

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022



# 2022 Annual Report

Division of Aeronautics



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**COVER:** This image shows Flight For Life’s Beech King Air 200 (above) and Lifeguard 2 (below) flying over Twin Lakes located south of Leadville, Colorado. Photo by Shahn G. Sederberg - CDOT.

Recently celebrating its 50-year anniversary, Flight For Life has been providing air ambulance services in Colorado since 1972. The organization began with a single Alouette III helicopter based at Saint Anthony Hospital in Denver, Colorado. Today, Flight For Life provides critical life-saving medical care and transportation with a fleet of five helicopters operated by Air Methods Corp., four King Air 200s based at Centennial Airport (APA) and Durango (DRO) and operated by Mayo Aviation, Inc., along with a fleet of seven ground ambulance vehicles.



## Message from the Director



As we take a look back at 2022 in our Division's Annual Report, it is quite clear that our Division, and aviation across Colorado, has recovered quickly and robustly from pandemic-induced reductions in activity in 2020 and 2021. This remarkable rebound resulted in record revenues for our Division in 2022, allowing us to increase our investments in aviation safety, airport infrastructure and aviation education and workforce development. We expect our industry to remain strong into 2023, and we look forward to continuing our momentum!

This past year, we made outstanding progress on our key initiatives, including the funding of our aviation and workforce development grant program for the first time in eight years. With \$400,000 of combined 2021 and 2022 funds, the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) approved grants for a number of diverse and impactful programs that will help develop and support the next generation of aviation professionals needed in Colorado. Additionally, we completed our pioneering multi-year collaboration with the FAA's

Alaska Weather Camera team, installing aviation weather cameras at an additional 20 airports during 2022. Building upon our success in 2020 and 2021, we now have cameras at 43 locations around the state - 30 at airports and 13 at our mountain AWOS sites. By combining Division funds with FAA expertise, this innovative initiative, the first outside of Alaska, will have profound safety benefits for aviators statewide.

As we look at what we've accomplished, we also continue to look to the future. In the next ten years, battery-electric, hybrid and hydrogen powered aircraft will be entering service, offering exciting opportunities for new regional air mobility and less expensive and quieter flight training activities, 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 poised to collaborate with industry, airports, policy makers and others to explore how we can leverage these new technologies, as well as sustainable aviation fuels, here in Colorado. To that end, the Division will begin work in 2023 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 passion for customer service, efficiency and innovation. Collectively our team continues to commit ourselves to supporting 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 6,950 registered aircraft and 23,014 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.

As the Division Director, I'm honored to work with this engaged and active aviation community, and a passionate and dedicated Aeronautical Board and Division team. 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.

Sincerely,



David Ulane  
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.



Flight for Life’s King Air 200 flying near the base of Colorado’s Mount Massive (14,428’ MSL) located west-southwest of Leadville, CO. Photo by Shahn G. Sederberg-CDOT.

