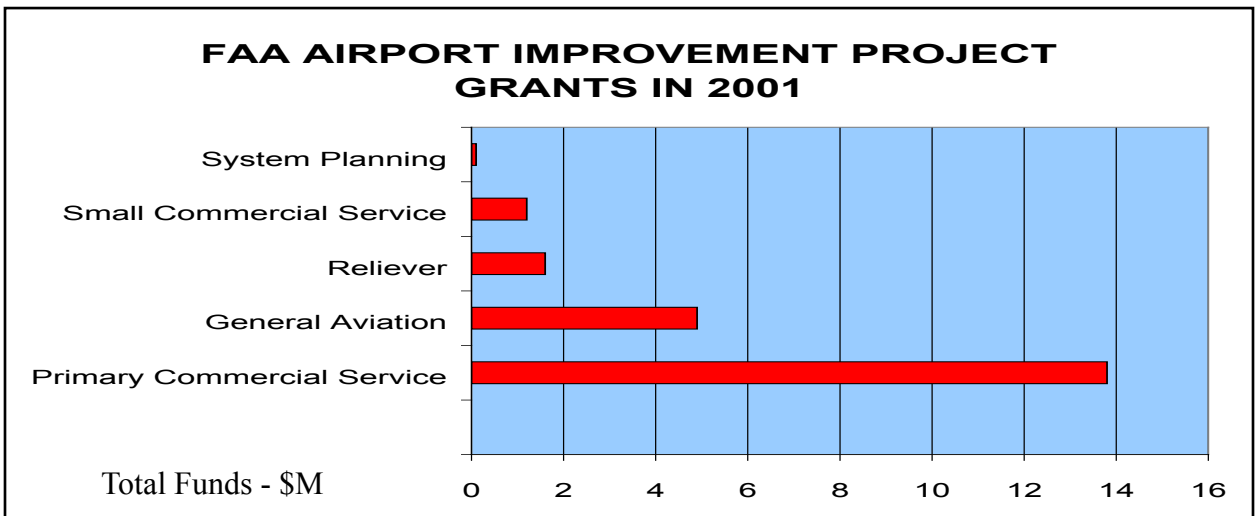
In support of the Colorado Department of Transportation's development of an forward-looking multi-modal transportation system for the 21st Century, the Colorado Division of Aeronautics shall promote partnering with its public and private constituents to enhance aviation safety, aviation education and the development of an

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Division of Aeronautics staff, in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is responsible for gathering information associated with the five-year capital investment needs for general aviation, reliever and small commercial service airports in Colorado. This process includes the updating and implementing of capital projects and costs for the years 2002 through 2007. The information necessary for the Division staff to develop the five-year **Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs)** is collected through joint planning conferences, individual airport site visits and various other meetings. Working closely with the FAA-Denver Airports District Office, individual airport capital projects are identified, evaluated, prioritized and recommended for inclusion in the federal Airport Capital Improvement Program.

Since the passage of *AIR 21*, significantly larger sums of money have become available to address infrastructure needs. The FAA typically funds 90% of the total project costs. The remaining 10% local match is the responsibility of the airport sponsor. Many times, airports request Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant assistance in meeting a portion of the local match.

In FY 2001, \$21.6M was awarded in 25 federal grants issued to 24 airports.



AIRPORT CATEGORY	PROJECTS	TOTAL FUNDS
Primary Commercial Service	10	\$13.8M
Small Commercial Service	2	1.2M
Reliever	3	1.6M
General Aviation	9	4.9M
System Planning	1	.1M

Typical airport projects include runway and taxiway rehabilitation, land purchase for development or improvements to safety areas and equipment acquisition.

In 2001, two large multi-year projects were begun at **Stevens Field, Pagosa Springs**, to reconstruct the runway and upgrade various safety standards and at **Gunnison County Airport** to improve the runway and safety areas.

