

**Colorado Department of Transportation**  
**AERONAUTICS DIVISION**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2005**

Prepared October 2005  
[www.colorado-aeronautics.org](http://www.colorado-aeronautics.org)

## PAVEMENT CONDITION INDEXING

In the [Colorado Airport Inventory and Implementation Plan](#) completed in 2000, airports were categorized according to the role they play in the aviation system of the State. The **Major Category Airports** were those commercial service and general aviation airports where runways, facilities and services met ARC B-II or C-II or better. **Intermediate Category Airports** accommodated smaller, lighter aircraft with fewer facilities and services.

**Pavement Condition Indexing (PCI)** ranks individual airport pavements on a 100 point scale. **PCI** for the 30 primary runways at the Major Category Airports and the 33 primary runways at the Intermediate Category Airports reflects the State's strong commitment to quality maintenance and the priority of serving the activity and safety interests of the flying public.

### MAJOR AIRPORTS PRIMARY RUNWAYS

**Runway PCI - 87**

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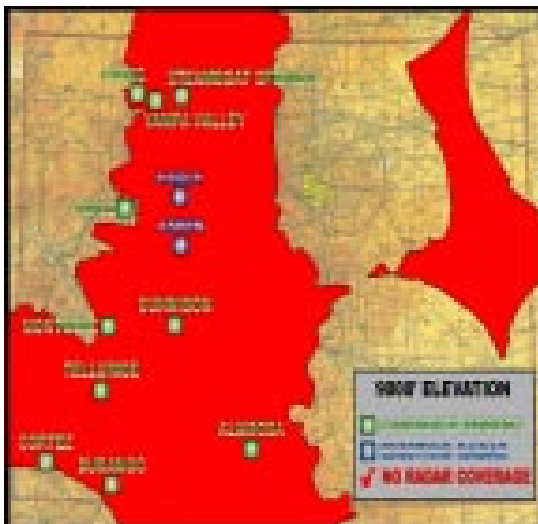
### INTERMEDIATE AIRPORT PRIMARY RUNWAYS

**Runway PCI - 81.5**

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The Colorado Aeronautics Division conducts [pavement condition indexing](#) on a tri-annual rotation. An update of the [Airport Inventory and Implementation Plan](#) is expected to be completed in mid-2006.

## MOUNTAIN RADAR STUDY



With the continued development of the Colorado mountain airports over the past 15 years, aviation demand has steadily increased during the winter recreational season to the point where airspace capacity during periods of poor weather results in aircraft delays, diversions and denied service to recreational visitors to the State of Colorado.

Because of the impacts to the State of Colorado, both economically and to the transportation system, the Colorado Aeronautical Board and CDOT have directed the Aeronautics Division to work cooperatively with the FAA in developing

a comprehensive approach to providing aircraft surveillance for Colorado mountain airports. The Division is also working with [Club 20](#), the [State Legislature](#) and the [Colorado Congressional Delegation](#), as well as each affected community, to focus our efforts with one common voice. The Division and the FAA are currently in the final stages of a study to evaluate all available alternatives and to select the best surveillance option that will improve the overall economic health and viability of the Colorado Transportation System.

# COLORADO DISCRETIONARY AVIATION GRANTS

During State Fiscal Year 2005, ending June 30, 2005, the **Colorado Aeronautical Board** awarded more than \$4M in 45 individual awards for airport projects, aviation education and statewide safety and development interests.

Funding by the **Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program** was diverse: from complimentary airport directories and aeronautical charts - to expansion and maintenance of the mountain AWOS weather reporting system - to aviation management internships at Colorado airports. However, the main emphases of the grant program are the support of community airports in meeting local match for federally-funded airport improvement projects, routine airfield maintenance and enhanced safety projects.

Because of the reduction in local participation in federal grants, the Board was able to realize a greater number of enhancement projects with funds previously limited to assisting airport sponsors in their commitment to matching funds. Approximately *\$1.5M was awarded as local match; another \$1.15M was earmarked for safety programs; and approximately \$.5M each was provided for airfield maintenance and in development and enhancement projects.*

The **Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program** was created by the Aeronautical Board in 1992 with funds generated by a portion of the aviation fuel excise and sales taxes collected annually. Over the course of the fourteen-year cycle of the Program, **\$27,452,148.00** has been awarded to the State's general aviation, small and med-size commercial service airports and aviation interests. These funds generated a total **\$308,531,486.00** in participatory local, federal and other funds.