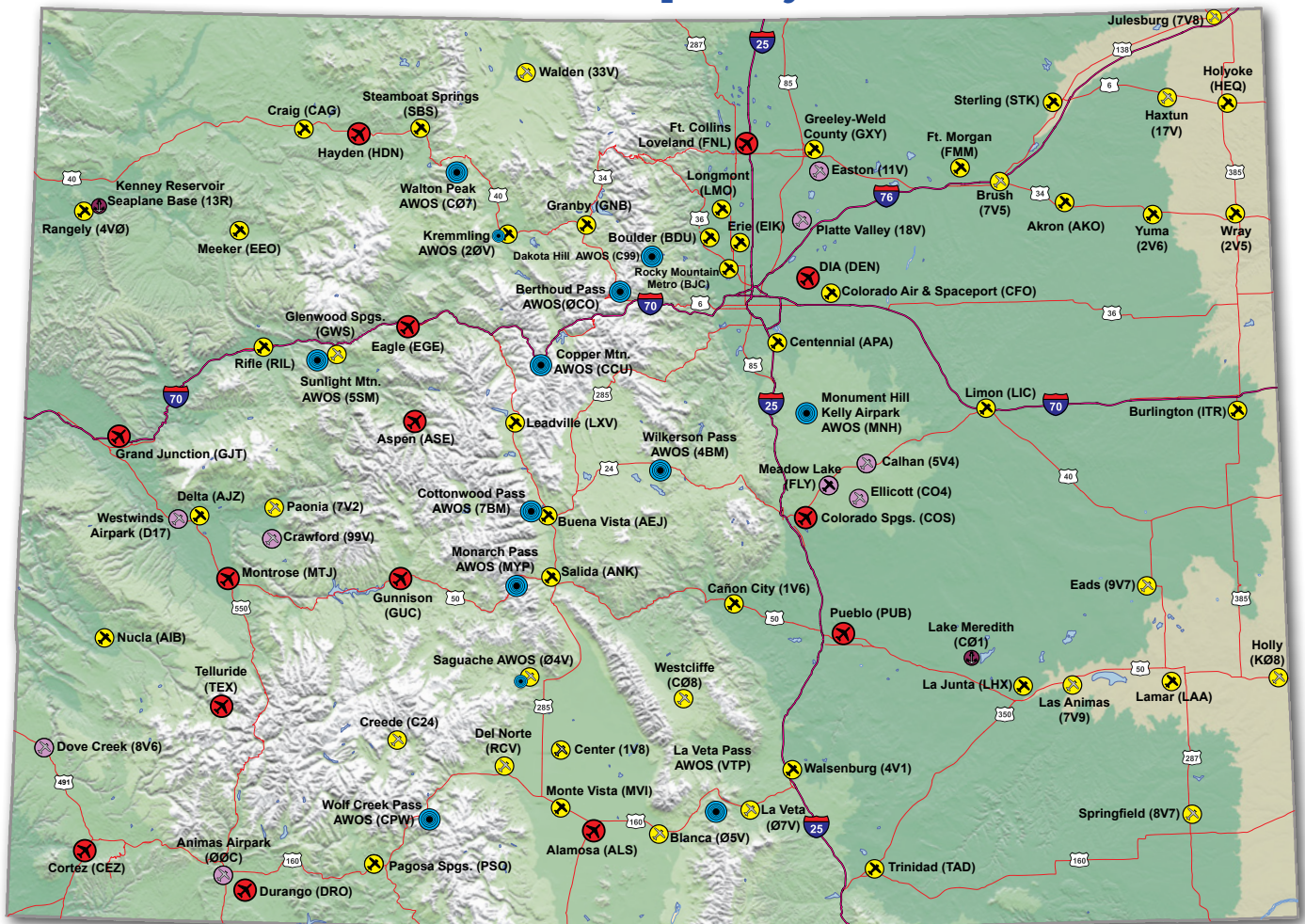
# Colorado Airport System







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 fire fighting, 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)**

## Tax Revenue Disbursements

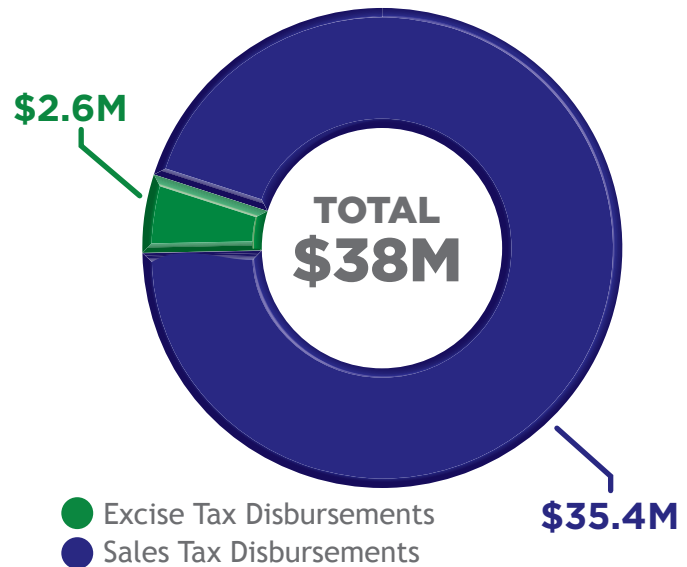
Eligible Colorado public-use airports are recipients of aviation fuel excise and sales tax disbursements for fuel sold at their airport. These disbursements equal \$.04 per gallon of the excise tax on general aviation fuel (AvGas), \$.04 per gallon on non-commercial jet fuel, and 65% of the 2.9% sales 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.

