

PIREPS

Wayne Airport Selected as the 2025 NDOT Aeronautics General Aviation Airport of the Year

Wayne demonstrates a strong commitment to community relations by providing quality pilot services, advancing aviation education, and actively promoting aviation across northeast Nebraska.

Pilot services include self-service 100LL Avgas, courtesy cars, and on-field weather reports via AWOS. An expansion is underway to add full-service Jet A fuel through the airport authority's acquisition of a Jet A fuel truck now in certification. The airport also completed a 2-bay executive hangar, fully leased prior to completion, reflecting demand and strategic investment.

The airport serves as a regional hub for aviation promotion and public engagement. It hosted the Wayne America Fly-In, an event that brought STOL drag races and National STOL competitions to Wayne, attracting participants from across the U.S. and Canada. LCG generates widespread aviation education and safety outreach through social media and live streaming reaching over 100,000 viewers, along with continued engagement through Wayne Chicken Days, fly-in breakfasts, movie nights, live music, and other community-focused aviation events.

Educational is a defining strength of the airport. LCG supported the creation of an "Introduction to Aviation" course at Wayne State College, hosted at the airport and incorporating a Redbird FMX flight simulator. The airport also supports aviation education through a local flying club aircraft, EAA Young Eagle Rallies, and sponsorship of youth to EAA camps.



Photo by Anna Pongo, NDOT
Pictured (l to r) - Andrea Henderson, Lisa Meyer, Travis Meyer, Natalia Meyere, and Jeremy Borrell.

The airport maintains strong partnerships with aviation organizations and is home to EAA Chapter 291. LCG also helped establish the Northeast Nebraska Aviators Flying Club, an AOPA Network Club, and will host the 2026 Air Coupe Convention Fly-In, reinforcing its regional aviation leadership. Wayne Municipal Airport benefits from and actively cultivates strong community and governmental support, ensuring the airport remains a protected, valued, and integrated public asset.

The City of Wayne has consistently demonstrated commitment to the airport through compatible land-use zoning that protects airport operations and through active participation in airport governance. A dedicated City Liaison attends all Airport Authority meetings, ensuring coordination, transparency, and shared stewardship of the facility.

Community involvement is a cornerstone of airport success. Airport events routinely draw extensive volunteer support, including assistance from surrounding communities during large-scale aviation events. Volunteers contribute throughout planning, operations, and cleanup, underscoring the airport's strong civic relationships and local pride. This support has translated into lasting engagement, with key volunteers continuing their service through formal roles on the Airport Authority.

Letters of support from community leaders and airport users further reinforce the airport's positive standing and broad recognition as a vital contributor to economic development, education, and aviation advancement in Nebraska. ■

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Lincoln Airport Selected as the 2025 NDOT Aeronautics Part 139 Airport of the Year

Lincoln Airport (LNK) exceeds expectations in community relations by combining outstanding aviation services with meaningful public engagement and education. Through two full-service FBOs, LNK provides exceptional amenities and operational support for general aviation, corporate, and charter traffic. Services include full fuel and line support, hangars, charter handling, crew cars, top notch pilot and passenger amenities, and world-class maintenance and repair services, reinforcing LNK's role as a national aviation services hub.



Pictured (l to r) - Samantha Montante, Chad Lay, Anthony Dudas, DeWayne Herrman, and Jeremy Borrell.

In 2025, the airport dramatically elevated its public presence by hosting free community events, expanding national outreach through conference presentations, and delivering transformational commercial air service growth with new Breeze Airways and American Airlines routes. LNK further distinguished itself by commissioning a University of Nebraska–Lincoln economic impact study confirming more than \$1 billion in annual regional impact, a powerful tool used to educate the public and decision-makers on aviation's value. Robust educational programs, school partnerships, and hands-on experiences with EAA and Women in Aviation underscore LNK's outstanding commitment to workforce development, inclusion, and inspiring the next generation.

