



January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

2024 Annual Report

Division of Aeronautics



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COVER: The cover of the 2024 Colorado Division of Aeronautics Annual Report features Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) Aviation & Aerospace Lecturer and Aerobatic Team Coach Dagmar Kress in the rear seat piloting the University’s new Game Composites GameBird GB1. The image captures the aircraft poised above the Centennial Airport (APA) air traffic control tower. Seated in the front passenger seat is David Ulane, Director of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics and a proud 1990 graduate of the MSU Denver Aviation Management Program.

On May 6, 2024, the Aerobatic Team at MSU Denver received a state-of-the-art GameBird GB1, generously donated by an anonymous benefactor. This advanced, highly maneuverable two-seat aircraft, with its full carbon fiber airframe, allows students enrolled in the MSU Denver Aviation & Aerospace Science Program to enhance their flying skills safely. The award-winning aerobatics team is led by MSU Denver Lecturer Dagmar Kress, who brings decades of competitive aerobatic flying experience. Founded in 2016, the MSU Denver Aerobatic Team has earned gold in student competitions in 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2024, showcasing their new MSU Denver GameBird GB1 in their latest victory.

Located in downtown Denver, Colorado, the MSU Denver Aviation and Aerospace Science Program offers a wide range of degree options, including Professional Flight Officer, Aviation and Aerospace Management, Air Traffic Control, Advanced Manufacturing, Uncrewed Aerial Systems, and more. The MSU Denver Aviation and Aerospace Science Department (AVS) has grown into one of the largest and most sophisticated programs in the country, while still being the most affordable program of its kind.

Learn more at MSUDenver.edu/Aviation-Aerospace



Message from the Director



Thanks for taking a look at our 2024 Division of Aeronautics' Annual Report! As in recent years, 2024 saw the continuation of robust aviation activity across Colorado. This resulted in another year of outstanding revenues for our Division, allowing us to further our investments in airport infrastructure, aviation safety, and aviation education and workforce development. We expect our industry to remain strong into 2025, and we look forward to continuing our momentum!

This past year, we again made outstanding progress on our key initiatives and programs, including the provision of \$16 million in funding for our Discretionary Aviation Grant Program (CDAG), one of the highest levels of funding ever. With those state funds, 38 airports leveraged over \$26 million of local funds and over \$92 million of federal funds to undertake 52 improvement projects totaling \$134 million (not including DEN), the highest annual investment in Colorado's airport system in history. As Colorado's statewide growth continues, our investment will be even more significant in 2025, with nearly \$19 million of grant funding programmed.

But as we look at what we've accomplished, we also continue to look to the future. For the past several years, the Aeronautical Board and our Division have been closely following and supporting the industry's transition to a safe, affordable, fleetwide unleaded aviation gasoline (avgas). While avgas consumption comprises less than 0.66% of the total aircraft fuel used in Colorado, it is the only leaded motor fuel still used in the U.S., and the aviation industry is fully committed to transitioning to a safe unleaded avgas no later than 2030. In 2024, HB24-1235 "Reduce Aviation Impacts on Communities" was signed into law. This incentive-focused bill, which is covered in more detail in this report, includes several provisions to facilitate the unleaded avgas transition here in Colorado, and to encourage airports to be the best neighbors possible to their surrounding communities. It authorizes Division CDAG funding for unleaded avgas infrastructure at eligible airports, permits transitional fuel price subsidy grants to airports to help offset the higher price of the low octane unleaded avgas currently available, and provides state tax incentives for aircraft owners to obtain an unleaded avgas supplemental type certificate for their aircraft. With the additional opportunities enabled by HB24-1235, the CAB and Division look forward continuing our support of and commitment to a lead-free aviation future.

Relatedly, 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 could potentially lower the cost of air travel and make new intrastate markets more viable, and provide potential opportunities for quiet, lead-free general aviation flight training aircraft, all 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 a comprehensive study effort with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to evaluate 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 you'll read, the report under this effort is nearly complete and will inform future steps for us in this arena.

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.

The CAB and our entire Division team are privileged to work with airports and communities statewide, 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 stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to 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'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.

**2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study*

[illegible]

-  **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)

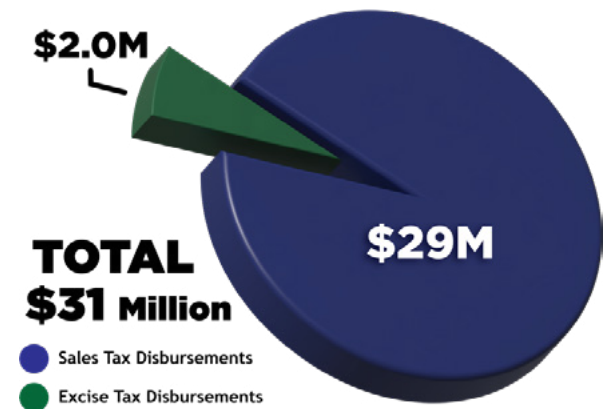
Aviation Fuel Tax Revenue Disbursements

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.