### 2022 Tax Revenue Disbursements

Excise Tax & Sales Tax on Aviation Fuel

\*Preliminary unaudited results.



### 2022 Disbursements by Airport

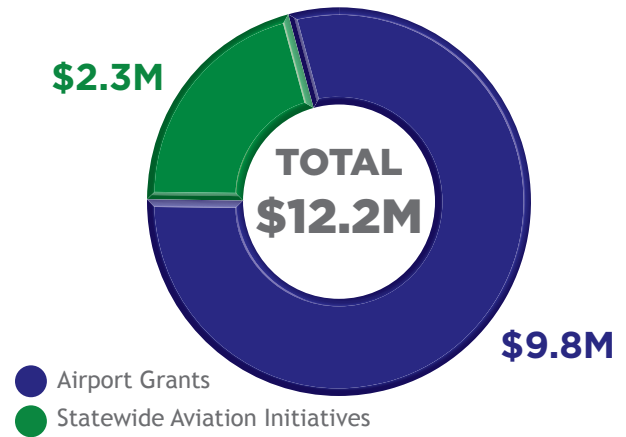
Combined Excise & Sales Tax Disbursements January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Akron-Colorado Plains Regional Airport	\$8,334	Hayden-Yampa Valley Regional Airport	\$282,861
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional Airport	\$48,294	Holyoke Municipal Airport	\$6,680
Aspen-Pitkin County Airport	\$1,191,462	Julesburg Municipal Airport	\$159
Blanca Airport	\$554	Kremmling-McElroy Field	\$11,344
Boulder Municipal Airport	\$6,202	La Junta Municipal Airport	\$4,585
Brush Municipal Airport	\$745	Lamar-Southeast Colorado Regional Airport	\$19,175
Buena Vista-Central Colorado Regional Airport	\$45,211	Las Animas City and County Airport	\$873
Burlington-Kit Carson County	\$19,695	Leadville-Lake County Airport	\$12,861
Canon City-Fremont County Airport	\$7,920	Limon Municipal Airport	\$2,837
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	\$978,348	Longmont-Vance Brand Municipal Airport	\$6,508
Colorado Springs-Meadow Lake Airport	\$3,770	Loveland-Northern Colorado Regional Airport	\$157,039
Cortez-Montezuma County Airport	\$31,073	Meeker Airport	\$43,662
Craig-Moffat County Airport	\$29,499	Monte Vista Municipal Airport	\$2,648
Creede-Mineral County Memorial Airport	\$1,549	Montrose Regional Airport	\$265,126
Del Norte-Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport	\$9,063	Nucla-Hopkins Field	\$10,251
Delta-Blake Field	\$60,376	Pagosa Springs-Stevens Field	\$35,032
Delta-Westwinds Airpark	\$202	Paonia-North Fork Valley Airport	\$717
Denver International Airport	\$26,633,265	Pueblo Memorial Airport	\$122,325
Denver-Centennial Airport	\$1,943,640	Rangely Airport	\$319
Denver-Colorado Air & Space Port	\$483,499	Rifle-Garfield County Airport	\$288,889
Denver-Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport	\$3,298,606	Salida-Harriet Alexander Airport	\$8,565
Dove Creek Airport	\$3,291	Springfield Municipal Airport	\$641
Durango-La Plata County Airport	\$253,952	Steamboat Spgs. Municipal Airport	\$3,539
Eads Airport	\$136,735	Sterling Municipal Airport	\$3,748
Eagle County Regional Airport	\$699,504	Telluride Regional Airport	\$208,144
Erie Municipal Airport	\$13,362	Trinidad-Perry Stokes Airport	\$4,454
Fort Morgan Municipal Airport	\$10,104	Walden-Jackson County Airport	\$240
Glenwood Springs Municipal Airport	\$1,696	Walsenburg-Spanish Peaks Airfield	\$831
Granby-Grand County Airport	\$5,169	Westcliffe-Silver West Airport	\$18,097
Grand Junction Regional Airport	\$392,114	Wray Municipal Airport	\$7,144
Greeley-Weld County Airport	\$52,316	Yuma Municipal Airport	\$1,148
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	\$123,634	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,023,627</b>

