

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Nebraska Airport Managers –

I wanted to reach out to you to let you know that your NDOT-Aeronautics office is still working for you during this COVID-19 pandemic. These are challenging times. Your Aeronautics office is open and focusing on providing services to assist you. I receive daily briefings from a variety of sources that I'm happy to share with you. I don't have all the answers you may want but I hope to have some. Also, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on our staff if you have specific questions or requests for service.

Here's what I know so far:

1) Aeronautics Office

- a. We are open for business! NDOT's priorities in managing this situation are #1 Public Safety, #2 Business As Usual (as much as possible), and #3 Keep Nebraska's Economy Running
- b. Most of us are working remotely, at least part time but we ARE working! Phones are forwarded as necessary but e-mail will be the very best way to reach us
- c. In person meetings and travel have been cancelled for now. We have the ability to set up conference calls and video conferences. Please let us know if you need to "meet" with us
- d. Our annual airport inspections started this week. We are still working through the logistics of the inspections that will require an overnight by our inspectors. When we come to your airport we will ask your help in "social distancing". The LAST thing that I want is for Aeronautics staff to inadvertently spread the virus to more rural areas!
- e. NAVAIDs techs and our own Airport Managers work mostly on their own. They will continue their normal work but, again, we ask your help in ensuring "social distancing" when you see them

2) Airport Improvement Program Grants

- a. We have been working closely with FAA to keep this year's grant and construction programs working normally as much as possible
- b. There are rumors that the grant application deadline (May 18) and date to notify FAA of your intent to take your entitlement funding (April 1) will be delayed. These deadlines *may* be pushed back but have not yet. At this point, please continue to work toward completing your grant application by May 18.
- c. ALL this year's (FY20) grants will be 100%. THERE WILL BE NO LOCAL MATCH. If you have already been issued a grant it will either be amended or an additional grant issued.
- d. Every airport will get their "minimum" entitlement amounts. Non-primary airports with 8,000 – 10,000 enplanements will get \$600,000.

Kyle Schneweis, P.E., Director

Department of Transportation

1500 Highway 2
PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

dot.nebraska.gov

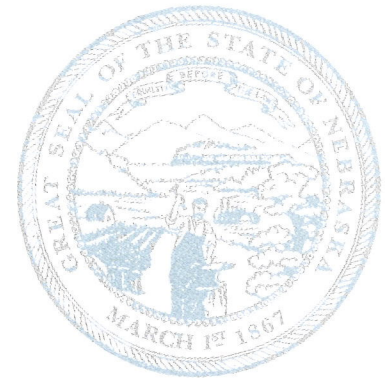
OFFICE 402-471-4567
FAX 402-479-4325
NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

Aeronautics Division

3431 Aviation Road, Ste. 150
PO Box 82088
Lincoln, NE 68501
OFFICE 402-471-2371
FAX 402-471-2906

Navigational Aids Office

Kearney Municipal Airport
5065 Airport Road
Kearney, NE 68847
OFFICE 308-865-5696
FAX 308-865-5697



3) Additional Funding for Air Carrier Airports

- a. In addition to the AIP grants which have already been programmed there will be additional grant funding available for ALL NPIAS airports
- b. These funds can be used for ANYTHING that "airport revenues" can be spent on, not just AIP-eligible projects
- c. These funds will be allocated according to a couple of different formulas
 - i. \$3.7 million will be allocated to you based on your percentage of national TOTAL enplanements
 - ii. An additional \$3.7 million will be allocated based on 1) your percentage of national TOTAL debt service and 2) your ratio of unrestricted reserves to debt service
 1. The financial information is taken from your FAA Form 127 which is generally due annually in April. FAA is asking that you update this form now
- d. We don't know, yet, how these funds will be distributed and what the application will be. However, there is an expectation that these funds will be made available quickly so stay tuned
- e. TSA has also been allocated additional funds to pay for cleaning and adjustments to their checkpoints. If you have expended any funds for this type of work, keep your receipts to request reimbursement from TSA

4) Additional Funding for General Aviation Airports

- a. In addition to the AIP grants which have already been programmed, GA airports will get additional grant funding that can be used for ANYTHING that "airport revenues" can be spent on, not just AIP-eligible projects.
- b. \$100 million will be allocated to GA airports based on their NPIAS classification
- c. We don't know, yet, exactly how these funds will be allocated or what the application process will be

5) Operational Impacts

- a. Traffic is way down and our users and tenants are asking to change their hours of operation, park airplanes, etc.
- b. Please remember that your grant assurances are still in effect and all the normal rules apply
- c. I've attached guidance from the FAA on answering some of the most common questions about operational impacts during this pandemic
- d. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call Aeronautics or your FAA project manager

6) Financial Impacts to Tenants

- a. Some FBOs and other tenants have requested waivers of rents and other fees
- b. Again, all the regular grant assurances and rules about how you set your rates and charges and leasing policies continue to apply
- c. The CARES Act which provides these additional resources to airports is intended to help airports manage their budgets under this drastically reduced revenue situation
- d. CARES Act funding for airports IS NOT intended to be passed through to airport tenants to offset their losses
 - i. The CARES Act does include provisions for grants and loans through the Small Business Administration. Airport tenants should seek relief through these programs.

Additional guidance comes through almost daily so we'll continue to keep you informed as things change. Please reach out to us to let us know how Aeronautics can help you during this challenging time. We will do our best to be valuable resource to you.

Take care and be well, everyone!

*Ann B. Richart, AAE
Director of Aeronautics
Nebraska Department of Transportation*