LNK's support of major community events and hosting of nonprofit activities and joint meetings demonstrate its role as a trusted community asset. Operational excellence remains a cornerstone, with in-house preventative maintenance ensuring high standards for cleanliness, safety, and readiness. LNK also maintains an exceptional weather-response record, having never closed due to snow, and routinely conducts severe weather preparedness exercises. Along with new airline service, major tenant attraction, and growing national recognition, these efforts position Lincoln Airport as a model of resilience, stewardship, and exceptional community support. ■

LNK exemplifies excellence in community support through strong partnerships, proactive leadership, and sustained investment in infrastructure and operations. The airport is deeply integrated into the Lincoln community, maintaining partnerships with the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, local military organizations, regional business groups, and collaborative relationships with the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, and state and federal partners. These partnerships are highlighted by the largest infrastructure project in the airport's history—the nearly \$100 million rehabilitation of Runway 18/36, fully funded through coordinated efforts and underway since late 2025.



Valentine Miller Field Apron Expansion Selected as 2025 NDOT Aeronautics Project of the Year

The Apron Expansion Project at Miller Field (VTN) is a transformative investment that significantly elevates the airport's operational capacity, safety, and long-term functionality. By constructing a new 400'x190' apron and adding four new aircraft tie-downs, the project optimizes aircraft parking, improves circulation, and supports increased aviation activity. Strategic relocation of existing tie-downs and the addition of new fillets on Taxiways A and C further enhance aircraft movement and reduce operational constraints.

The project demonstrates a strong commitment to safety and efficiency through comprehensive airfield improvements, including reconfigured taxiway lighting, upgraded lighting along new fillets, clearly defined pavement markings, relocating the rotating beacon and tip-down tower, and installing new apron perimeter fencing.

Overall, the Apron Expansion Project exemplifies excellence in planning, design, and execution. It delivers measurable operational benefits while strengthening the airport's ability to safely serve current and future users—making it a standout, award-worthy project that reflects forward-thinking infrastructure investment and exceptional stewardship.

The Apron Expansion Project delivers substantial benefits that strengthen the airport's role as a key regional aviation hub for north-central Nebraska. By expanding apron capacity, the project addresses increased aviation activity and space constraints, allowing VTN to safely accommodate larger and more diverse aircraft while continuing to support general aviation, business travel, agricultural aviation, and emergency services.

The expanded apron improves safety and efficiency, particularly for mission-critical operations such as medical transport, and firefighting. Additional aircraft parking reduces congestion, streamlines aircraft movement, minimizes delays, and improves the overall user experience for pilots and operators. These operational gains position the airport to respond more effectively to both routine and emergency demands.

The improved infrastructure enhances VTN's attractiveness to new aviation services and investment while laying the foundation for future facilities. By strengthening safety, capacity, and reliability, the project reinforces the airport's role as a gateway for business, recreation, and essential services, making it a forward-looking, award-worthy investment. ■



Photo by Anna Pongo, NDOT
Pictured (l to r) - Jed Paulsen of Paulsen Inc., Curtis Christianson of Olsson, Chad Slominski of Olsson, Doug Spanel of Richard's Electric, and Jeremy Borrell.

Area Navigation Departures

By David Morris

In the past, area navigation (RNAV) was most commonly associated with the station-mover/phantom waypoint technology developed around ground-based Very High Frequency Omni-directional Range (VOR) stations. RNAV today, however, refers to a variety of navigation systems that provide navigation beyond VOR and Non Directional Beacon (NDB). RNAV refers to any system that provides point-to-point navigation from ground or air-based/space-based sources including Global Positioning System (GPS), Flight Management System (FMS), and Inertial Navigation System (INS). The term also has become synonymous with the concept of "free flight," the goal of which is to provide easy, direct, efficient, cost-saving traffic management as a result of the inherent flexibility of RNAV.

As a part of the evolving RNAV structure, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has developed departure procedures for pilots flying aircraft equipped with some type of RNAV technology. RNAV allows for the creation of new departure routes that are independent of present fixes and navigation aids.

