Division of Aeronautics

Director – Jeremy Borrell



Photo Courtesy of MC Schaff

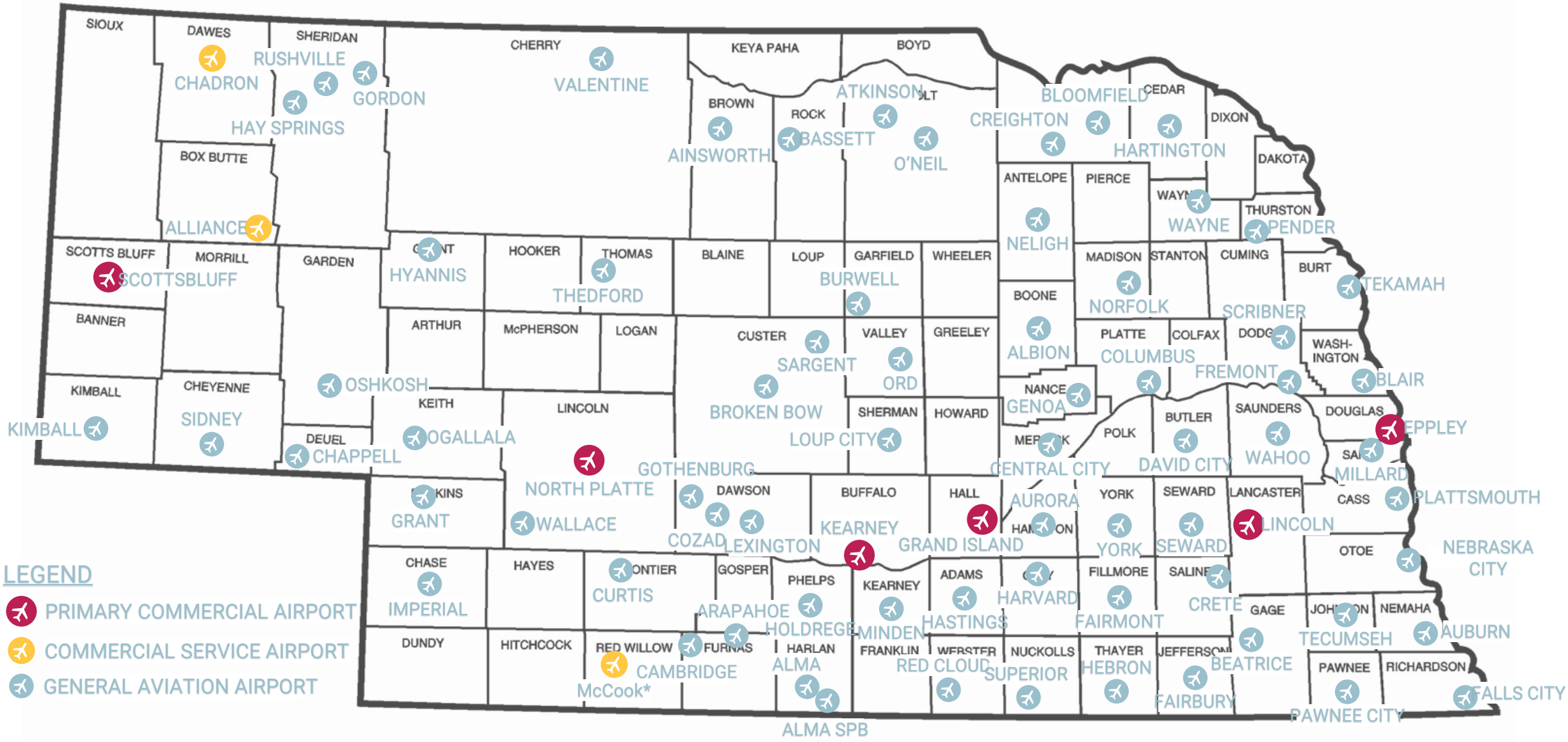
Agenda

- Aeronautics Background
- Airport Funding Basics
- Aeronautics Commission
- Aeronautics Division Efforts
- Cross Organizational Project Highlights
  - Billy G. Ray Field (CNP)
  - Arapahoe Municipal Airfield (37V)
  - Harvard (08K) and Fairmont (FMZ) State Airfields
- Questions