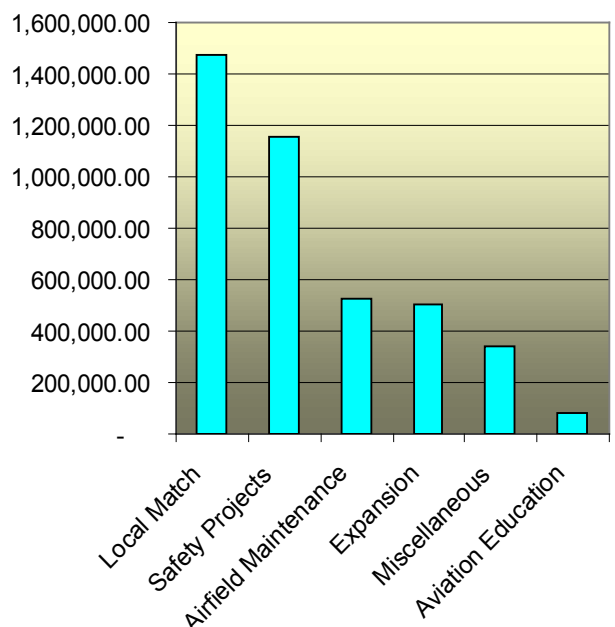
## FUNDING PROFILE

<b>Local Match</b>	<b>1,470,425.00</b>
<b>Safety Projects</b>	<b>1,159,030.00</b>
<b>Airfield Maintenance</b>	<b>523,351.00</b>
<b>Expansion</b>	<b>506,000.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>337,550.00*</b>
<b>Aviation Education</b>	<b>78,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,074,256.00</b>



\* Representing stand-alone programs such as annual updates of aeronautical charts and directories, crack fill rebates, internships, airport safety inspections and other internal programs.

## AVIATION GRANTS IN 2005



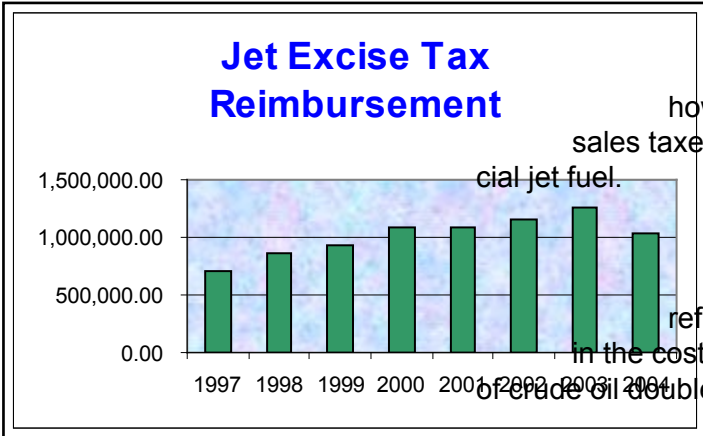
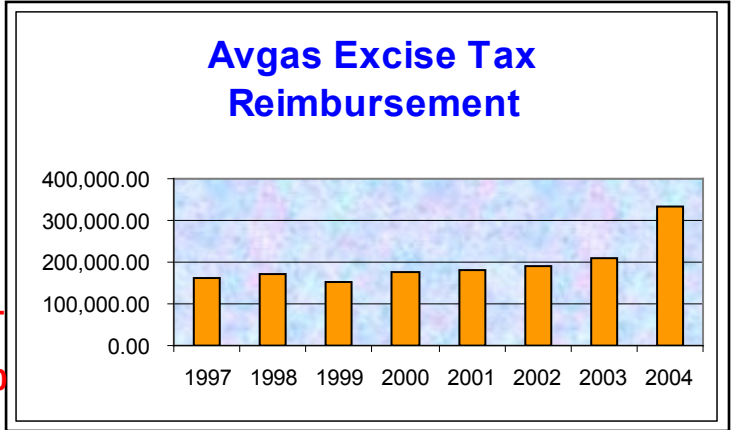
# ENTITLEMENT TAX REFUNDS

**AvGas and Jet Excise Taxes and State Sales Tax** on commercial jet fuel revenues help “fuel” airport operations, maintenance and development and support the **Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program**. \$.04 per gallon on each gallon of AvGas or non-commercial jet fuel is returned to the airport of origin. 65% of Colorado’s 2.9% sales tax on commercial jet fuel is reimbursed to commercial service airports as entitlement refunds.

The remainder of excise and sales taxes collected is awarded by the **Colorado Aeronautical Board** in annual discretionary aviation grants.

Reimbursements of **AvGas Excise Tax** returned to Colorado airports in 2004 were **\$332,629,26**. This represents a 58% increase from the \$209,347.00 reimbursed in 2003, indicating an increase in the amount of fuel sold to general aviation aircraft.