2024 Tax Revenue Disbursements

Combined Excise & Sales Tax Disbursements on Aviation Fuel



2024 Tax Revenue Disbursements

Combined Excise & Sales Tax Disbursements January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Akron-Colorado Plains Regional	\$4,336
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional	\$28,670
Aspen-Pitkin County	\$1,088,178
Boulder Municipal	\$26,177
Brush Municipal	\$322
Buena Vista - Central Colorado Regional	\$7,447
Burlington-Kit Carson County	\$8,348
Cañon City - Fremont County	\$5,307
Colorado Springs - Meadow Lake	\$4,099
Colorado Springs Municipal	\$907,205
Cortez - Montezuma County	\$30,478
Craig - Moffat County	\$6,027
Creede - Mineral County Memorial	\$762
Del Norte - Astronaut Kent Rominger	\$19,830
Delta - Blake Field	\$5,748
Denver - Centennial	\$1,624,040
Denver - Colorado Air & Space Port	\$59,569
Denver - Rocky Mountain Metro	\$552,375
Denver International	\$23,863,019
Durango - La Plata County	\$170,817
Eads	\$260
Eagle - Eagle County Regional	\$721,863
Erie Municipal	\$7,934
Fort Morgan Municipal	\$9,747
Glenwood Springs - Sumers Airpark	\$1,927
Granby-Grand County	\$6,483
Grand Junction Regional	\$291,463
Greeley - Weld County	\$30,081
Gunnison - Crested Butte Regional	\$107,439

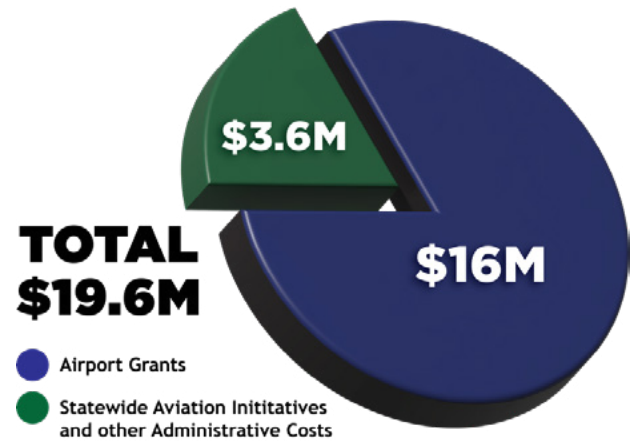
Hayden - Yampa Valley Regional	\$265,145
Holyoke Municipal	\$6,057
Kremmling - McElroy Field	\$15,156
La Junta Municipal	\$6,722
Lamar - Southeast Colorado Regional	\$13,446
Leadville - Lake County	\$11,815
Limon Municipal	\$1,654
Longmont - Vance Brand Municipal	\$4,073
Loveland - Northern Colorado Regional	\$146,013
Meeker-Coulter Field	\$13,609
Monte Vista Municipal	\$4,164
Montrose Regional	\$244,561
Nucla - Hopkins Field	\$5,591
Pagosa Springs - Stevens Field	\$16,396
Paonia - North Fork Valley	\$636
Pueblo Memorial	\$51,227
Rifle-Garfield County	\$329,435
Salida - Harriet Alexander	\$10,623
Steamboat Springs Municipal	\$4,581
Sterling Municipal	\$4,099
Telluride Regional	\$193,939
Trinidad - Perry Stokes	\$2,626
Walden-Jackson County	\$256
Walsenburg - Spanish Peaks Airfield	\$959
Westcliffe - Silver West	\$27,670
Wray Municipal	\$4,217
Yuma Municipal	\$1,539
Grand Total	\$30,976,160

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 \$16 million in CDAG airport grants were awarded in 2024.