Division of Aeronautics Vision Statement

- “A dynamic aviation system which enhances quality of life through infrastructure and services that meet the diverse and evolving needs of all Nebraskans”

NEBRASKA'S PUBLIC-USE AIRPORTS



Division of Aeronautics Background

- Nebraska Revised Statute Chapter 3
  - » “General supervision over aeronautics within this state.”
  - » “Empowered and directed to encourage, foster, and assist in the development of aeronautics in this state and encourage the establishment of airports and other air navigation facilities.”
- Department of Aeronautics and Department of Roads merged in 2017 forming the Nebraska Department of Transportation (LB 339)
- State-Owned Aircraft
  - » 2014 King Air C90 GTx
- State-Owned Airfields (3 Active)
  - » Fairmont, Harvard, and Scribner State Airfields

DIVISION FUNCTIONAL AREAS



Airport Services

- ✓ Grant Support
- ✓ Engineering Services
- ✓ Airport Inspection & Licensing
- ✓ Airport Sponsor Support
- ✓ System Planning



Flight Services

- ✓ State Government Transportation
- ✓ Aircraft, Crew, and Maintenance Scheduling
- ✓ Aviation Education and Outreach
- ✓ Emerging Technology



Navigational Aids

- ✓ Non-Federal Navigation Aids – Maintained per FAA Requirements
- ✓ Automated Weather Observing Systems – Maintained per FAA Requirements
- ✓ System Planning



State-Owned Airfields

- ✓ Operate and Maintain 3 State Owned Airfields
- ✓ Fairmont, Harvard, Scribner
- ✓ Community engagement

Division of Aeronautics Funding Sources

- Aircraft Fuel Tax (est. 1945, last changed 1985)
  - » Aviation Fuel (Avgas) - $0.05/gal
  - » Jet A - $0.03/gal
- Aircraft Sales and Use Tax
  - » Aeronautics Capital Improvement Fund
  - » LB 727 (2023 Legislative Session)
- Aeronautics Administrative Costs funded by NDOT
  - » LB 138 (2023 Legislative Session)
- State Owned Aircraft and Airfields budgets include restricted funds

Public-Use Airport Funding

- Federal Contribution (Airport must be included in NPIAS)
  - Airport Improvement Program (AIP) – Entitlement and Discretionary
  - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – Entitlement (AIG) and Discretionary (ATP)
  - Congressionally Directed Spending
- State Contribution
  - State-Aid Grant Program (Federal Match, State-Aid Only, Primary Airport Grants)
- Local Contribution
  - Airport Revenues (Rents, Fuel Sales, Agricultural Leases)
  - Community Budgeted Funds
  - Bonding
  - Passenger Facility Charges (Commercial Service Airports)

Aeronautics Division Efforts

- State Aid Grant Program and Prioritization
  - Oct. 2025 was second year of our modified State-Aid Grant Program
  - $8.2M Allocated between Federal Match and State-Aid Only Grants (2024 & 2025)
  - Program is reviewed and refined annually to address changing infrastructure needs and funding climate
- Black Cat Grant Management Software Integration
  - Project and Grant Management System that empowers and connects Airports/NDOT/FAA
- Pavement Preservation Pilot Program
  - Crack and joint repair with limited painting and seal coat.
  - Critically important program to reduce future infrastructure costs ($1 vs $4)
- Emerging Technology
  - Uncrewed Aircraft Systems
  - Advanced Air Mobility
  - Airport Electrification

Nebraska Aeronautics Commission



Michael Cook

2017-2027



Tom Trumble

2018-2028



Jon Large

2024-2029



Dr. Scott Tarry
(Chairman)

2020-2030



Edward Dunn

2025-2031

Billy G. Ray Field (CNP)