COLORADO DISCRETIONARY AVIATION GRANT PROGRAM

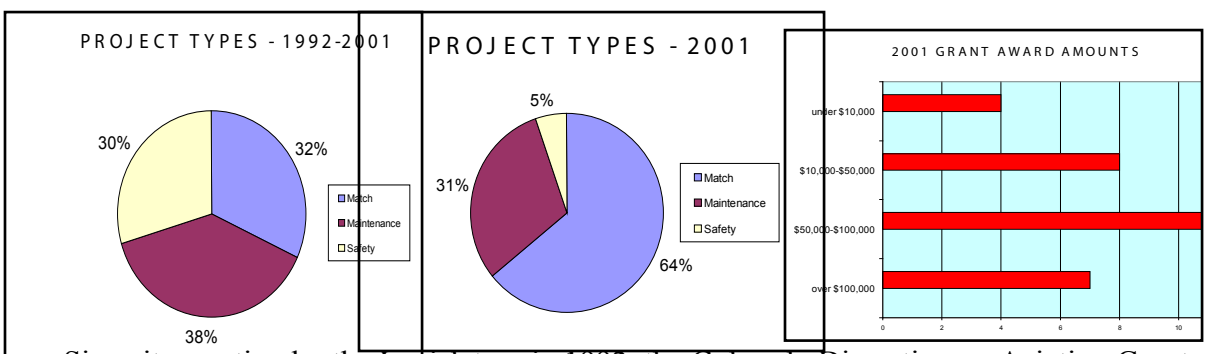
Your tax dollars at work!



Each year, the Colorado Aeronautical Board allocates approximately 35% of the total excise and sales tax revenues collected on aviation fuels sold in Colorado to discretionary grant projects which develop and maintain airport infrastructure and safety of flight.

Because of the increase in FAA Airport Improvement Program funding, the 2001 **Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program** participated with local sponsors in matching federal funds to a greater extent than in previous years. This year, 64% of available grant funds were awarded as matching grants, as opposed to a grant program historical average of 32%.

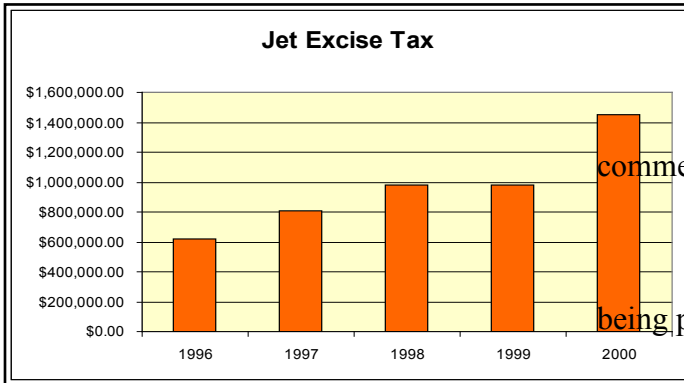
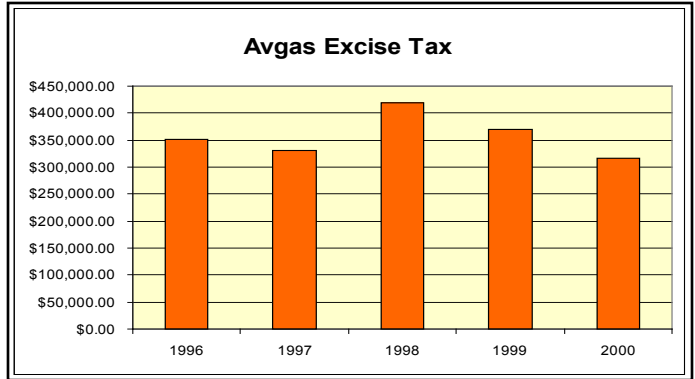
From the initial 40 applications submitted, a total of \$2,044,912 was awarded as individual grants to 30 airport sponsors. Grant awards ranged from \$4,480.00 to \$189,066.00 for projects including the purchase of ground based instrument approach communications equipment and matching federal funds for construction of new airport infrastructure. Largest percentage of awards fell within the \$50,000 to \$100,000 range.