2024 Aviation Funding Statewide Aviation Initiatives & Airport Grants



2024 State and Local Aviation Grants Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program (CDAG)

Airport Name	Project	State	Local	Total
Blake Field (Delta)	Relocate Airport Beacon	\$67,500.00	\$7,500	\$75,000.00
Boulder Municipal Airport	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$300,000.00	\$33,334.00	\$333,334.00
Centennial Airport	Airfield Snow Removal Equipment Maintenance Equipment Building Expansion	\$1,260,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$1,400,000.00
Colorado Air & Space Port	West Ramp and Taxiway A Pavement Maintenance	\$500,000.00	\$55,556.00	\$555,556.00
Colorado Plains Regional Airport	Overmatch for General Aviation Apron and Terminal Building Construction	\$1,000,000.00	\$111,112.00	\$1,111,112.00
Denver International Airport	Customer Service Booth Installation	\$800,000.00	\$88,889.00	\$888,889.00
Durango-La Plata County Airport	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$300,000.00	\$33,334.00	\$333,334.00
Grand Junction Regional Airport	Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting Truck	\$900,000.00	\$590,060.00	1,490,060.00
Greeley-Weld County Airport	General Aviation Apron Construction	\$2,000,000.00	\$222,223.00	\$2,222,223.00
Harriet Alexander Airport (Salida)	Design Phase I for Taxiway A Extension	\$282,600.00	\$31,400.00	\$314,000.00
Holyoke Municipal Airport	Design for Runway 14/32 Rehabilitation	\$400,000.00	\$44,445.00	\$444,445.00
Meadow Lake Airport	Overmatch for Airfield Pavement Maintenance Public-Use Water Well Installation	\$208,302.00	\$33,191.00	\$241,493.00
Mineral County Memorial Airport (Creede)	Automated Weather Observing System Installation	\$200,000.00	\$22,223.00	\$222,223.00
Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport	Runway 30L/12R Pavement Maintenance	\$450,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$500,000.00
Springfield Municipal Airport	Taxiway A and Apron Reconstruction	\$1,060,000.00	\$117,779.00	\$1,177,779.00
Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$200,000.00	\$22,222.00	\$222,223.00
Stevens Field (Pagosa Springs)	Replace Automated Weather Observing System Airfield Geotechnical Study	\$187,000.00	\$20,779.00	\$207,779.00
Telluride Regional Airport	Construct Snow Removal Equipment Building	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,550,000.00	\$2,550,000.00
Vance Brand Municipal Airport (Longmont)	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$421,650.00	\$46,850.00	\$468,500.00
Walden-Jackson County Airport	Design for Runway 4/22 Rehabilitation	\$250,000.00	\$27,778.00	\$277,778.00
Wray Municipal Airport	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$238,557.00	\$26,507.00	\$265,064.00
Yuma Municipal Airport	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$166,500.00	\$18,500.00	185,000.00
Grand Totals		State	Local	Total Funding
		\$12,192,109	\$3,293,682	\$15,485,792

2024 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 Pavement Rehabilitation - AIP/BIL	\$264,999	\$265,002	\$4,770,000	\$5,300,001
Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport	Taxiway A Reconstruction Pavement Maintenance	\$217,777	\$217,779	\$3,920,000	\$4,355,556
Centennial Airport	Taxiway C & D Reconstruction/Rehab - AIP/BIL	\$296,888	\$330,224	\$5,644,000	\$6,271,112
Central Colorado Regional Airport (Buena Vista)	Apron Rehabilitation Design	\$9,481	\$9,482	\$170,664	\$189,627
Colorado Air & Space Port	Taxilane Rehabilitation - BIL	\$42,050	\$42,050	\$756,900	\$841,000
Colorado Plains Regional Airport (Akron)	Terminal Apron Construction - Phase I AIP/BIL	\$68,666	\$68,668	\$1,236,000	\$1,373,334
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	Taxiway A Realignment A4-A7	\$250,000	\$1,090,400	\$12,063,600	\$13,404,000
Cortez Municipal Airport	Parking Lot & Access Road Rehabilitation Runway 3/21 Rehabilitation Design	\$34,589	\$34,590	\$1,314,400	\$1,383,579
Durango-La Plata County Airport	Taxiway B Design	\$250,000	\$17,928,000	\$10,822,000	\$29,000,000
Eagle County Regional Airport	Taxiway B Design	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$900,000	\$1,000,000
Erie Municipal Airport	Apron and Taxiway Rehabilitation - AIP/BIL	\$67,738	\$67,742	\$1,219,304	\$1,354,784
Grand Junction Regional Airport	Runway Grading and Drainage Terminal Program Design - BIL	\$425,000	\$573,778	\$8,989,002	\$9,987,780
Greeley-Weld County Airport	General Aviation Ramp Rehab - AIP/BIL	\$68,410	\$68,412	\$1,231,388	\$1,368,210
Lake County Airport (Leadville)	Airfield Pavement Maintenance	\$33,333	\$33,334	\$600,000	\$666,667
Mc Elroy Field (Kremmling)	Apron Rehabilitation - AIP/BIL	\$95,833	\$95,834	\$1,725,000	\$1,916,667
Meadow Lake Airport	Flight Check for REILs Pavement Maintenance - BIL	\$11,301	\$11,305	\$203,443	\$226,049
Monte Vista Municipal Airport	Taxilane Construction - BIL Taxiway Widening	\$58,660	\$58,664	\$1,055,911	\$1,173,235
Montrose Regional Airport	West Airport Entry Road Snow Removal Equipment - BIL	\$217,223	\$217,225	\$3,910,025	\$4,344,473
Northern Colorado Regional Airport (Loveland/Fort Collins)	Terminal Building Construction - BIL Taxiway B & D Rehab (Design & Construction)	\$139,721	\$139,724	\$2,215,000	\$2,794,445
Pueblo Memorial Airport	Apron Rehab Design & Bidding Apron Rehab & New Hangar Design - BIL	\$12,796	\$12,798	\$486,281	\$511,875
Rifle Garfield County Airport	Airport Master Plan Update - BIL	\$32,777	\$32,779	\$590,000	\$655,556
Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport	Taxiway O & D Construction/Reconstruction - AIP/ BIL Unleaded Fuel Tank Installation - BIL	\$327,686	\$605,466	\$8,398,365	\$9,331,517
San Luis Valley Regional Airport (Alamosa)	Snow Removal Equipment (Broom) - AIP/BIL Navigational Aids Replacement	\$38,453	\$38,458	\$1,461,275	\$1,538,186
Southeast Colorado Regional Airport (Lamar)	Taxiway A Reconstruction (Phase II) - AIP/BIL	\$113,832	\$113,835	\$2,049,000	\$2,276,667
Steamboat Springs Municipal Airport	Terminal Area Improvements - BIL	\$36,666	\$36,668	\$660,001	\$733,335
Telluride Regional Airport	South Development Design	\$36,265	\$36,267	\$652,781	\$725,313
Vance Brand Municipal Airport (Longmont)	Wildlife Fencing Construction	\$13,190	\$13,190	\$237,420	\$263,800
Yampa Valley Regional Airport (Hayden)	Taxiway A Rehab, A4 Removal, Runway Blast Pad Construction Terminal Expansion Design - BIL	\$527,777	\$1,005,557	\$13,800,000	\$15,333,334
Yuma Municipal Airport	Taxiway A2 Reconstruction - AIP/BIL	\$46,356	\$46,358	\$834,420	\$927,134