## 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. Normally the Division holds two grant hearings, a State and Local CDAG hearing in January and a Federal Match CDAG hearing in April. In August 2022, as part of the Division’s larger Aviation Fund Balance Adjustment Plan, the Division staff solicited a second round of State and Local CDAG applications. These five design-only grants were awarded to help prepare airports for large construction projects planned during 2023 and 2024. A total of \$9.8 million in CDAG airport grants were awarded in 2022 through all three grant hearings.

### 2022 Aviation Funding Statewide Aviation Initiatives & Airport Grants



#### 2022 Federal Matching Grants (AIP/BIL)

Aspen-Pitkin County Airport	384,097
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional Airport	\$37,721
Buena Vista-Central Colorado Regional Airport	\$7,884
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	\$7,884
Colorado Springs-Meadow Lake Airport	\$49,721
Craig-Moffat County Airport	\$25,000
Delta-Blake Field	\$10,829
Denver Centennial Airport	\$250,000
Denver Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport	\$214,610
Durango La Plata County Airport	\$334,917
Eagle County Regional Airport	\$107,500
Erie Municipal Airport	\$8,833
Grand Junction Regional Airport	\$374,566
Greeley-Weld County Airport	\$36,735
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	\$112,414
Hayden-Yampa Valley Regional Airport	\$103,056
Kremmling-McElroy Field	\$16,500
Leadville-Lake County Airport	\$39,444
Limon Municipal Airport	\$34,032
Longmont-Vance Brand Municipal Airport	\$8,555
Montrose Regional Airport	\$183,621
Pagosa Springs-Stevens Field	\$25,489
Pueblo Memorial Airport	\$18,412
Rangely Airport	\$47,155
Salida-Harriet Alexander Airport	\$8,833
Steamboat Springs Airport	\$261,111
Sterling Municipal Airport	\$8,333
Trinidad-Perry Stokes Airport	\$7,976
Walsenburg-Spanish Peak Airfield	\$44,963
Yuma Municipal Airport	\$6,111
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,776,302</b>

#### 2022 State Aviation Grants to Airports

Akron-Colorado Plains Regional Airport	\$24,525
Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport	\$300,000
Creede-Mineral County Airport	\$3,000,000
Del Norte-Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport	\$200,000
Denver-Centennial Airport	\$300,000
Denver-Colorado Air & Space Port	\$270,000
Denver-Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport	\$450,000
Durango-La Plata County Airport	\$300,000
Glenwood Springs Municipal Airport	\$360,000
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport	\$400,000
Lamar-Southeast Colorado Regional Airport	\$350,000
Longmont-Vance Brand Municipal Airport	\$54,000
Pagosa Springs-Stevens Field	\$185,040
Salida-Harriet Alexander Airport	\$270,000
Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport	\$400,000
Walsenburg-Spanish Peaks Airfield	\$25,000
Westcliffe-Silver West Airport	\$175,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,063,565</b>