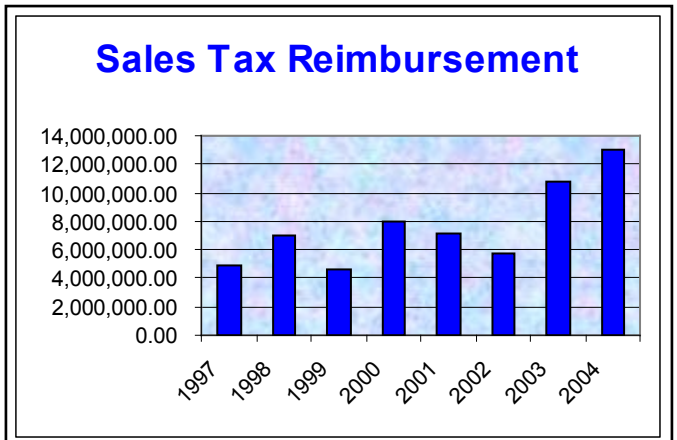
Revenues reimbursed on **non-commercial jet fuel** declined slightly from **\$1,257,682.00** in 2003 to **\$1,038,905.00** in 2004.



The most significant increase, however, came in the returns of sales taxes levied against commercial jet fuel.

The increase from **\$10,730,999.00** in 2003 to **\$13,062,890.00** in 2004

reflects the dramatic increases felt in the costs of all fuels as the prices of crude oil doubled.



## 2004 Fuel Tax Refunds

Total AvGas Excise Refunds  
**\$332,629.26**

Total Jet Fuel Excise Refunds  
**\$1,038,905.00**

Total Jet Fuel Sales Tax Refunds  
**\$13,062,890.00**

**TOTAL TAX REFUNDS**  
**\$14,434,424.00**

Overall tax revenues increased by 18% in 2004.

*Information contained in this report reflects revenues for the period from January through December 2004.*

## AVIATION EDUCATION

Aviation education activities in Colorado continue to flourish, with ***Kid's Space***, ***Teacher Workshops*** and the ***Science of Flight*** programs expanding.

***Kid's Space*** - interactive hands-on aviation activities for kids of all ages. Over 1000 kids shared in ***Kid's Space*** at seven air shows or fly-ins statewide.

***Teacher Workshops*** - two-day sessions at three statewide locations, preparing over 100 classroom instructors to bring aviation education into their curriculum.

***Einstein Science of Flight*** Hands-On Kits - One of only three states selected nationwide, Colorado can offer hands-on instruction kits to elementary teachers free-of-charge through a grant from EAA. Certification in using these materials is included in the ***Teacher Workshops*** - as the enthusiasm for the program continues to grow.

**Colorado Aviation Education** continues its ***"Get 'em Flying"*** program, promoting the introduction of aviation education into the classroom and facilitating an **EAA "Young Eagles"** introductory flight for over 400 students successfully completing the program.

**Colorado Aviation Education** partners with youth programs, educational conferences and pilot organizations to bring awareness of and enthusiasm for aviation to the public. **Aviation Education Webpages** and the **Aviation Events Calendar** continue to grow, becoming an expanding resource and clearinghouse for teaching materials and local and national aviation-related events throughout the year.

**Colorado Aviation Education coordinator, Darci Wert**, has been in the forefront of the development and expansion of EAA Education Program activities nationally.

## CONGRATULATIONS, COLORADO!

The **2005 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) President's Award** for **Outstanding Aviation Safety Program** was presented to Colorado for its innovative Mountain AWOS (Automated Weather Observation System) project. Special recognition was given to **Program Manager, T.K.Gwin**, who accepted the award for the Division at the Annual AASHTO meeting in Nashville in September.



## AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

**Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program** funding for Colorado during federal fiscal year 2004 rose to a new high with a total of **\$66,229,066.00** being awarded to 35 airports for capital projects. An additional **\$249,560.00** was awarded to the CDOT-Aeronautics Division to fund Capital Improvement Program planning for general aviation, small commercial service and reliever airports during the same period.

Entitlements grants to several general aviation airports funded needed airfield maintenance. Other significant projects during the year included expanded runway safety areas at **Aspen**; runway and taxiway rehabilitation at **Colorado Springs**; relocation of taxiway at **Jeffco**; rehabilitation of distressed runway areas at **Limon**; acquisition of developmental land at **Canon City, Meadowlake, and Granby**; and the installation of weather reporting equipment (AWOS) at **Delta, Fort Morgan, Nucla** and **Salida**.

## AIR SERVICE IN COLORADO

Colorado commercial service airports continue to serve the vital needs of the State ... in moving business and professional services, in accommodating recreational visitors, in meeting the demands for better movement of goods and services, in reaching into critical emergency areas.

