

MINUTES
Nebraska Aeronautics Commission
December 6, 2024

The Nebraska Aeronautics Commission held their regular meeting at the Nebraska Department of Transportation Auditorium, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, Nebraska. The legal ad was published in the November 26 edition of the Lincoln Journal Star newspaper and is posted on the website. The Commission Book and Public Meetings Act were also posted on the website. Chairperson Scott Tarry called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CDT. Commissioners Tom Trumble, Jon Large and Michael Cook attended. Dick Trail attended via Webex. Also present were Director Jeremy Borrell, Deputy Director/Legal Counsel Andre Aman and Engineering Division Manager Anna Lannin.

Public Comment

Diane Hofer of Olsson provided updates on several projects:

- Chappell faces significant issues, and while a five-year solution is planned, a full concrete runway could extend the solution to 2034. Diane initially estimated \$1.6 million for the project, but to fit within available funding, she modified the cost estimate. She highlighted the need for a more comprehensive solution to avoid repeated funding requests in the future.
- Ogallala was not selected for funding because its Airport Layout Plan (ALP) was not ready. The ALP was submitted on November 7 and is on track for completion by 2025. If no funding is available this year, Ogallala will reapply next year.
- Pender's request for perimeter fencing was not approved, but if the Commission considers funding amended projects, Pender requires access gates and electric gates instead of full perimeter fencing.
- Concerns about Retroactive Requests: Diane expressed concern about retroactive requests for funding, noting that approving such requests could lead to a "rabbit hole" of multiple retroactive claims, potentially creating an unfair situation. She urged the Commission to clarify the policy on retroactive funding requests to ensure fairness and transparency.

Diane also mentioned that there are other ongoing needs, such as a potential large request from Chappell in the coming months, noting there was a large request from North Platte on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Michael Cook to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2024, meeting. Second by Commissioner Tom Trumble. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Aeronautics Director's Report

Director Borrell acknowledged the hard work and commitment of the Commission's members in improving Nebraska's aeronautical system over the past year. Notable changes included the addition of Jon Large as a new commissioner and the resignation of Commissioner Dick Trail, who will be greatly missed. Edward Dunn will replace Dick Trail, starting February 1st.

The Division of Aeronautics expanded its staff with Mark Langrud (Aviation Operations Chief), John Lane (Electronic Specialist), and Ahmed El-Ashwah (Airport Pavement Engineer). The team has worked on refining processes for greater efficiency, including updates to the State-Aid Grant Program and a new reimbursable flight check agreement with the FAA, set to begin soon.

Changes at the FAA included the retirement of Central Region Administrator Joe Miniace and Airports Director Jim Johnson. Rodney Joel has replaced Johnson, and Deb Sanning is serving as Acting Region Administrator.

Acknowledgment was given to Vicki Kramer and the Director's office for supporting the integration of the Division of Aeronautics into the Department of Transportation, which resulted in the transfer of over \$1.4 million in administrative expenses to support the state's airports. This one-time fund transfer will be used for regional economic development and other projects.

The Division looks forward to continued progress and improvements in the coming year.

Report of State Funds Available

Andre Aman presented a written report of state funds available.

Nebraska Aeronautics Commission

December 6, 2024

PROJECT GRANT FUND

Funds available September 30, 2024	\$1,208,458.94
<u>Commission Actions (10/18/2024 meeting)</u>	
2% Matching Grants:	
Albion (P01) ALP Update	(\$6,068.00)
Fremont (P01) ALP Update	(\$8,800.00)
Gordon (P02) Masster Plan, ALP Update w/AGIS	(\$6,400.00)
Pender (P01) ALP Update w/AGIS	(\$6,000.00)
State Aid Only Grant:	
Chappell (R01) Asphalt overlay Runway 12/30	(\$1,180,000.00)

4,356

Subtotal (\$1,207,268.00)

Other Actions

None

Subtotal

Funds Transferred From Aeronautics Operating \$1,453,009.00 \$1,453,009.00

Funds available November 30, 2024 \$1,454,199.94

Funds available at December 2023 meeting: \$2,848.94

AERONAUTICS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-703)