Chappell, NE

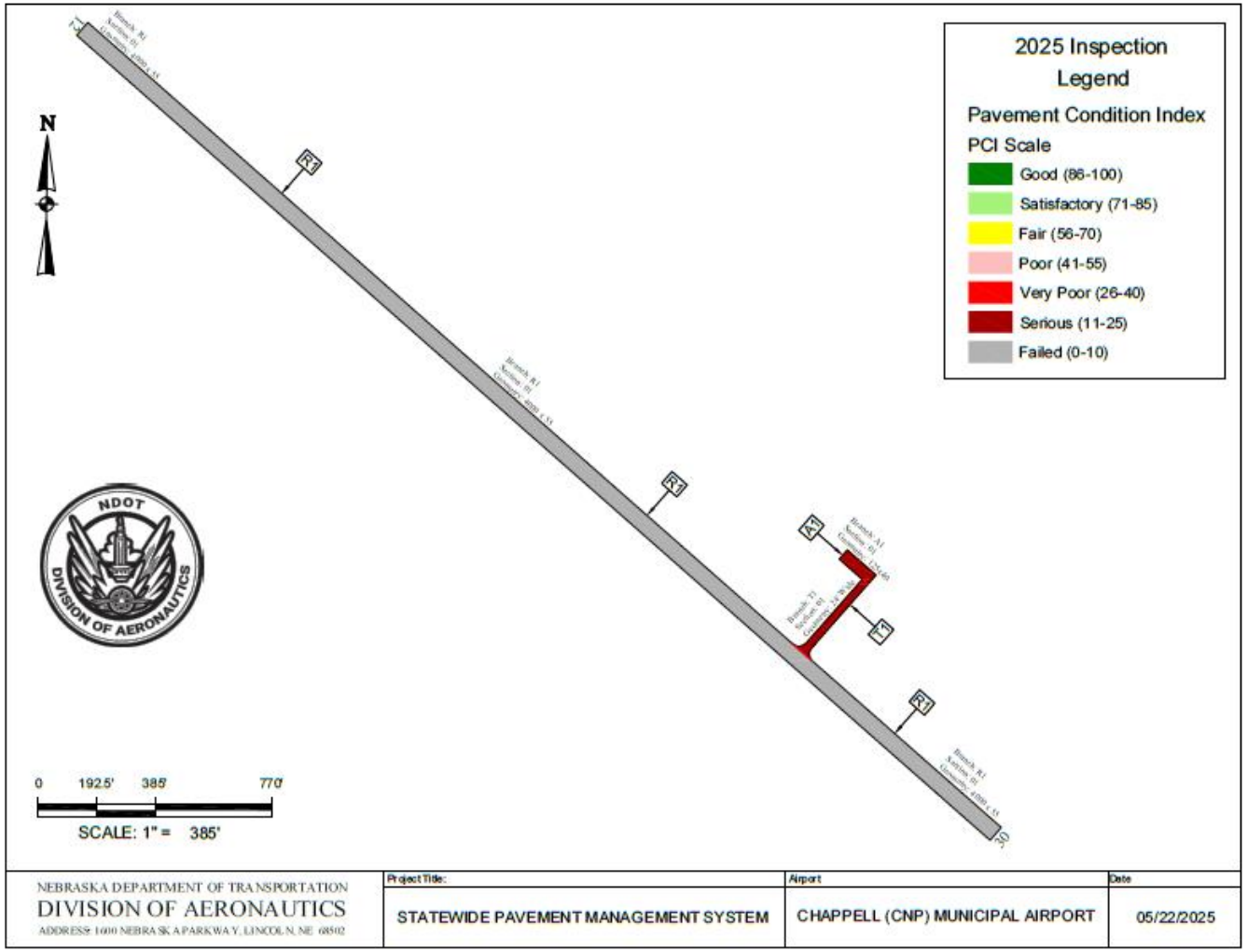
- Funding Constraints
- Creative Solutions
- Existing Conditions
- Completed Project
- What did we learn?