Grand Totals

State	Local	Federal	Total
\$3,787,467	\$23,243,589	\$92,216,180	\$119,247,236

Airport Improvement Program (AIP)	\$2,590,112	\$22,046,207	\$70,295,831	\$94,932,150
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)	\$1,197,355	\$1,197,382	\$21,920,349	\$24,315,086

Statewide Aviation Initiatives & Annual Expenditures

In 2024, there was a grand total of \$3.6 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 - \$113,423

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. The maximum price eligible for reimbursement is \$0.80 per pound and up to \$700 shipping per order. When a material order includes shipping in the per pound cost, up to one dollar per pound is eligible. 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 - \$96,172

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) - \$145,843

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.

2024 Key Statewide Aviation Initiative Expenditures

Airfield Maintenance - Crack Seal Program	\$113,423
Airport Internship Program	\$96,172
Airport Inspections (PCI/5010)	\$145,843
Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS)	
• Airport AWOS Program	\$65,534
• Mountain AWOS Program	\$117,719
Aviation Community Outreach	\$39,547
Aviation Education & Workforce Development	\$459,971
Communications & Publications	\$94,729
Digital Air Traffic Control Program	\$149,093
Surplus Airport Equipment Program	\$582,000
USDA Wildlife Hazard Mitigation	\$386,838

*Figures reflect total 2024 expenditures, not CAB approved allocation amount.

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 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.



Photo above: Airfield maintenance crews at Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport (ITR) in Burlington, Colorado, apply pavement crack sealer to Runway 15/33. In 2024, ITR received \$3,700 in state funding to purchase crack sealing materials. The airport’s crack sealing operations are performed using a machine funded by the Colorado Division of Aeronautics. Photo by Daniel Melia - ITR.

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 67 automated weather observation systems has been developed throughout the State. This network consists of 47 Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS) and 20 Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS). Each AWOS is owned