Funds Available September 30, 2024 3,395,312.59

Commission Actions (10/18/2024 meeting)

See attached Spreadsheet for details:

2% Federal Match Grants (\$1,329,820.00)

State Aid Only Grants (\$1,316,664.42)

Primary Airports w/ Scheduled, Non-Subsidized
Commercial Service Grants (\$750,000.00)

Subtotal (\$3,396,484.42)

Other Actions

Closed Project: Gordon SA-10 \$ 1,275.00

Subtotal 1,275.00

Receipts

October (interest) \$105.60

November (interest) \$8,437.77

Subtotal 8,543.37

Funds available November 30, 2024 8,646.54

Funds available at December 2023 meeting: \$226,454.41

***** Consistent with state statute 81-703, allocations from this fund will be made at the discretion of the NDOT Director upon the recommendation of the Commission**

STATE OWNED AIRFIELDS (SOA) DIVERSION GRANT FUND

Funds available September 30, 2024 \$0.00

Commission Actions (10/18/2024 meeting)

None

Funds available November 30, 2024 \$0.00

Funds available at December 2023 meeting: \$0

SEAL COAT GRANT FUND (Pavement Preservation Program)

Funds available September 30, 2024 \$405,792.18

Commission Actions (10/18/2024 meeting)

None

Subtotal \$0.00

Other Actions

None

Subtotal \$0.00

Funds available November 30, 2024 \$405,792.18

Funds available at December 2023 meeting: \$405,792.18

HANGAR REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Funds available September 30, 2024 \$635,579.17

Commission Actions (10/18/2024 meeting)

Allocation - Cambridge Storage Hangar -\$407,479.00

Subtotal -\$407,479.00

Other Actions

None

Subtotal \$0.00

Receipts

October \$18,930.00

November	\$18,930.00	
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Subtotal		\$37,860.00
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Funds available November 30, 2024		<u>\$265,960.17</u>
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Funds available at December 2023 meeting: \$51,839.17

Total amount in Hangar Loan fund: \$3,768,360

FUEL STORAGE LOAN FUND

Funds available September 30, 2024		\$33,659.91
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Commission Actions (10/18/2024 meeting)

None

Subtotal

Other Actions

None

Subtotal

\$0.00

Receipts

October	\$240.00
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November	\$240.00
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Subtotal

\$480.00

Funds available November 30, 2024		<u>\$34,139.91</u>
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Funds available at December 2024 meeting: \$319,196.91

Total amount in Fuel Storage fund: \$336,500

NON-PRIMARY ENTITLEMENT TRANSFER PROGRAM

Funds available September 30, 2024		\$736.75
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Commission Actions (10/18/2024 meeting)

4,359
Nebraska Aeronautics Commission
December 6, 2024

None \$0.00

Funds Disbursed

None

Subtotal \$0.00

Funds available November 30, 2024 \$736.75

Motion by Commissioner Michael Cook to accept the report of State Funds. Second by Commissioner Jon Large. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Closed Project Report

None to report

Federal Project Requests

The following projects were provided to the Commission for their review and approval prior to forwarding them to the FAA with requests for funding, as required by State Statutes. The FAA considers the request for future federal funding as funds become available. No state funds are requested at this time.

David City R-05

Scope: Runway Rehabilitation 14/32

Total Estimated Cost: \$629,000

This project includes crack repair, joint sealant, full depth asphalt patching of the runway per AC 150/5370-10H. The transverse cracks are making an unsafe condition for arriving and departing the airport. The city previously submitted a comprehensive plan that was approved by the Commission. They have rescoped the project for the available funds in order to extend the life of the existing pavement.

Falls City X-02

Scope: Relocate Midfield Connector Taxiway

Total Estimated Cost: \$666,500

Relocating the midfield connector taxiway will lower the risk of a runway incursion by eliminating direct access from the apron to the runway by staggering the alignment of the connector taxiway to the parallel taxiway and apron. This relocation will bring runway access to the apron in compliance with Section 4.3.5 of AC 150/5300-13B.