#### 2022 Statewide Aviation Initiative Expenditures

Airfield Maintenance-Crack Sealant Program	\$183,003
Airport AWOS Program	\$96,040
Airport Inspections (PCI & 5010)	\$165,267
Aviation Community Outreach	\$13,755
Aviation Education & Workforce Development	\$40,237
Aviation Weather Camera Program	\$403,786
Communications & Publications	\$124,529
Internship Program	\$70,991
Mountain AWOS Program	\$87,747
Remote Tower Project	\$142,979
Surplus Airport Equipment Program	\$288,250
USDA - Wildlife Hazard Mitigation	\$145,874
Other Initiatives Approved by CAB*	\$557,618
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,320,076</b>

\*Funding for these Statewide Initiatives were approved by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) in a previous fiscal year.

## Statewide Aviation Initiatives & Annual Expenditures

In 2022, there was a total of \$2.3 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 - \$183,003**

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.

### **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 - \$96,040**

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 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.

#### **Airport Inspections (5010 & PCI) - \$165,267**

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) 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.

#### **Aviation Community Outreach - \$13,755**

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.

Early 2022 saw the end of the COVID 19 shutdown and the resumption of aviation community events across the State of Colorado. During these events, the Division of Aeronautics directly interacts with the aviation community and our stakeholders by distributing Colorado Airport Directories, Colorado Aeronautical Charts, Colorado Airport Economic Impact Studies, and Colorado Aviation System Plans, as well as promoting the Colorado Airport Internship Program.

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, Twitter, the Division of Aeronautics web page, mass email communication, the Mountain Wave News Bulletin, and most recently, Instagram.

## 2022 Outreach Events

- Adams 12 GT Super Saturday Event
- Aerospace Day at the Capitol
- 99's South Central Section Meeting
- Flight Training and Aviation Career Symposium
- Annual EAA Fly-in and Pancake Breakfast at Emily Howell Warner Field (GNB)
- Aims Aviation Day
- SilverWest AirFest in Westcliffe
- Ft. Morgan Fly-in and Air Expo
- Girls in Aviation Day 2022
- "Let's Fly Now" Colorado 99's
- Southwest Airlines Denver Aviation Day
- EAA Chapter 72 Pancake Breakfast Fly-n (FLY)
- Wings Over the Rockies Breakfast Fly-in Events
- EAA Chapter 301 Young Eagle Rallies



Top: Families attending the SilverWest AirFest in Westcliffe, CO had a chance to take the controls of the Division's Redbird Jay flight simulator. (by Hetty Carlson) Above: The Division's Aviation Education & Outreach Specialist Hetty Carlson (right) and Dr. Penny Hamilton (right) hand out 2022 Colorado Aeronautical Charts and Airport Directories at the Annual EAA Fly-in at Emily Howell Warner Field in Granby, CO. Below: The entrance sign welcoming attendees of the SilverWest AirFest (by Hetty Carlson).



### Aviation Education & Workforce Development - \$40,237

In February 2022, the CAB approved \$200,000 of FY2023 funding for the Education Grants and Workforce Development program. This funding, along with \$200,000 of previously approved FY2022 funds, allowed the Division to concurrently conduct one round of grant solicitations and approvals for both fiscal years 2022 and 2023 totaling \$400,000.

In March 2022, 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, 2022, with a total of ten application submittals with a total of \$857,603 requested. On June 9th, 2022, the CAB approved eight of the ten grant applications in the amount of \$270,617 with a remainder of \$129,383 of the original \$400,000.

On August 31st, 2022 the CAB approved the use of the remaining Aviation Education & Workforce Development funds to be used to support the purchase of three flight simulators for small, rural airports that do not have access to a simulator in their region.

This one-time initiative was geared for pilots located in the less-populated communities of Colorado seeking introductory flight training, an instrument pilot rating, or just looking to refresh their current flying skills. The goal of the flight simulator initiative is to develop proficient instrument-rated pilots in

Colorado, leading to increased safety. This program also offers the unique opportunity to introduce aspiring aviators to flying.