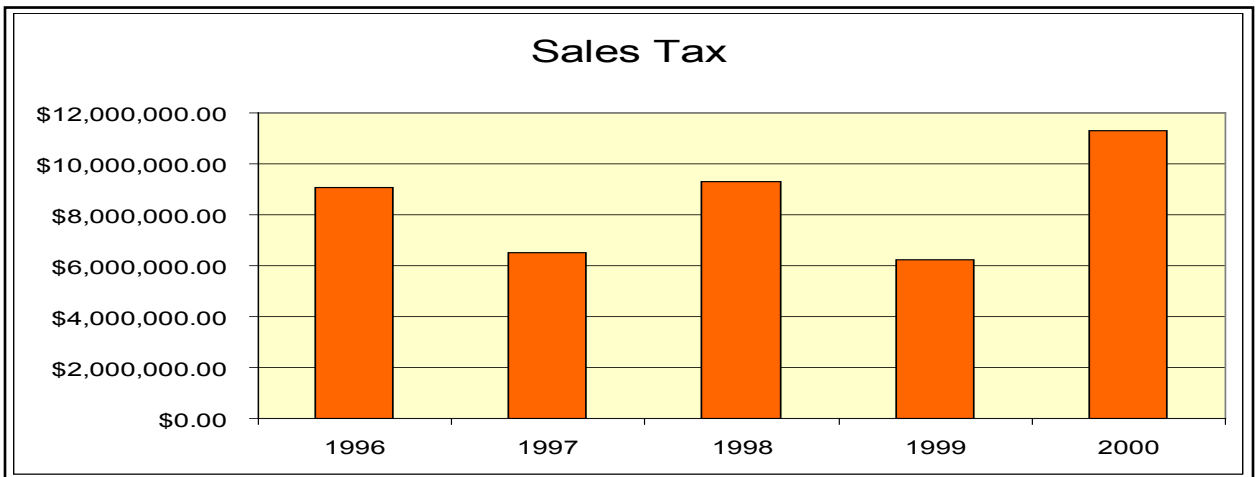
Since its creation by the Legislature in 1992, the Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program has awarded more than \$14.5M for 311 individual projects. Currently, 64 airports are eligible to participate.

ENTITLEMENT TAX REFUNDS

Aviation fuel taxes find their way back to aviation users in the form of discretionary grants and through the **Entitlement Refund** program. Each year, thousands of dollars of fuel taxes collected at Colorado airports are reimbursed to the airports to be used in the operations and maintenance of the airport, to develop and enhance the facility and to support local match for federal funds. Pilots contribute \$.06 to the Aviation Fund each time they purchase a gallon of AvGas. \$.04 is returned to the airport where the fuel was purchased in the form of an entitlement refund. The remainder becomes available as discretionary grants. In 2000, \$316,938.69 was reimbursed to airports as AvGas excise tax refunds.



Excise taxes are similarly collected on non-commercial jet fuel sold at Colorado airports. The entire \$.04 jet fuel excise tax is reimbursed as entitlement refunds and accounts for a total of \$1,454,140.78 being placed into airport budgets in 2000.



The most significant contributions to the Colorado Aviation Fund are collected at the commercial service airports as 3% sales taxes levied on jet fuel sold to the airlines and other commercial operators. 35% of the total contribution is earmarked for discretionary grants and the remaining 65% is reimbursed to the airport of origin. Sales taxes account for 86% of total tax collections. The total amount of sales tax reimbursed to airports in 2000 was \$11,296,354.67.

AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING



The unique program of **Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training** provided jointly by the Colorado Division of Aeronautics and the USAF Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, meets the live burn recurrency certification of airport support personnel. In 2001, 74 firefighters attended the school which utilizes an aircraft simulation to recreate the experience of a response to a real-time airport emergency.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



CO DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

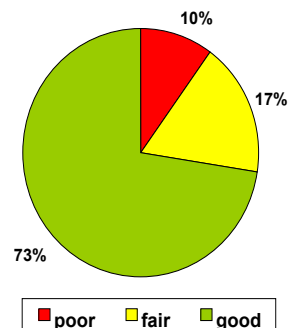
The program has provided Colorado airports with 100 units of equipment from the surplus inventories of the CO Dept. of Transportation and Denver International Airport at costs far below market value. Equipment available to airports include on- and off-road vehicles, such as pick up trucks, 1- and 2-ton trucks, tractors, mowers, backhoes, loaders and snow-removal equipment.

PAVEMENT CONDITION INDEXING

Colorado airport surfaces are evaluated on a 3-year cycle to define their condition and indicate those areas needing routine care. Each year, significant amounts of state grant funds are channeled into maintenance projects to sustain and improve pavement quality. In 2000, more than 225M sq. ft. of pavement was evaluated in the “good” category.

	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
POOR	31.2M sq. ft.	8.4M sq. ft.
FAIR	54.1M sq. ft.	10.5M sq. ft.
GOOD	225.7M sq. ft.	34.7M sq. ft.

PAVEMENT CONDITION OF RUNWAYS AND TAXIWAYS IN COLORADO



AUTOMATED WEATHER OBSERVING SYSTEM MOUNTAIN SAFETY PROGRAM

During its 2000 session, the Colorado General Assembly acknowledged the need for improved aviation weather reporting in the mountainous terrain along the Continental Divide. With shared funding from the Legislature and the Colorado Aviation Fund, the first six of the full compliment of twelve **Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS)** sites were installed. These were sited at those critical mountain passes most vulnerable to weather-dependent aircraft accidents. In 2001, the Legislature and the Colorado Aviation Fund supported four further installation, with the complete build-out anticipated to be funded in 2002.

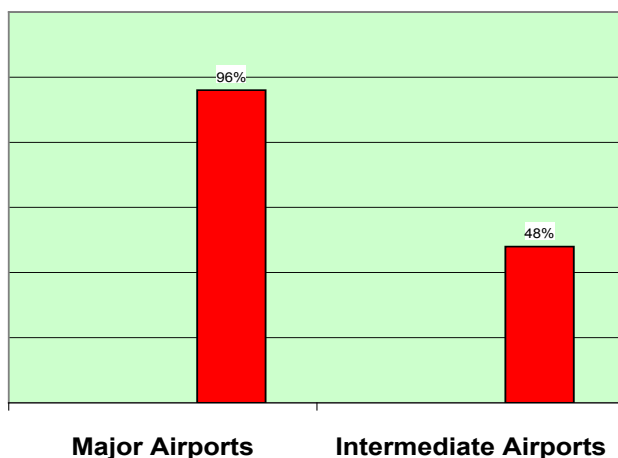
AWOS SITES ON-LINE IN THE COLORADO HIGH COUNTRY

Corona Pass	134.185	303-258-3052
Vail Pass	124.175	970-968-
Monument Hill		134.375
303-648-3479		
Monarch Pass	120.0	719-539-4436
La Veta Pass	119.925	719-587-3123



Response to shortfalls in *On-Airport Weather Reporting* identified in the recently completed **Statewide Airport Inventory and Implementation Plan** provided another facet of the AWOS program. In 2001, matching grants were awarded to **one** Major category airport and **six** Intermediate category airports for installation of weather-reporting equipment on their airport. An additional two airports installed pilot-activated *Super Unicom* equipment on their fields to meet both the weather and traffic communications needs. The program will continue to offer support to airport sponsors to meet the goal for real-time weather reporting statewide.