Motion by Commissioner Tom Trumble to approve the CIP data sheets and forward them to the FAA. Second by Commissioner Michael Cook. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Election of Chairperson for 2025

Dr. Scott Tarry will be the Chairperson of the Nebraska Aeronautics Commission for 2025. Motion by Commissioner Tom Trumble for Dr. Scott Tarry to be the Chairperson of the Nebraska Aeronautics Commission. Second by Commissioner Dick Trail. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

State-Aid Grant Program and Prioritization Matrix Review

Director Borrell acknowledged the efforts of the Prioritization Working Group and the Aeronautics team in refining the State-Aid Grant Program. The finalized program is seen as an excellent framework for future revisions. However, several areas were identified for improvement, particularly regarding eligibility and process streamlining.

The Commission was invited to share high-level feedback to guide the refinement process. Based on Commission input, internal notes, and external feedback, the working group will develop recommendations for further refinements, which will be presented for approval at the February 14th meeting.

Commissioner Jon Large did not expect maintenance and emergency repair projects would rank among the top priorities, expecting capital improvement projects to be higher. He suggested further review in the next iteration.

Commissioner Michael Cook highlighted the success of funding more projects due to the sales tax bill and Director Borrell's team. He emphasized the need to continue refining the process annually to stay aligned with current needs, noting that the program is a "living document."

Commissioner Dick Trail appreciated the review of Cambridge's request in August, calling it a valuable exercise in finding appropriate funding solutions.

Chairman Scott Tarry commended the process in its first year, acknowledging the challenges of transitioning from the old system. He expressed confidence in the foundation laid and encouraged continued open communication.

Airport Project Funding Proposals for Commission Approval- (One-Time Fund Opportunity)

Director Borrell introduced a one-time funding opportunity resulting from a review of the Division's administrative costs since the 2017 merger. The Division has identified several projects aligned with the Director's guidance and the Governor's priorities for Commission consideration. These projects are grouped into three categories for individual review and funding allocation.

4,361

Nebraska Aeronautics Commission

December 6, 2024

McCook

Scope: Install Fuel Facility

State Grant Request: \$23,656

Director Borrell presented a proposal for the installation of a fuel facility at McCook Regional Airport, prompted by recent challenges, including the bankruptcy of the airport's FBO. This project is seen as crucial for enhancing the airport's operational capability and self-sustainability.

The Division proposes rescinding the previously approved \$10,444 Federal Match grant for the "Revision of Declared Distances for Runway 4" project and reallocating \$23,656 for the fuel facility installation. This represents a net difference of \$13,212. The FAA Central Region has supported moving this project forward, highlighting its importance.

The Commission acknowledged that the FAA's decision to move forward with the project highlights its importance for the airport. Additionally, since the airport has maintained commercial service, it is essential for them to be able to provide fuel.

Motion by Commissioner Michael Cook to accept the change in state funds at the McCook Airport. Second by Commissioner Dick Trail. Commissioner Tom Trumble added language to the motion to rescind the previous \$10,444 state fund match for the threshold relocation and declared distances and fund \$23,656 for a new fuel system that will be owned by the airport, which will be a match for the federal grant from the Project Grant Fund. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Hartington

Scope: Runway 13/31 Repair

State Grant Request: \$11,250

Nebraska City

Scope: Runway 15/33 Repair

State Grant Request: \$6,258

Norfolk

Scope: Runway 2/20 Repair

State Grant Request: \$4,445

Director Borrell presented a proposal to revisit the three emergency repair projects above that were previously funded at 50% during the October Allocation Meetings due to limited funds. The proposal seeks additional funding to fully support these unforeseen emergency repairs.