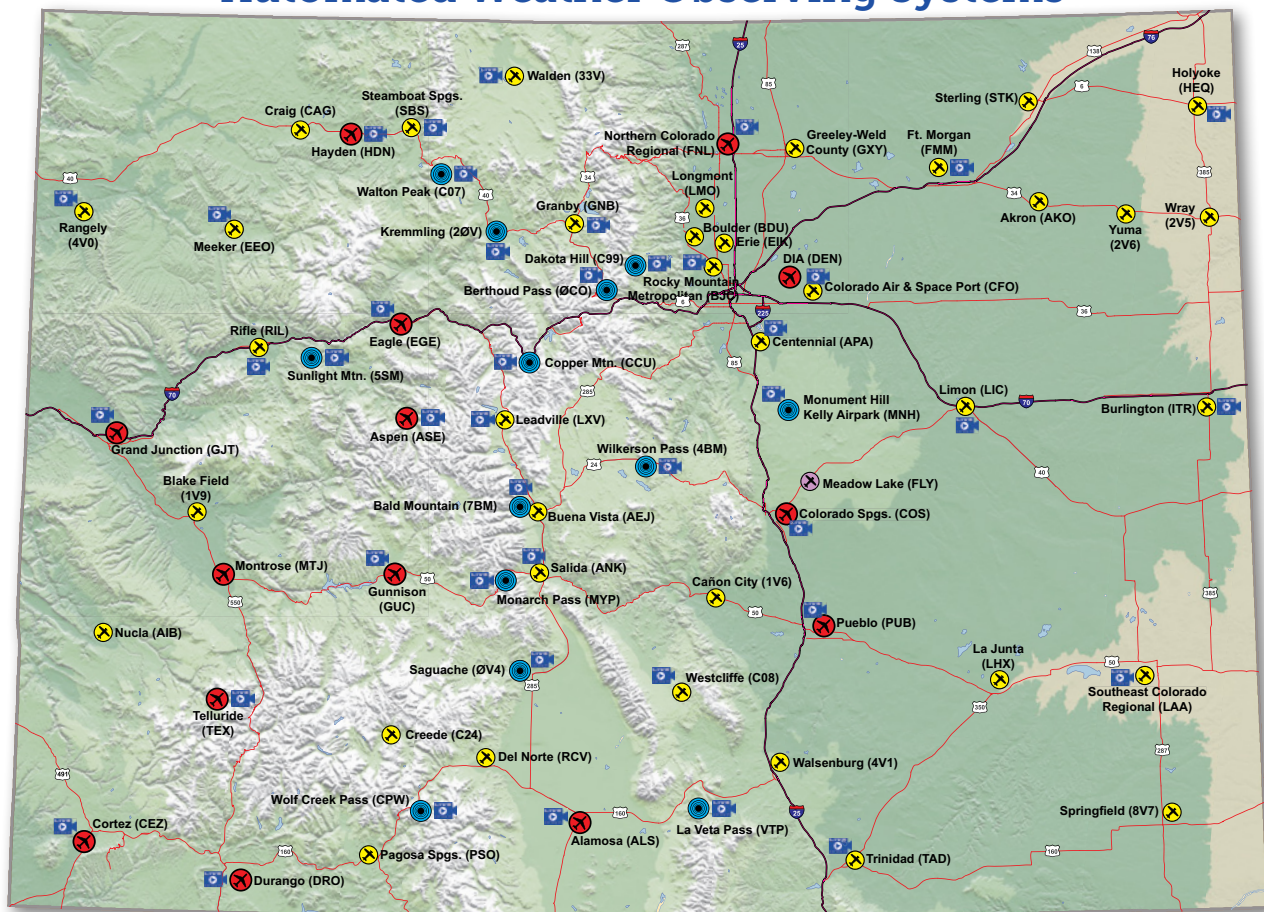
and operated by the Division (13 units - Mountain AWOS Program) or by an individual airport (34 units - Airport AWOS Program) while all of the ASOS units are owned and operated by the FAA or the National Weather Service.

Airport AWOS Maintenance Program - \$65,534

Beyond the Division's Mountain AWOS Program, 34 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

Automated Weather Observing Systems



for the Airport AWOS Maintenance 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 and/or the flying public through integrations with ForeFlight and other pilot resources 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.

Mountain AWOS Program - \$117,719

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 a vendor to provide ongoing maintenance and certification for each site. The Division is also responsible for ensuring the weather information from each unit is disseminated through the National Weather Database to the flying public. The Division contracts with DBT to perform this critical service for all 13 sites.

Aviation Community Outreach - \$39,547

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.

2024 Outreach Events

Colorado Airport Operators Association Winter Conference and Legislative Reception	January 23-24
Buckley Space Force Base Career Day	February 15
Aero Presentation - EAA Chapter 301	February 16
Aero Presentation - EAA Chapter 72	February 17
EAA Chapter 301 Young Eagles Rally	February 17
Public Safety Day Showcase - Wings EOF	February 24
Aerospace Day at the Capitol	March 4
Women in Aviation International Conference	March 21-23
MSU Denver Job Targeting Class Presentation	April 9
Aero Presentation CAP Black Sheep Squadron	April 18
St. Vrain Valley Schools 3 rd Annual Career Fair	April 26
4 th Annual Aviation Career Symposium	May 11
EAA Chapter 301 Young Eagles Rally	May 18
FTG/CFO 40 th Anniversary Celebration Fly-in	May 25
Centennial Airport Runway 5K	June 1
Colorado Airport Operators Association Springs Conference - Vail, CO	June 5-7
EAA Chapter Young Eagles Rally (CFO)	June 8
Boulder Airport Day	June 16
FTG/CFO 40 th Anniversary Celebration Fly-in	June 29
4 th of July Cookout and Fly/Drive-in (LXV)	July 4
EAA Annual Granby Fly-in (GNB)	July 6
EAA AirVenture Oshkosh Air Show	July 20-29
Air N Space-a-Palooza (APA)	August 3
Del Norte Fly-in (RCV)	August 4
Pikes Peak Regional Air Show (COS)	August 17-18
Launching Aerospace Careers/EAA's AeroEducate Webinar	August 19
NASAO Convention & Tradeshow - Pittsburg, PA	September 17-18
AIMS Community College Aviation Day (FNL)	September 14
DCSD Legacy Campus Aviation Advisory Committee Meeting	September 20
Girls in Aviation Day - Sheltair Aviation (BJC)	September 21
Fire Safety Showcase Wings EOF (APA)	September 28
GWS Sumers Airpark (GWS) Celebration	September 28
Pancake Breakfast/Fly-in - Wings EOF (APA)	October 5
AOPA High School Aviation STEM Symposium - Atlanta, GA	November 17-19
Aerospace Frontiers Education Committee	Monthly
Colorado Aerospace CTE Advisory Committee	Monthly
NASAO Education Committee	Monthly

