Annual Report of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission

Office of Aeronautics
Michigan Department of Transportation
December 19, 2016

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan  48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

Subject: Fiscal Year 2016 Michigan Aeronautics Commission Report

In accordance with Public Act 327 of 1945, Section 32, we are pleased to submit the attached annual report. The report provides a summary of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission's meeting proceedings for the Fiscal Year 2016. It also includes an operations report for the Office of Aeronautics, specifically actions taken on behalf of the commission for further development, promotion, and safety of aviation, including aeronautical facilities and services.

During the fiscal year, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission met six times and approved a number of contracts, projects and reports. We hope you find the contents of the report both useful and interesting. If you have any questions, please contact us at 517-335-9568 or visit our website at www.michigan.gov/aero.

Sincerely,

Russell A. Kavalhuna, Chairman
Michigan Aeronautics Commission

Michael G. Trout, Director
Michigan Aeronautics Commission
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Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC)

In accordance with the Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, the MAC is responsible for the general supervision of aeronautics within the state. Appointments to the commission are made by the governor and are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. In addition to five appointed members, the commission consists of four statutory members that include the directors of the departments of Transportation, Natural Resources, State Police, and Military and Veterans Affairs. Additionally, the Department of Transportation’s executive administrator for the Office of Aeronautics is designated as director of the commission. Below are the current commissioners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Parties Represented</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSSELL KAVALHUNA</td>
<td>CHAIRMAN (OCTOBER 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2017)</td>
<td>Executive Director, Flight Operations Western Michigan University College of Aviation Battle Creek, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAURA MESTER</td>
<td>COMMISSIONER</td>
<td>Representing Kirk T. Steudle Department of Transportation Lansing, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. DAVID VANDERVEEN</td>
<td>VICE CHAIRMAN</td>
<td>Director of Central Services for Oakland County Waterford, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPT. JOE GASPER</td>
<td>COMMISSIONER</td>
<td>Representing Col. Kriste K. Etue Department of State Police Lansing, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICK FIDDLER</td>
<td>COMMISSIONER (IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR)</td>
<td>Vice President Amway Aviation Grand Rapids, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAJ. GEN. LEN ISABELLE</td>
<td>COMMISSIONER</td>
<td>Representing Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Lansing, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETE KAMARAINEN</td>
<td>COMMISSIONER</td>
<td>Owner of Grand Air Aviation, Inc. Grand Ledge, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEVIN JACOBS</td>
<td>COMMISSIONER</td>
<td>Representing Keith Creagh Department of Natural Resources Roscommon, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROGER SALO</td>
<td>COMMISSIONER</td>
<td>Corporate Director of Aviation - Retired Instructor, Western Michigan University Founding Member, Michigan Business Aviation Association Plymouth, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL TROUT</td>
<td>DIRECTOR</td>
<td>Executive Administrator Office of Aeronautics Department of Transportation Lansing, MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Michigan Department of Transportation
Office of Aeronautics
2700 Port Lansing Road
Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-335-9568
www.michigan.gov/aero
Airport Improvement Program

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) enables projects to be undertaken at Michigan airports to improve aviation safety, preserve or improve the existing infrastructure, enable purchase of airfield equipment, improve or construct new facilities at airports, and support local economic growth by increasing the capacity of airport facilities. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, $33,521,593 in AIP contracts were approved by the MAC. Of that total, $17,670,732 was transferred to general aviation airports, while $15,850,861 was transferred to primary airports. Primary airports are the principal commercial passenger airports serving the traditional airline customers. The total can be further broken down by source of funding into $27,560,500 in federal funds, $2,017,341 in locally derived funds, and $3,943,752 in state aviation funds.

It is augmented by programs utilizing state and local funding only. Funding for AIP is appropriated in sections 119 and 120, Capital Outlay, of the Michigan Department of Transportation’s (MDOT) FY16 funding legislation, Public Act (P.A.) 84 of 2015. Transfers of the appropriated funds for projects specified in contracts must be approved by the commission. Contract approvals occur throughout the fiscal year at each of the six commission meetings. To the extent capital outlay funds appropriated in previous fiscal years are available, the commission may approve contracts using those funds for AIP projects. Contracts to preserve and improve aviation facilities have significant local and regional impacts upon the economies they serve. Three active projects in FY16 provide examples of the important work undertaken through AIP.

**Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW)**

DTW is Michigan’s busiest airport and one of the largest air transportation hubs in the country. In 2015, the airport served more than 33 million passengers and accommodated more than 426 million pounds of cargo. With its more than 1,100 flights per day, the airport provides non-stop passenger service to more than 140 destinations world-wide. In FY16, the Wayne County Airport Authority reconstructed runway 4L/22R. This runway is 10,000 feet long and 150 feet wide, and it is one of the main aircraft arrival runways on the airport. Due to its ability to accommodate operations in low-visibility conditions, runway 4L/22R is considered critical to the airport’s operational efficiency and business continuity. The project included reconstructing the associated taxiway system, as well as replacing the runway and taxiway lights with the latest LED lighting technology. The project received the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) Envision Silver Award, which recognizes sustainable
infrastructure across the full range of environmental, social, and economic impacts. The overall project cost was approximately $106 million, and construction was completed in one season (one week ahead of schedule). Funding sources were primarily airport revenue bonds and a $20,654,150 AIP grant, which the commission approved its transfer in November 2016 (FY17).

**Detroit – Grosse Ile Municipal Airport (ONZ)**

ONZ is a public-use general aviation airport located at the south end of the island of Grosse Ile. It originally opened in 1929 as a Naval Reserve flight training school and seaplane base, but was turned over to Grosse Ile Township for operation as a general aviation airport in 1971.

In FY16, primary runway 4/22 (4,846 feet long and 100 feet wide) was reconstructed in order to enhance operational safety and better serve the flying public. The project included repairing the runway lighting system. The total overall project cost was $6,368,999. Funding sources for this project included FAA AIP ($5,732,099), MDOT Aeronautics ($318,450), and Grosse Ile Township ($318,450).

**Holland – West Michigan Regional Airport (BIV)**

BIV (formerly Tulip City Airport) is a public-use general aviation airport located 2 miles south of the central business district of Holland. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on October 13, 2016, to celebrate the completion of a new airport business center and aircraft apron project. The new state-of-the-art business center is a 7,500-square-foot facility that includes lobby and reception areas, conference rooms, a pilot lounge, fixed-based operator (FBO) service and charter offices, and airport authority staff work areas. It replaces an outdated terminal building that had less than 2,000 square feet of space.

The airport business center cost was $2.5 million, and the total overall project cost was $6.8 million. Funding sources for this project included FAA AIP ($2,372,885), MDOT Aeronautics ($1,800,000), Michigan Economic Development Corp. ($1,300,000), West Michigan Airport Authority ($773,450), and private contributions ($567,615). The private contributions include furniture donations from Haworth and Herman Miller.

The reports of all contracts approved by the MAC during FY16 are available on the MAC website under "Meetings" at www.michigan.gov/aero.
All-Weather Airport Access Program

MDOT Aeronautics’ All-Weather Airport Access Plan, under the umbrella of the Michigan Airport System Plan, calls for weather observation and data dissemination at each eligible airport in Michigan. This includes three components: (1) Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS); (2) Data Collection System for collection of AWOS data and dissemination to the FAA network; and (3) Access to current weather products available through the internet.

There are 42 installed AWOS maintained by the Office of Aeronautics in cooperation with the local community. Aeronautics has entered into a contract with Mackinac Software to collect the current data and disseminate that data to the FAA’s national network.

Aeronautics has entered into a contract with Weather Services International (WSI) to provide Weather Briefing Services at airports in Michigan. Currently, WSI provides access to current weather products through their website to 40 locations in Michigan.

For each community’s airport, Aeronautics enters into a contract with the local sponsor that spells out the responsibilities for the shared operation and maintenance of the weather system.

In FY16, the MAC approved the renewal of 15 contracts relating to the operation and maintenance of an AWOS, Data Collection System and/or Weather Briefing Services. Renewed contracts were approved for the following airports:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Automated Weather Observation Systems</th>
<th>Weather Briefing Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island</td>
<td>Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitch H. Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte</td>
<td>Delta County Airport, Escanaba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheboygan County Airport, Cheboygan</td>
<td>Gaylord Regional Airport, Gaylord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbor Springs Municipal Airport, Harbor Springs</td>
<td>Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooks Field, Marshall</td>
<td>West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw County H.W. Browne Airport, Saginaw</td>
<td>Jackson County – Reynolds Field, Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland/Troy Airport, Troy</td>
<td>Pellston Reg. Airport of Emmet Co., Pellston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chippewa Co. Int’l. Airport, Sault Ste. Marie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A map of systems maintained by the Office of Aeronautics can be viewed [here](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) or go to [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero), select “Pilot Resources” and then AWOS under “Featured Services for Pilots.”
Airport Loan Program

The Airport Loan Program allows a publicly owned airport to borrow up to $100,000 for airport-related projects. Established annually by the Michigan Department of Treasury, the interest rate on new loans in 2016 is 3.2 percent per annum. Repayment is scheduled in yearly installments over a maximum 10-year period.