ON-AIRPORT WEATHER REPORTING COVERAGE



AIRPORTS and the COLORADO AVIATION SYSTEM

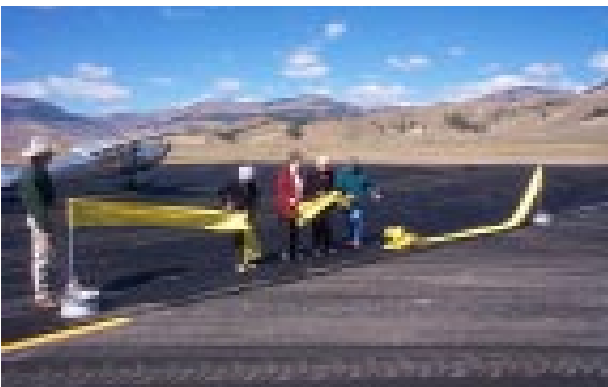
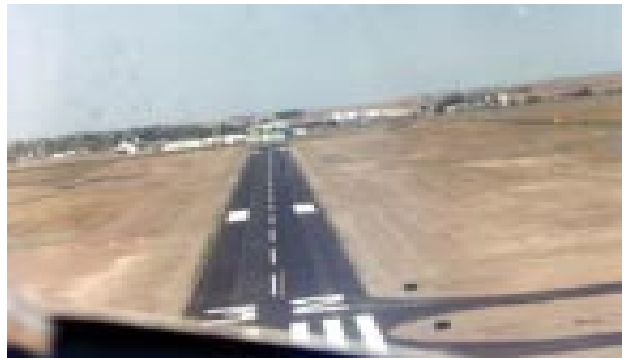
With the completion of the **STATEWIDE AIRPORT INVENTORY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN** in 2000, the Aeronautics Division has been directing its system planning toward elements discussed in the Plan and their impact to the State's total transportation readiness. The existing system of airports were evaluated using measurements of *activity, investment, future expansion, economic support, emergency/ user coverage*. The needs identified using these criteria form the basis for concentration of limited resources. With projected activities remaining well within capacity limits for the next two decades, shortfall areas in safety, weather, emergency access, and instrument approach capabilities will be addressed as funding is made available.

Annual aviation industry activity in Colorado exceeds \$14.3B. Colorado's economic stability is strongly rooted in its transportation infrastructure. 79 public-use airports comprise the State's system of airports headed by Denver International Airport, the world's 10th busiest airport, 13 commercial service providers and 65 general aviation facilities. The tourist and high-tech industries rely on aviation to move people, ideas and commodities while the demands by ranchers, guest lodges and part-time residents call for rural airports capable of supporting larger, more sophisticated fleets.

The continuing demand for the limited funds available will remain a challenge to the Aeronautics Division. And careful prioritization of system needs will dictate long-term goals and successes and guide decision making in the immediate and long-term future.

COLORADO AVIATION SYSTEM NEEDS COMPOSITE TOTAL						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
Pavement Maintenance	\$.78M		\$1.0M	\$.93M	\$.81M	\$.5M
Pavement Rehabilitation	\$ 2.1M	\$ 2.7M	\$ 3.9M	\$ 1.5M	\$ 2.4M	
Weather/ Nav Needs	.63M	\$.87M	\$.8M	\$.7M	\$.6M	
Safety-related Needs	\$ 4.4M	\$ 4.8M	\$ 3.2M	\$ 1.8M	\$ 2.7M	
Federal Matching Funds	\$ 2.0M	\$ 1.8M	\$ 1.6M	\$ 1.5M	\$ 1.8M	
Annual Composite Total	\$10.5M	\$11.2M	\$10.5M	\$6.4M	\$7.9M	

Historically, airports have had access to an average of \$2.2M in Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant program awards annually. The grant program is funded by fuel excise and sales tax revenues collected into the Colorado Aviation Fund.



The new runways in 2001 at (upper right to lower left) Holyoke, Springfield and Creede help support the State's aviation system.

COLORADO AERONAUTICAL BOARD



Seven member honorary policy-making Board appointed by the Governor for three year terms. Each member represents a different constituency in the Colorado aviation community.

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