RNAV departure procedures have the ability to increase the capacity of terminal airspace by increasing on-time departures, airspace utilization, and improved predictability. RNAV departure procedures are being developed at a rapid pace to provide RNAV capabilities at all airports. These departures are flown in the same manner as traditional navigation-based departures; pilots are provided headings, altitudes, navigation waypoint, and departure description. RNAV Obstacle Departure Procedures (ODP) are always charted graphically with a note in the Takeoff Minimums section when applicable.

As a current pilot using the National Airspace System (NAS), we need to have a clear understanding of the aircraft equipment for operating in a given RNAV environment. We must understand the type of navigation system installed in our aircraft, and furthermore, we must know how our system operates to ensure we comply with all RNAV requirements. We can find this information in the Aircraft Flight Manual (AFM) plus its supplements. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Recurring Monthly Events

3rd Thursday | Third Thursday Pilot Lunch | 88 Tactical, 15350 Shepard St., Suite 1, Omaha | 11am | Open to the public

3rd Saturday (April-October) | EAA 569 Fly-In Breakfast | Wahoo Municipal Airport (AHQ) | 8-10am | suggested donation: \$10/ adults; \$5/kids

Last Saturday (March-October) | Nebraska Chapter of the Antique Airplane Association Hamburger fly-In lunch at Hastings Municipal Airport (KHSI) | 11:30am-1pm (free-will donation)

Last Saturday | Burgers & Brats | Wayne Municipal Airport (LCG) | 5-8pm

Monthly Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter Meetings

• **EAA 80** | 2nd Monday | 7pm | EAA ABLE ACE Facility, Oakview Mall, Omaha (October-May) and Oracle Aviation, Millard Airport (June-August) | www.eaa80.org/

• **EAA 80 IMC Club** | 2nd Tuesday (October-May) | 6:30pm | EAA ABLE ACE Facility, Oakview Mall, Omaha

• **EAA 80 VMC Club** | 2nd Tuesday (October-May) | 6:30 pm | Revv Aviation, Council Bluffs Municipal Airport

• **EAA 291** | 1st Saturday | 8:30am | Wayne Municipal Airport | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa291

• **EAA 544** | Last Monday | 7pm | Hastings Municipal Airport | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa544

• **EAA 562** | 3rd Saturday | 1pm | Hershey Airport

• **EAA 569 and IAC 80** | 1st Tuesday | 7pm | Lincoln Municipal Airport Terminal, 2nd Floor Meeting room, 2400 West Adams St. Lincoln, NE | www.eaa569.org

• **EAA 608** | 3rd Saturday | 8am | Robbins Aviation, Western Nebraska Regional Airport, Scottsbluff | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa608

• **EAA 804** | 2nd Sunday | 2pm | O'Neill Municipal Airport Terminal Building

• **EAA 918** | 2nd Tuesday | 6pm | Norfolk Regional Airport FBO | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa918

• **EAA 1055** | 1st Tuesday | 7pm | York Municipal Airport | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa1055

• **EAA 1091** | 2nd Tuesday | 6:30pm | Airport Managers Office | Kearney Regional Airport | chapters.eaa.org/eeaa1091

• **EAA 1571** | 2nd Saturday | 12pm | Central City Municipal Airport | www.1571.eeachapter.org/

Monthly Women in Aviation International Chapter Meetings

• **WAI Cornhusker Chapter** | 1st Thursday | 4pm | Meeting rotates between LNK Terminal and Duncan Aviation

• **WAI Platte River Chapter** | 3rd Tuesday | 6:30pm | North Platte Regional Airport (LBF) Conf. Rm.



Nebraska State Fly-In

Fremont Municipal Airport

📅 Saturday, June 20, 2026 ⌚ 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
📍 Location: 1777 W 23rd St, Fremont, NE 68025

Celebrate aviation in Nebraska at this family-friendly event!

- Vendor Fair
- Aviation Hall of Fame Display
- Local Entertainment
- Children's Activities

FREE BREAKFAST!

Sponsored by:



NEBRASKA AVIATION COUNCIL

For More Information:
Cari Hoffart, Airport Manager
☎ (402) 727-2691



CITY OF FREMONT NEBRASKA

Airport quiz answer: Bloomfield