Aviation Education & Workforce Development - \$459,971

In 2024, the CAB approved \$400,000 of FY2025 funding for the Education Grants and Workforce Development Program. This funding allowed the Division to conduct one round of grant solicitations and approvals for fiscal year 2025.

In March 2024, 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.

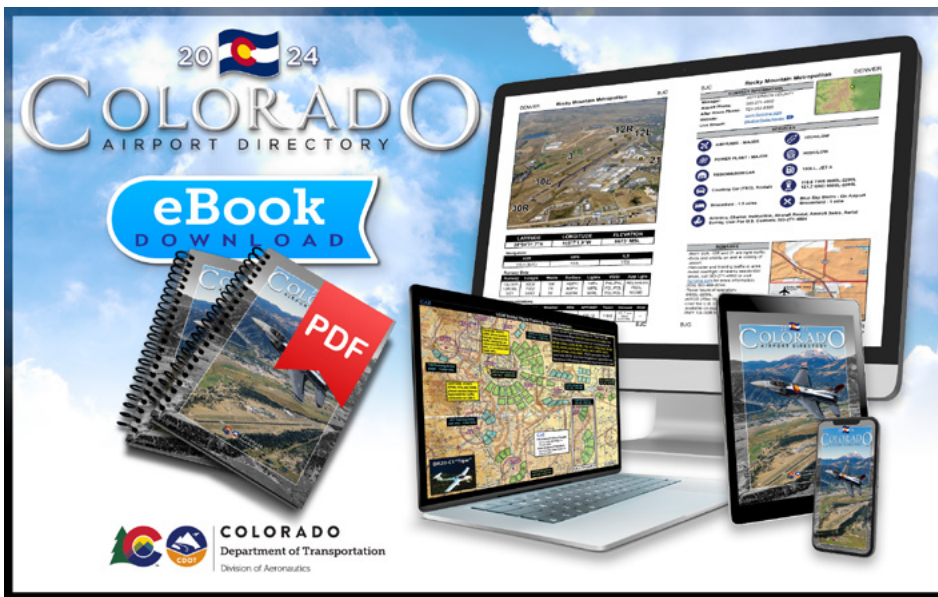
The application period closed on May 1, 2024, with a total of fourteen application submittals. Total requested funds were \$510,024. On June 6th, 2024, the CAB approved the fourteen grant applications in the amount of \$385,130. In 2024, there was a total of \$459,971 in drawdowns for 2024 and 2023 aviation education grants.

2024 Aviation Education/Workforce Development Grant Awards

Aspen School District	Aeronautical Education Equipment & Resources	\$5,892
Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport	Upgrade FAA Certified Flight Simulator Monitors	\$1,800
Colorado Early Colleges - Douglas County North and Castle Rock	Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) Curriculum Equipment	\$39,600
Colorado Early Colleges - Fort Collins	Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) Curriculum Equipment	\$20,512
Colorado Early Colleges - Windsor	Aviation Pathways Education Equipment & Resources	\$2,069
Colorado Mesa University Tech	Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) Curriculum Equipment	\$45,000
Colorado Skies Academy	Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) Curriculum Equipment	\$39,600
Colorado State University Drone Program	Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) Curriculum Equipment	\$37,926
Denver School of Science & Technology	A3Sat CubeSat Emulators	\$23,400
Eagle Aviators, Inc.	Aerodynamics and Computer Science Curriculum Equipment	\$78,256
Falcon AeroLab	Build-a-Plane Curriculum Equipment & Resources	\$50,000
Mandalay Middle School	Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) Curriculum Equipment	\$13,713
Strasburg Highschool	Aviation/STEM Curriculum Equipment & Resources	\$18,421
Warren Tech South	Aviation Maintenance Program	\$8,941
Total		\$385,130



Photo above: In 2024, Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport received a \$1,800 Aviation Education/Workforce Development Grant to upgrade the monitors on its flight simulator. The simulator is open to the public and certified by the Federal Aviation Administration, enabling pilots to log a specified number of training hours. It is also an integral part of the airport's educational tours for school groups. Photo by Daniel Melia - ITR.



Communications & Publications - \$94,729

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 - \$149,093

In 2024, the Division's innovative Digital Air Traffic Control Tower initiative at the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL) paused 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 2025. 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 2025. 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 2025 about the new path of this innovative project.