Existing Conditions (CNP)

- Pavement Condition Index (PCI) 0-100 Scale
- CNP Runway scored 9.8 (Failed) in 2025





Existing Conditions (CNP)



Completed Project

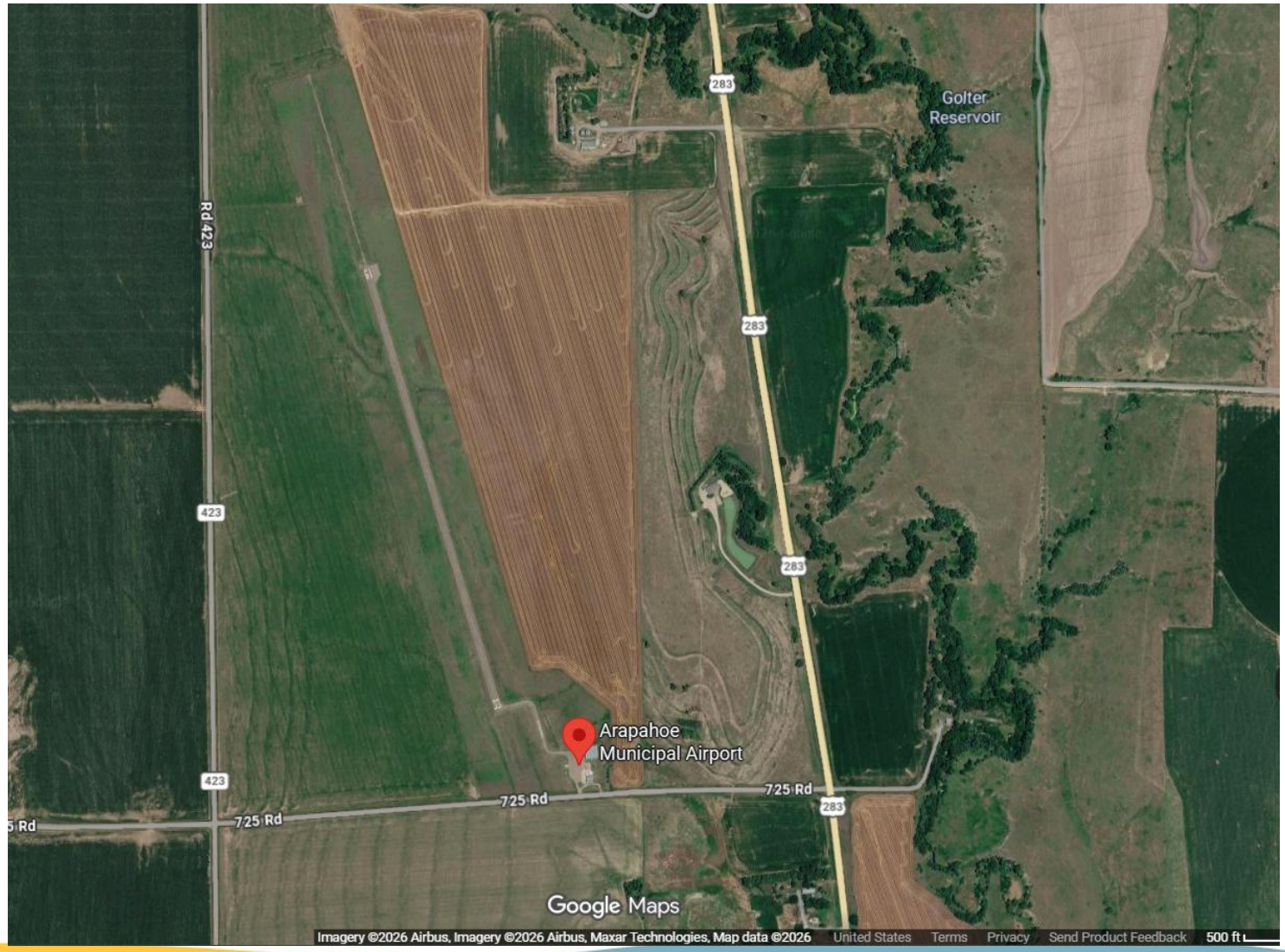




Arapahoe Municipal Airport (37V)