Motion by Commissioner Tom Trumble to increase the Project Grant Fund for the State Aid Only grant for Hartington by \$11,250, Nebraska City by \$6,258, and Norfolk runway repair by \$4,445. Second by Commissioner Michael Cook. Commissioner Jon Large commented there is some ambiguity in how the State Funds program is currently written and strongly encourages that ambiguity to be removed from the next iteration of the State Funds program. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

North Platte

Scope: Terminal Building

State Grant Request: \$1,407,400

Director Borrell presented a final proposal for an additional funding allocation for the North Platte Terminal Project. When North Platte originally began discussions with the Division about the grant request that they were going to submit, the amount requested was \$2 million. Due to the anticipated amount of funds that we were projecting for the FY24 allocation, the Division recommended that the airport only ask for their 2% grant rather than a standalone \$2 million grant. The airport understood the position of the Division and submitted their request accordingly. They have provided two different presentations at commission meetings on the significance of this project and the impact that it will have on the community from both a user and economic development standpoint.

This project aligns directly with the guidance provided by the NDOT Director's office and the Administration's priorities highlighted in Director Borrell's earlier comments. The North Platte Airport serves a significant portion of West Central Nebraska (Southwest and Sandhills Regions from the upcoming State System Plan), however the local costs of this project are funded a local level by the taxpayers of North Platte. North Platte and HDR (their consultant) have worked to develop a project that will meet the needs of the airport users and compete well for federal funding. The total project cost is over \$29 million with a total of \$23 million in federal funding. Of the \$23 million, \$15 million is non-formula funds, meaning they had to apply and be selected. This includes \$8 million of BIL Airports Terminal Program funding and \$7 million of Congressionally Directed Spending that was supported by the Nebraska Congressional Delegation, most notably Sen. Deb Fischer. This project is currently underway and represents an opportunity for these funds to have an immediate impact on a significant airport infrastructure project and community within Nebraska.

The Division proposes that the Commission consider an increase to the current State Grant allocation of \$592,600 to a maximum of \$1.8 million, with the increased amount coming from the Project Grant Fund.

Should the Commission choose to advance this proposal, Aeronautics Division provided details of how the grant would be structured to remain fully compliant with the State-Aid Grant program and facilitate the most efficient administrative processing by the Aeronautics team. These details can be used to propose the two motions that would be required.

Motion by Commissioner Tom Trumble to increase the original allocation of \$592,600 in Aeronautics' Capital Improvement Funds made on October 18th by \$1,207,400 of Project Grant funds; for a maximum amount of \$1,800,000 in state funds to reimburse the Sponsor's 10% share of the actual federally eligible costs incurred under FAA grants 47, 48, and 50; and the Sponsor's 5% share of the actual federally eligible costs incurred under FAA grant 49. Second by Commissioner Michael Cook.

Commissioner Jon Large noted that while this is a significant request, the project checks many important boxes for him. He emphasized that it adds value to the entire system, has regional

significance, and contributes to economic impact. He also highlighted that North Platte residents are paying property taxes to help fund the project, demonstrating significant local commitment, and the state has an opportunity to provide assistance.

Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A second motion by Commissioner Tom Trumble to allocate \$200,000 in Project Grant Funds to the North Platte Airport Authority for 90% of costs incurred in relocating the airport's navigational aids antennas, which relocation is needed to complete the construction of a new terminal building of approximately 25,000 square feet. Second by Commissioner Jon Large. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried

A summary of the final allocations is shown below:

Nebraska Aeronautics Commission December 6, 2024, Grant Allocations
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Federal Match Grants			
Airport	Project Description	Project Grant Fund	Aeronautics Capital Improvement Fund
McCook	(M03) Revise Declared Distances RWY 4	-	\$ (10,444.00)
McCook	(M04) Install Fuel Facility	\$ 23,656.00	-
North Platte	(B04) Terminal Building	\$ 1,207,400.00	-

State Aid Only Grants			
Airport	Project Description	Project Grant Fund	Aeronautics Capital Improvement Fund
Hartington	(R02) Runway 13/31 Repair	\$ 11,250.00	-
Nebraska City	(R02) Runway 15/33 Repair	\$ 6,258.00	-
Norfolk	(R05) Runway 02/20 Repair	\$ 4,445.00	-
North Platte	(B04) Relocate Navigational Aid Antenna	\$ 200,000.00	-

Tentative Commission Meeting Dates for 2025 (Locations TBD)

February 14 – NDOT Lincoln

May 16

August 22

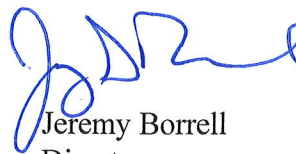
October 24

December 5 – NDOT Lincoln

The next meeting is tentatively set for Friday, February 14, 2025, at 1:00 pm CDT, at Nebraska Department of Transportation Auditorium, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, Nebraska. Motion by Commissioner Michael Cook to adjourn the meeting. Second by Commissioner Jon Large. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Borrell', is written over the printed name.