Some markets grew significantly, while other showed negative movement or little movement at all. **Denver International Airport** ranked fifth in the nation for passenger enplanements, following Atlanta-Hartsfield, Chicago O'Hare, Los Angeles International and Dallas-Fort Worth. Colorado airports' activities over the twelve-months concluding in December 2004, are reported below:

Denver International Airport	20,407,002	+ 13.56%
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	1,024,656	+
1.35%		
Eagle County Regional Airport	194,173	+ 15.34%
Aspen-Pitkin County Airport	184,261	- 2.96%
Walker Field-Grand Junction	140,618	+ 9.80%
Yampa Valley Regional Airport-Hayden	120,323	+ 17.53%
Durango-La Plata County Airport	96,522	+ 11.98%
Montrose Regional Airport	72,448	+ 4.41%
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	38,395	+ 1.80%
Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport	31,928	+209.77%
Telluride Regional Airport	18,493	+ 20.19%
Cortez Municipal Airport	7,870	+ 16.89%
San Luis Valley Regional Airport-Alamosa	5,188	+ 35.14%

## SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALES

Colorado airports have been fortunate in having a continuing flow of excellent surplus airfield equipment regularly available to them through **CO. Dept. of Transportation** and **Denver International Airport**. At DIA, sales routinely occur in summer as new equipment arrives and surplus pieces are put on sale for a fraction of the new unit costs.

In July 2005, Denver International Airport transferred twenty-one quality trucks, mowers, plows, and snowblowers to nine statewide airports totalling \$220,000.00. Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant funds supported \$70,500.00 in 50/50 shared costs with seven airports.



CO Dept. of Transportation surplus equipment is made available throughout the year to statewide airports at minimal cost before being offered to the general public. Airports maintain a "wish list" of needed equipment and update it regularly with the Division of Aeronautics. Division staff coordinate placement of needed units at airports as good equipment becomes available. The program has operated successfully for a number of years.



## NON-FEDERAL AWOS FORUM

Participants from the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Weather Service, several firms serving the **Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS)** community and representatives from ten states met in Boulder, CO in July of 2005 to take the first steps in securing a nationwide mechanism that would provide a better flow of valuable weather information from non-federal AWOS operations to a variety of users.

Following much worthwhile discussion, attendees were tasked with defining an inventory of existing non-federal AWOS sites, researching potential avenues to a central clearinghouse and establishing a mutual commitment to make this valuable information available in the near future.

Colorado was proud to have hosted the initial meeting of experts in the AWOS field; we look forward to interaction with a broadening group of contributors, including discussions with the FAA administrator through the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO). A forum web network, telecons and additional meetings are likely.



# COLORADO AERONAUTICAL BOARD

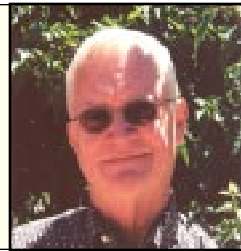
The COLORADO AERONAUTICAL BOARD is the policy-making body that oversees the operations of the CDOT-Aeronautics Division. It is an honorary seven-member Board appointed by the Governor to serve three-year terms as representatives of defined constituencies in the aviation community.

**Harold Patton**, chairman  
*representing Eastern Plains governments*  
2350 Williamette Lane  
Greenwood Village, CO 80121  
PH: 303-721-6333  
FAX: 303721-6367  
email: [pattonharold@qwest.net](mailto:pattonharold@qwest.net)



**Harold J. Felderman**, vice-chairman  
*representing Eastern Plains governments*  
2538 54th Avenue  
Greeley, CO 80634  
PH: 970-330-0558  
email: [hfeldy@comcast.net](mailto:hfeldy@comcast.net)

**E. Patrick Wiesner**, secretary  
*representing pilot organizations*  
2907 Fairway View  
Castle Rock, CO 80108  
PH: 303-688-2249  
FAX: 303-397-7619  
email: [pwiesner@wiesnerpublishing.com](mailto:pwiesner@wiesnerpublishing.com)



**Larry Romrell**  
*representing aviation interests-at-large*  
441 Russellville Road  
Franktown, CO 80116  
PH: 303-814-1454  
FAX: 303-814-1491  
email: [larry@libertymedia.com](mailto:larry@libertymedia.com)

**Leo M. Large**  
*representing west slope governments*  
P.O. Box 96  
Nucla, CO 81424  
PH: 970-864-7944  
FAX: 970-864-7550  
email: [llarge@gwe.net](mailto:llarge@gwe.net)



**Dale Hancock**  
*representing west slope governments*  
334 Park Drive - Box 1095  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602  
PH: 970-945-0521  
email: [dhancock@garfield-county.com](mailto:dhancock@garfield-county.com)

**Dennis Heap**  
*representing airport management*  
10750 Nucla Street  
Commerce City, CO 80022-0560  
PH: 303-286-6786  
FAX: 303-261-9195  
email: [dheap@ftg-airport.com](mailto:dheap@ftg-airport.com)