Surplus Airport Equipment Program - \$582,000

The 2024 Surplus Equipment Sale took place on Thursday, August 29th. Fifteen airports participated in the sale, with equipment available from two Colorado public-use airports. The 2024 Surplus Equipment Program placed 21 pieces of airport-specific equipment at 15 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 15 pieces purchased at 80/20 and 6 pieces at 50/50 this year. In total, the 21 pieces of equipment totaled \$817,500 with the state's portion at \$582,000 and the local funding at \$235,500.

2024 Surplus Airport Equipment Sale

August 29, 2024

Airport Name	Equipment Purchased	State	Local	Total
Akron-Colorado Plains Regional	Front End Loader Dump Truck with Spreader	\$40,000	\$25,000	\$65,000
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional	3000 gal. Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting Truck	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$15,000
Buena Vista-Central Colorado Regional	Chevy Blazer SUV	\$2,000	\$500	\$2,500
Cañon City-Fremont County	Dump Truck (x2) 12' Plow & Hitch	\$26,000	\$14,000	\$40,000
Denver-Colorado Air & Space Port	Dump Truck with Spreader	\$32,000	\$8,000	\$40,000
Durango-La Plata County	Front Mount Airfield Snow Blower	\$48,000	\$12,000	\$60,000
Eagle County Regional	Multifunction Snow Removal Equipment (x3)	\$108,000	\$72,000	\$180,000
Grand Junction Regional	Multifunction Snow Removal Equipment (x2)	\$78,000	\$42,000	\$120,000
Greeley-Weld County	Multifunction Snow Removal Equipment	\$48,000	\$12,000	\$60,000
Leadville-Lake County	Multifunction Snow Removal Equipment	\$48,000	\$12,000	\$60,000
Pagosa Springs-Stevens Field	Dump Truck	\$16,000	\$4,000	\$20,000
Pueblo Memorial	Airfield Paint Striping Truck	\$48,000	\$12,000	\$60,000
Springfield Municipal	Dump Truck with Spreader	\$28,000	\$7,000	\$35,000
Sterling Municipal	Front End Loader Dump Truck with Spreader	\$40,000	\$25,000	\$65,000
Wray Municipal	Front End Loader	\$32,000	\$8,000	\$40,000
Total		\$582,000	\$235,500	\$817,500

USDA-Wildlife Mitigation Program - \$386,838

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.

Photo right: A view from the surplus sale lot at Denver International Airport, where this year's event occurred on August 29, 2024. A total of 21 pieces of gently used, airport-specific equipment were sold to 15 public-use airports across Colorado. The Division funded \$582,000 of the total \$817,500 in sales. Photo by Shahn G. Sederberg - CDOT Aeronautics Division.



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 (2025-2029) accounts for just over and estimated \$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.



Photo above: An aerial view showcases the progress of Taxiway A reconstruction at Southeast Colorado Regional Airport (LAA) in Lamar, Colorado. In 2024, the project's second phase received \$113,832 in state funding, \$113,835 from the City of Lamar, and over \$2 million through the Federal Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

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.

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.
- 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. At the end of 2024, the study report is undergoing peer review and will be published in early 2025, helping inform next steps to continue our momentum in this arena.

Supporting the Transition to Unleaded Aviation Fuels

In 2024, the CAB and Division continued our ardent support of the aviation industry's goal to transition to unleaded aviation fuels (avgas) no later than 2030. Under the umbrella of the [Federal Aviation Administration's Eliminate Aviation Gasoline Lead Emissions \(EAGLE\)](#) initiative, federal agencies, aviation associations, aircraft and powerplant manufacturers, and fuel producers and distributors are working together to make this transition happen as soon as safely possible.

In 2024, significant progress was on this front was made, with several fuel producers continuing work towards a safe, affordable fleetwide 100 octane avgas that is suitable for use in all piston engine aircraft, including high performance aircraft that require this higher octane fuel. During 2024 Centennial Airport continued to be the only Colorado airport to offer unleaded avgas, Swift Fuels' 94UL. This fuel, while suitable for use in many lower powered general aviation aircraft, is not safely usable by high performance aircraft, and is a transitional fuel as development of a broadly available 100 octane fuel continues. In 2025, it is anticipated that there will be rapid continued progress towards an affordable fleetwide 100 octane unleaded avgas that will eventually supplant the current UL94.



Photo left: A piston-powered general aviation aircraft is fueled with Swift Fuel unleaded aviation fuel (UL94) at jetCenters of Denver, located at Centennial Airport (APA). In 2024, APA remained the only airport in Colorado offering unleaded aviation fuel. To encourage its use, the Colorado Aeronautical Board approved the state's first unleaded aviation fuel price subsidy grant for APA.