Jeremy Borrell
Director

4,365

Nebraska Aeronautics Commission

December 6, 2024

(As referenced from the Capital Improvement Fund)

Nebraska Aeronautics Commission

October, 18 2024 Grant Allocations

Federal Match Grants

Airport	Project Description	Project Grant Fund	Aeronautics Capital Improvement Fund
Albion	(P01) ALP Update	\$6,168.00	
Alliance	(G01 & G03) HIRL, MIRL, PAPIs, REILS, Signage		\$100,000.00
Auburn	(B02) Construct 3-Bay Box Hangar		\$36,000.00
Bassett	(G04) Remove & Replace MITL		\$6,400.00
Beatrice	(B03) 10-Place T-Hangar, approach and taxiways		\$66,200.00
Blair	(L05) Land Acquisition for Runway 13 Extension		\$10,332.00
Crete	(B05) 2-Bay Box Hangar		\$33,200.00
Curtis	(X01) Apron and Taxiway Rehabilitation		\$21,631.00
Fairbury	(B02) 80'x80' Box Hangar		\$29,758.00
Fremont	(P01) ALP Update	\$8,800.00	
Gordon	(P02) Airport Master Plan/Update ALP with AGIS and Exhibit A	\$6,400.00	
Grant	(B04) Hangar Rehabilitation		\$14,000.00
Hastings	(A01) Apron Rehabilitation		\$26,475.00
Holdrege	(A02) Apron Rehabilitation		\$3,800.00
Holdrege	(B07) 100'x100' Box Hangar		\$24,780.00
Kearney	(A01) Apron Reconstruction		\$100,000.00
Loup City	(R05) Turf Runway 22 Elevation Change		\$5,000.00
McCook	(M03) Revise Declared Distances RWY 4		\$10,444.00
North Platte	(B04) Terminal Building		\$592,600.00
O'Neill	(M02) 10,000 Gallon 100LL AVGAS and 10,000 Gallon Jet-A Fuel System		\$20,000.00
Pender	(P01) ALP Update (including AGIS)	\$6,000.00	
Scottsbluff	(X02) Partial Parallel Taxiway		\$100,000.00
Tekamah	(R03) Partial Reconstruction of Runway		\$100,000.00
Theftord	(B03) 2-Bay Box Hangar (engineering)		\$6,400.00
Valentine	(A01) Apron Expansion		\$22,800.00
			\$1,329,820.00 TOTAL

State Aid Only Grants			
Airport	Project Description	Project Grant Fund	Aeronautics Capital Improvement Fund
Albion	(M02) Tree Removal		
Blair	(X05) Corporate Hangar Area Expansion		\$49,500.00
Bloomfield	(X01) Repair Taxiway		\$981,000.00
Cambridge	(B01) Construct Taxiway		\$147,211.00
Chappell	(R01) Runway 12/30 Asphalt Overlay	\$1,180,000.00	\$100,000.00
Hartington	(R02) Runway 13/31 Repair		\$17,000.00
Nebraska City	(R02) Runway 15/33 Repair		\$11,250.00
Norfolk	(R05) Runway 02/20 Repair		\$6,258.42
			\$4,445.00
			\$1,316,664.42 TOTAL

Primary Airports w/ Scheduled, Non-Subsidized Commercial Service Grants			
Airport	Project Description	Project Grant Fund	Aeronautics Capital Improvement Fund
Grand Island	(B04) SRE Building		\$250,000.00
Lincoln	(X04) Mill and Overlay Taxiway P and a Portion of Taxiway K		\$250,000.00
Omaha	(X03) Hangar Approaches and Taxiways		\$250,000.00
			\$750,000.00 TOTAL

