

Nebraska Association of Airport Officials

Airport Sponsors, Consultants, and Users:

Once again, it's that time of year when we give some thought to the successes and changes, we have seen over the last year and give some thought to plans for the future.

If you will remember from last year's letter, in 2024 the Nebraska Aeronautics Commission allocated over \$4.6M in state funds for 37 different projects at 33 different airports across the state. While a number of these were funded as state aid projects with 90% funding, 27 projects received 2% funds to assist with their Sponsor share, supporting over \$76M in federal investment in our state's airports. This is a significant change from what we have seen as little as 10 years ago, when state allocations totaled less than \$200,000. While we are still waiting for the individual airport totals for 2025 to be confirmed, with this year's letter we know that the total funds available to the commission were \$3.7M. Not as much as last year but with revenues from aviation sales taxes being variable, once again funding far exceeded the totals we have seen in the past number of years. We will continue to watch both sales tax and fuel tax revenues available to the Commission and hope to be able to identify funding trends with more data in the coming years.

Most importantly, we know that without many of you and our lobbyist Mueller-Robak, we would not be where we are had you not been diligent in contacting your senators or taken the time to testify in support of NAAO's efforts. To this we continue to applaud and thank you.

Looking to the Division and the Goals set by the Director Borrell, we can't help but think that we are continuing to move in the right direction within this organization. After the building of the prioritization model and seeing it in action last October, the Division reconvened the development team. They reviewed the system, considered last year's results and sought input from the airports and consultants. At the end of that review process, the Division adjusted the matrix to better suit our state system's needs. Using the adjusted system this October showed the possible need for a few more small tweaks, but overall, the matrix is working well and providing us with a repeatable, defensible model to work with.

While the Division continues to be busy with record numbers of grants, they are also continuing to look to the future and thinking about other areas they can be helpful to our airports. You can be sure that as the Division moves forward, NAAO, with your input, will continue to help them in any way possible to identify areas of need and help them define solutions.

As we look to this coming year, we would like to remind you to be active in engaging your local administrations, leaders, senators and communities. While NAAO continues to be able to speak on Nebraska Airport's behalf in Lincoln and throughout the state the real engagement is you at home pushing the benefits and progress that your airports have at the local level.

In closing, as always, enclosed is our membership form. We thank all of our past members for their support and would like to encourage new members to join us. We represent all airports in Nebraska, but can only do so with your backing. Thank you for a great year of success.

Nathan Masten, KLXN, President

Sandi Decker, KFBY, Vice-President

Dorothy Andersen, KHDE, Secretary

Justin Gosnell, KLBF, Member at Large

Jon Large, Olsson, Immediate Past President