### Aviation Weather Camera Program - \$403,786

For decades, the FAA has operated a robust network of aviation weather cameras in Alaska, providing pilots with real time visual information about weather conditions and trends in that remote and challenging environment. When combined with other traditional weather observations and forecasting information, these cameras help aviators make smart pre-flight decisions, improving aviation safety and reducing weather-induced accidents.

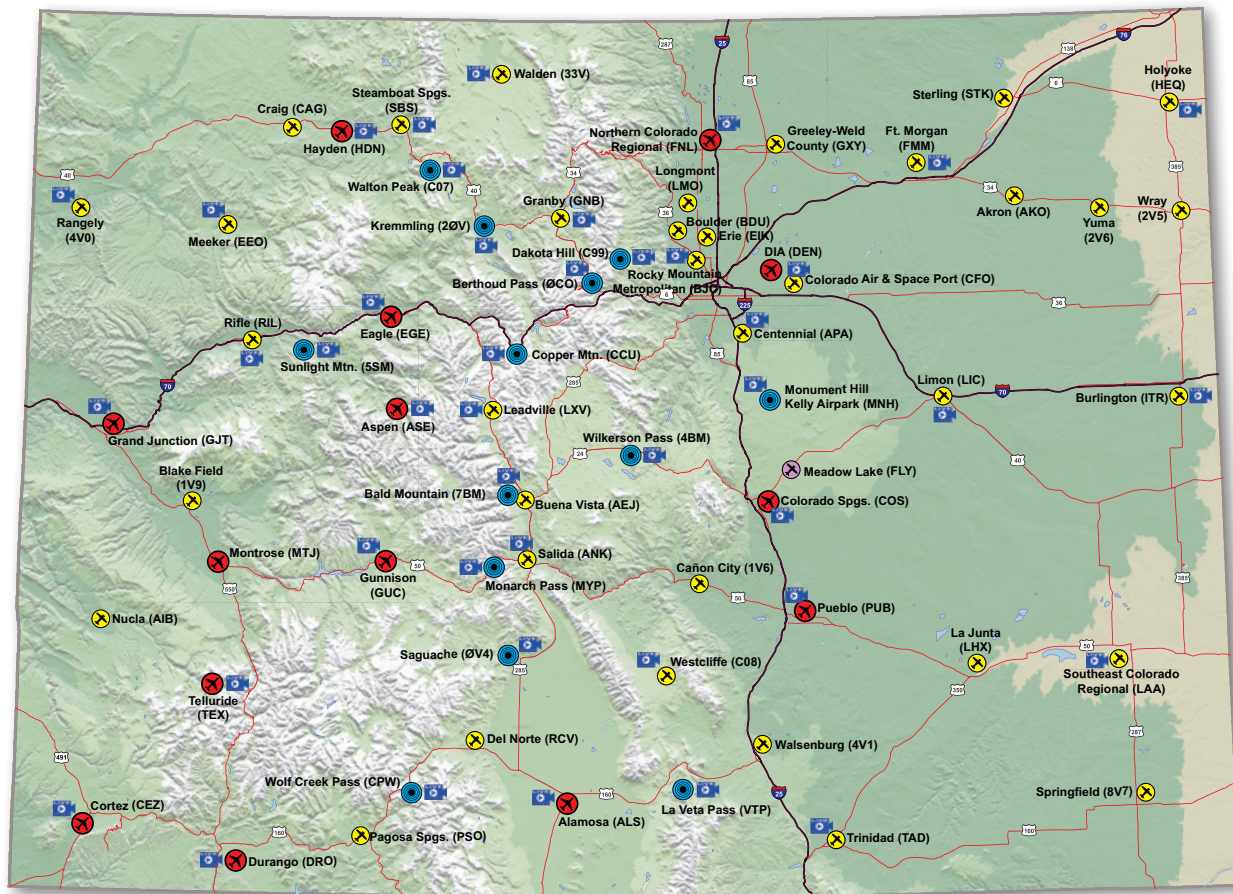
#### 2022 Aviation Education & Workforce Development Grant Awards

