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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY OF CHANGES
2026 STATE AID GRANT PROGRAM & PRIORITIZATION METHODOLOGY OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT)
Division of Aeronautics

SUMMARY OF CHANGES – 2026 STATE AID GRANT PROGRAM

Changes to the program are in **bold** text

I. Section I: Program Overview and Intent

a. Changed allocation amount to **$300,000** for Primary Airports with scheduled, non-subsidized, commercial service

b. Added **NOTE** that the State Aid Grant Program is divided into three (3) allocation categories

- State Aid Grant only grants
- Federal Matching grants
- Primary Airport Allocations

II. Section II: Eligibility

a. Added **that airports must have a current state license done in accordance with Title 17, Chapter I of the Nebraska Administrative Code**

b. Under Section C, ELIGIBLE UNDER THIS PROGRAM, added **taxilanes, and site clearing of new land**

c. Under Section D, NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER THIS PROGRAM, added **Emergency Repairs.** Added **Pavement Projects that exceed $500,000 that do not have preliminary engineering**

d. Removed **f. Paving access roads and parking lots and other landside needs**

III. Section III: Funding Limits, changed to clarify the following percentages:

a. 90% State Funds, added **State Aid Only Grant Projects**

b. 50% State Funds, added **State Aid Only Grant Projects, as well as access roads and parking lots**

c. Added **Preliminary Engineering for State Aid Only pavement projects over $500,000: up to 75% state funds, 25% sponsor funds**

d. Added **Federal Matching Grant Projects: up to 50% of local match**

e. Changed **state aid only grant funds limits to $300,000 per airport, per fiscal year, except runway rehabilitation/reconstruction.**

f. Changed state matching funds requests allocated for a federal project are limited to **$200,000**

g. Changed that federally funded projects with the same scope of work can receive funding for different phases (e.g. engineering and construction) but the total funding is capped at **$200,000**

IV. Section V: Application

a. Under B. DEADLINES AND ALLOCATION DATES, 2., added verbiage: For State Aid only, **the airport sponsor or representative** should plan on attending the October meeting in-person or on-line to represent the project
b. Under B. DEADLINES AND ALLOCATION DATES, 5., changed to read: State funds will be automatically withdrawn, without prejudice, if a state project does not have an executed construction contract **eleven (11) months** after the allocation of state funds

V. *Section VI: How the Program Works*, changed and/or added the following verbiage:

a. C. If a proposed project DOES NOT MEET **ELIGIBILITY**
b. D. Added **COMMISSION APPROVAL**. The Commission must approve all **grant funding**
c. F. ENGINEER, ARCHITECT OR CONSULTANT, 1., Added **For consultant selection, follow AC150/5100-14E Architectural, Engineering and Planning Consultant Services for Airport Grant Projects. Aeronautics requires that the sponsor hire a qualified consultant.**
d. F. ENGINEER, ARCHITECT OR CONSULTANT, 2., added **Follow the Aeronautics-approved sample contract format**
e. I. STATE GRANT AGREEMENT, 1., added Bids **and sponsor award action**
f. J. EXECUTED CONTRACT, changed as-built plan submission from **one set to one .pdf**
g. L. PROJECT CLOSE OUT, added **1b. CAD drawing of pavement layout and joining**
h. L. PROJECT CLOSE OUT, **5. Final Payments.** Added **Prior to final payment, it shall be ensured that all applicable Nebraska Department of Labor requirements have been satisfied.**

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR PRIORITIZATION METHODOLOGY OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Changes to the operating instruction are in **bold** text

VI. Section 1: Operating Instructions

a. Added the word **disclaimer** to the first sentence in the first paragraph.

VII. Section 1: Operating Instructions

a. Revised graphic of the Aeronautics Project Prioritization Matrix for clarity.

VIII. Section 1: Operating Instructions

a. Revised graphic shows that the weighted scoring has been removed from the matrix. Although weighted scoring has not been removed from the scoring system, only the maximum point values are now shown on the matrix to avoid confusion.

IX. Section 9: Alignment with State Airport System Plan (SAS)

a. First paragraph. Changed 'project' to 'airport' in the following sentence: Does **airport** align with the SASP to meet or exceed the minimum standards as indicated in the SASP…

X. Section 10: Special Considerations: Part A: Quantitative Special Considerations

a. Benefit/Impact: Revised the intent of the section. Removed sentence: "The intent of this section is for the person filling out the state grant application to "sell" the airport." Replaced with: "The intent of this section is for the **sponsor to "sell" the project** as **a benefit to** the airport."

XI. Section 10: Special Considerations: Part A: Quantitative Special Considerations

a. Paragraph g - Regional Growth, Demonstration Categories
b. Removed "All 7 categories demonstrated ….. 20 Points" And replaced with **"7 or 8 categories** demonstrated …. 20 Points".

XII. Section 10: Special Considerations: Part A: Quantitative Special Considerations

a. Added paragraph "h. **Airport Zoning** – **Describe your current airport zoning regulations or your relationship with the applicable county or airport zoning authority. Include a summary of the existing zoning framework governing the airport and surrounding areas.**