To support this transition in Colorado, on May 17, 2024 Governor Jared Polis signed [HB24-1235](#) into law, which incentivizes the transition to unleaded avgas in Colorado. Specifically, this bill:

- Provides aircraft owners with a state income tax credit for 50% of the cost of obtaining the necessary FAA supplemental type certificate (STC) for an aircraft to use an approved unleaded avgas, up to \$500 beginning in tax year 2025.
- Allocates the lesser of 10% or \$1.5 million of the Division's annual discretionary aviation grant program funding to airport projects that support the transition to unleaded avgas.
- Specifically provides grant program eligibility for unleaded avgas fueling infrastructure projects, and transitional fuel price subsidy grants to help put the higher cost of unleaded avgas on par with the current leaded avgas cost, until unleaded avgas costs decrease as new fuels are approved and production ramps up.

On June 7, 2024, the CAB moved quickly to leverage the bill's provisions, and approved the first unleaded avgas price subsidy grant to Centennial Airport. This \$300,000 grant will put the retail cost of unleaded avgas roughly on par with that of 100LL for about one year, incentivizing the use of the airport's currently available UL94 fuel by aircraft owners whose lower-powered aircraft are able to use this transitional fuel. This marked the first state aviation agency cost-subsidy grant in the nation to support the transition to unleaded avgas.

The CAB will consider several additional unleaded transition infrastructure and price subsidy grants at several airports in 2025, and as progress is made towards a safe, affordable fleetwide unleaded avgas, we look forward to continuing our support of this transition in Colorado.

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 six Colorado communities, with \$34.7 million in outstanding loan balances as of December 31, 2024.

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, 2024, the total value of the SIB revolving loan fund, including forecast accrued interest, was approximately \$40.6 million. This total value includes \$9.5 million of funding transferred from the Division's Aviation Fund (Fund 160) into the SIB account to support specific projects. This \$9.5 million is planned to be transferred back into Fund 160 at a future date.

Airports with SIB Loan Balances

Centennial Airport
Colorado Springs Airport
Durango-La Plata County Airport
Grand Junction Regional Airport
Rocky Mountain Metro Airport
Telluride Regional Airport

**Current SIB loan interest rate 3.5%. Listing current as of December 31, 2024*



Photo above: The Telluride Regional Airport (TEX) is utilizing a \$10 million State Infrastructure (SIB) loan to fund the construction of a transient aircraft hangar and a snow removal equipment storage building.

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 Cortez Municipal Airport (CEZ). CEZ saw a 29.25% increase in commercial airline service passenger activity*. According to the 2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study, Cortez Municipal Airport is linked to 111 jobs producing nearly \$6 million in payroll, and \$15 million in overall business revenue.

Commercial Airline Service Passenger Activity

CY 2023*

Airport Name	Enplanements	% Change
Denver International	37,863,967	12.11%
Colorado Springs Municipal	1,192,123	10.38%
Aspen-Pitkin County Airport	309,411	3.19%
Montrose Regional	244,266	4.79%
Grand Junction Regional	243,808	9.98%
Eagle County Regional	214,998	6.57%
Durango-La Plata County	226,950	5.56%
Yampa Valley Regional	206,236	4.64%
Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional	49,588	-4.71%
Alamosa-San Luis Valley Regional	11,319	12.66%
Telluride Regional	10,826	-7.07%
Cortez Municipal	9,045	29.25%
Pueblo Memorial	3,359	-57.93%
Northern Colorado Regional	3,112	-76.17%
TOTAL PASSENGERS	40,589,008	11.80%

*Data Provided by the Federal Aviation Administration. *CY 2024 data will be available June 2025.



Cortez Municipal Airport (CEZ) | September 24, 2024 | Shahn G. Sederberg - CDOT



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.

2024 CAB Meetings

January 23, 2024 - Denver, CO
Colorado Airport Operators Winter Conference
State & Local Grant Hearing

April 18, 2024 - Denver, CO
Federal Match Grant Hearing

June 6, 2024 - Vail, CO
Colorado Airport Operators Spring Conference
General Meeting

August 20, 2024 - Watkins, CO
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room
CAB Workshop

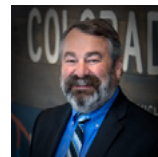
August 21, 2024 - Watkins, CO
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room
General Meeting

October 16, 2024 - Watkins, CO
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room
General Meeting

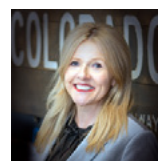
December 11, 2024 - Watkins, CO
Joseph H. Thibodeau Room
General Meeting



Kent Holsinger, Chair
Western Slope Governments



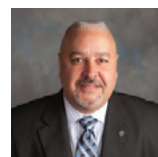
Mark Van Tine, Vice-Chair
Aviation Interests-at-large



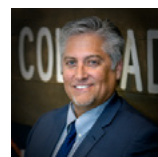
Trimbi Szabo, Secretary
Pilot Organizations



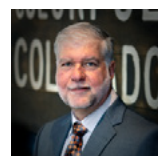
Daniel Melia
Eastern Slope Governments



Chaz Tedesco
Eastern Slope Governments



Kenneth Maenpa
Western Slope Governments



Steve Lee
Statewide Association of Airport
Managers



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
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