Aims Community College Aviation Program	\$50,000
Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport - Simulator Program	\$43,127
Canon City-Fremont County Airport - Simulator Program	\$43,127
Civil Air Patrol Pikes Peak Composite Squadron	\$12,000
Colorado Digital Learning Solutions	\$25,000
Cortez Municipal Airport - Simulator Program	\$43,127
Falcon AeroLab	\$45,000
National Museum of WWII Aviation	\$55,000
Preflight Aviation Camp	\$13,214
Steamboat Springs Airport - Simulator Program	\$34,828
Wings Over the Rockies Drone Program	\$35,575
<b>TOTAL \$400,000</b>	



The Steamboat Springs Airport (SBS) was awarded a one-time grant for a flight simulator. This funding gives flight training access to pilots located in the rural areas of Colorado. Photo by Hetty Carlson.

# Automated Weather Observing Systems



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

Since 2000, the Division has operated a network of Mountain Automated Weather Observing systems located across Colorado’s high country, and one of the most frequently requested improvements to that system was the addition of cameras. In 2020, the Division established a pioneering collaboration with the FAA’s Alaska Weather Camera program to make Colorado the first state in the U.S. outside of Alaska with aviation weather cameras.

This initiative entailed the Division providing state aviation funds to the FAA via a reimbursable agreement, under which the FAA installed and configured the cameras, and hosts the images on the FAA’s comprehensive aviation weather website

at [WeatherCams.faa.gov](https://www.faa.gov/WeatherCams). In 2020, the FAA installed weather cameras at our 13 mountain AWOS sites, and in phase II in 2021, installed cameras at ten strategic airports, most in Colorado’s high country. In 2022, phase III of the project was completed which accounted for an additional 20 camera sites throughout the State. In just three years, this program developed a network of 43 camera sites providing critical visual information to pilots traversing the state which will have profound positive impacts on aviation safety in Colorado.

## Communications & Publications - \$124,529

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.

### **Airport Internship Program - \$70,991**

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.

### **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 contracts annually with the State of Colorado's Office of Information Technology (OIT) to provide ongoing maintenance and certification for each site. To ensure this important service is performed in a timely manner, OIT 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. To highlight these challenges to the public, the Division, in

cooperation with OIT, developed a video detailing the arduous process to keep these secluded sites operational. To view this video please click on the link below.

#### [AWOS Maintenance Video](#)

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.

### **Remote Air Traffic Control Tower Program - \$142,979**

In 2022, the Division's innovative Remote Air Traffic Control Tower (RATCT) initiative at the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL) continued to move forward, albeit more slowly due to evolving FAA requirements for remote towers. The Division of Aeronautics is collaborating closely with FNL, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Searidge Technologies, and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association to implement a RATCT solution 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. 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.

During 2022, full class E control tower services continued at FNL by means of a mobile tower that was installed in March 2020. In April of 2022, Phase 1 passive testing of the remote tower system

resumed as COVID-induced FAA travel restrictions relaxed. Results from this testing phase have informed needed updates to the system, which the vendor is working with the FAA on implementing at the end of 2022. Once these updates have been completed, additional phases of testing are expected to resume in 2023.

This CDOT Aeronautics Division-led initiative to test RATCT 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. The \$8.8 million in funding for the test phase of this pioneering project has been provided by the Colorado Aviation Fund as unanimously approved by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB).

The Division has created a project website at ColoradoRemoteTower.com, where frequent project updates, photos and videos are posted.



Above: A record number of 23 Colorado airports participated in the 2022 Surplus Sale taking place on August 18th. Below: Airport sponsors had the opportunity to preview the equipment available for sale. Photo below by Kaitlyn Westendorf.