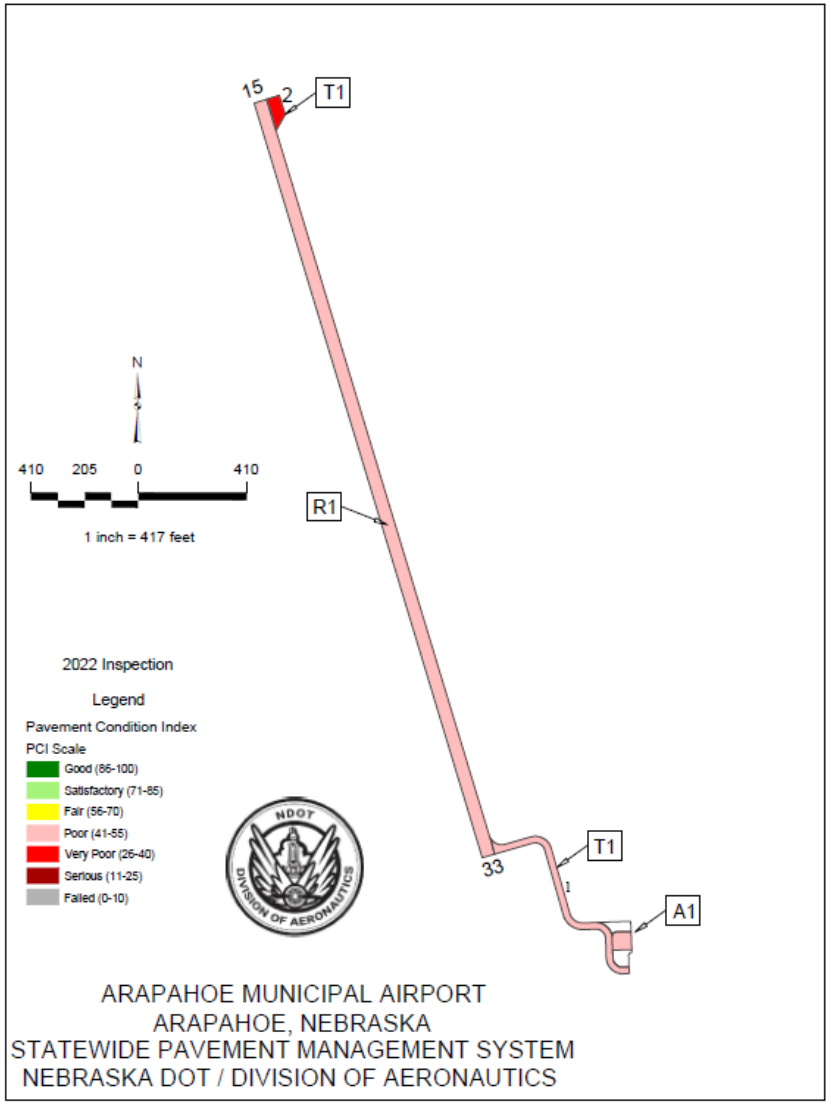
Arapahoe, NE

- Funding Constraints
- Creative Solutions
- Existing Conditions
- Completed Project
- What did we learn?



Existing Conditions (37V)

- 37V PCI Scores across all surfaces varied from 40 - 53 (Very Poor - Poor) in 2022
- Pavement rehabilitation project has been under development for 12 years
- Airport was identified as a candidate for Pavement Preservation Program funds



Project Progress

- Crack fill and sealant application underway





Completed Project

- Crack fill, sealant application, and paint complete



Harvard (08K) and Fairmont (FMX)

State-Owned Airfields

- Previously Army Airfields used to train World War II aviators
- Transferred from DOD to State of Nebraska following the war
- Large quantity of pavement to maintain
  - » Efforts underway to “right-size” the fields while maintaining a safe airport environment
- Combination of Federal and State funding
  - » Employing cost saving measures wherever possible
- Utilization of NDOT Materials and Research testing to reduce consultant costs
  - » Implementation of tracking methods to ensure that costs are tracked and reimbursed with Aeronautics operational funds

Impact of Airports

- Public Use Airports are Economic Engines for Communities
  - » $8.6B - Annual Economic Impact
  - » 90K+ Jobs Supported by Airports
  - » Businesses seek out communities with good airport facilities
- Access to the National And Global Airspace Systems
- Supports Nebraska’s Agricultural Productivity
  - » Aerial Application
  - » Survey and Research Activities
- Emergency Access for Communities
  - » Emergency Medical Flights & Physician Access to Rural Nebraska
  - » Wildfire Response - Single Engine Air Tankers (SEAT) Bases
  - » 2012 & 2019 Floods

Questions?

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Department of Transportation

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