### Surplus Airport Equipment Program - \$288,250

The 2022 Surplus Equipment Sale took place on Thursday, August 18th. It was an overwhelming success with our biggest turnout in the history of the program. Twenty-three airports participated in the sale with equipment available from seven airports. The Surplus Equipment Program this year placed over 30 pieces of airport-specific equipment at 22 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 22 pieces purchased at 80/20 and 8 pieces at 50/50 this year. In total, the 30 pieces of equipment totaled \$382,100 with the state's portion at \$288,250 and the local's at \$93,850.

Due to the wide variety of equipment available at the sale along with a high turnout of participating airports, and additional \$38,250 was approved by the CAB to supplement the funding beyond the originally-approved allocation of \$250,000.

### USDA-Wildlife Mitigation Program - \$145,874

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 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.

Pictured right and below, Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO) completed an \$11 million runway rehabilitation project in an unprecedented 10-day construction phase. This 2022 Capital Improvement Project was funded with over \$600K in state funding. Photos by Shahn G. Sederberg - CDOT.

The current Capital Improvement Plan (2023-2027) accounts for just over \$1B\* 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.

\*Excludes privately-owned public-use airports, except for Meadow Lake Airport (KFLY).





## State Infrastructure Bank

The Colorado Transportation Commission supports local operators of transportation 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 three Colorado communities, with \$21.6 million in outstanding loan balances as of December 31, 2022. In 2022, the CAB leveraged the Division’s strong aviation fund balance and added an additional \$7 million to the SIB program.

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, 2022, the total value of the SIB revolving loan fund, including forecast accrued interest, was approximately \$26 million.

### Airports with SIB Loan Balances

- Centennial Airport
- Colorado Springs Airport
- Rocky Mountain Metro Airport

*\*Current SIB loan interest rate 3.5%. Listing current as of December 31, 2022.*

## 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 2021\*

Denver International	28,645,527	▲76.35%
City of Colorado Springs Municipal	941,917	▲158.64%
Grand Junction Regional	252,290	▲81.32%
Aspen-Pitkin County Airport	248,781	▲35.29%
Eagle County Regional	201,752	▲40.96%
Durango-La Plata County	200,245	▲101.36%
Montrose Regional	188,355	▲86.70%
Yampa Valley Regional	150,142	▲70.81%
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional	38,783	▲34.37%
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional	11,987	▲152.78%
Pueblo Memorial	9,624	▲78.75%
Telluride Regional	6,691	▲78.76%
Cortez Municipal	6,195	▲10.57%
Northern Colorado Regional	5,248	▲371.94%
<b>TOTAL PASSENGERS</b>	<b>30,907,537</b>	<b>▲77.52%</b>

Data Provided by the Federal Aviation Administration. \*CY 2022 data will be available June 2022.





## 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.

### 2022 CAB Meetings

**February 1, 2022** - Denver, CO  
Colorado Airport Operators Winter Conference  
State & Local Grant Hearing  
[Video](#) | [Agenda/Packet](#)

**April 13, 2022** - Watkins, CO  
Federal Match Grant Hearing  
[Video](#) | [Agenda/Packet](#)

**June 9, 2022** - Grand Junction, CO  
Colorado Airport Operators Spring Conference  
[Video](#) | [Agenda/Packet](#)

**August 30, 2022 - CAB Workshop**  
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room - Watkins, CO

**August 31, 2022**  
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room - Watkins, CO  
[Video](#) | [Agenda/Packet](#)

**December 14, 2022**  
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room - Watkins, CO  
[Video](#) | [Agenda/Packet](#)



**Kenneth Maenpa**, Chair  
*Western Slope Governments*



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



**Daniel Melia**  
*Eastern Slope Governments*



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



**Chaz Tedesco**  
*Eastern Slope Governments*



**Steve Lee**  
*Statewide Association of Airport Managers*



**Trimbi Szabo**  
*Pilot Organizations*



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Aeronautics

5126 Front Range Parkway | Watkins, Colorado 80137  
303.512.5250 | [Colorado-Aeronautics.org](http://Colorado-Aeronautics.org)