Loans are often used by sponsors for their local match obligation in capital improvement projects. However, a loan may not exceed 90 percent of the sponsor’s match of the overall project cost.

In accordance with section 4 of P.A. 107 of 1969, Airport Development Act, the following provides a report for FY16.

Status of Projects – Information on all currently outstanding loan contracts funded under the program is provided on the chart below. All loans remain in good standing.

Loans Outstanding – At the beginning of FY16, outstanding loans amounted to $158,052.30. Loan repayments of $39,412.22 were received. Two new loans in the amount of $100,000 each were disbursed during the fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year, the outstanding loan balance was $318,640.08.

Amount Available for New Loans – At the end of the fiscal year, the Airport Loan Program had a balance of $1,881,360.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Loan Amount</th>
<th>Amount Disbursed</th>
<th>Principal Repaid</th>
<th>Amount Outstanding</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hillsdale</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Haven</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Island</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>$26,409.81</td>
<td>$73,590.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menominee</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$55,000.00</td>
<td>$55,000.00</td>
<td>$21,809.73</td>
<td>$33,190.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuscola Area</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>$88,140.38</td>
<td>$11,859.62</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$455,000.00</td>
<td>$455,000.00</td>
<td>$136,359.92</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Loans Outstanding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$318,640.08</strong></td>
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</table>
Air Service Program

The Michigan Air Service Program was developed in 1987 to address the loss and decline of commercial air service in many Michigan communities. The first state/local grant was issued in 1988. The program helped stabilize and expand commercial air service by undertaking activities aimed at promoting increased use of services available at local airports. The program consists of four categories: Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training, Airport Awareness, Capital Improvement and Equipment, and Air Carrier Recruitment and Retention.

No grants were awarded in FY16 due to the lack of appropriated funds. However, $250,000 has been appropriated for FY17, and revised program guidelines were proposed and approved by the MAC on November 9, 2016.

Mobile Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Trainer
In recent years, the mobile Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) trainer (pictured below) was used for part of the Air Service Program in training airport firefighters. Kellogg Community College (KCC) in Battle Creek provided the training. In accordance with state guidelines for the disposal of state-owned equipment, the Department of Technology Management and Budget approved the request to donate the trainer. In November 2015, the MAC approved the transfer of the mobile ARFF trainer to KCC and now provides ARFF training grants for Part 139 airports through the Air Service Program.

ARFF Training Equipment in Use
Financial Results

State Aeronautics Fund

P.A. 84 of 2015 appropriates funds to MDOT for undertaking aviation programs and services during FY16, and appropriations are supported by revenues received during the course of the fiscal year. The total amount of capital outlay awards are identified in the AIP portion of this report. Please note that airport parking tax revenue is dedicated to payment of debt service costs, with any remaining funds being used solely for AIP.

The information depicts revenues and expenditures for FY15 and FY16. The tables detail actual amounts, while the charts enable comparison within and between the two fiscal years shown on this and the following page.

Fiscal Year 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aviation Fuel Excise Tax</td>
<td>$ 6,386,372</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>750,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licenses &amp; Permits</td>
<td>344,361</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>142,561</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Earnings</td>
<td>18,948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airport Parking Tax</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 13,642,379</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>$ 6,577,501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Service Program</td>
<td>269,482</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants (other agencies)</td>
<td>316,911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDOT Grants</td>
<td>644,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAIN</td>
<td>24,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>86,827</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>4,992,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 12,912,419</td>
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Revenue

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Aviation Fuel Excise Tax</td>
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<td>Services</td>
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<td>Licenses &amp; Permits</td>
<td>363,409</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>102,147</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Earnings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airport Parking Tax</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,355,791</strong></td>
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Expenditures

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<tr>
<td>Air Service Program</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants (other agencies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDOT Grants</td>
<td>672,099</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAIN</td>
<td>25,000</td>
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<td>IT</td>
<td>98,782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>4,513,675</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,047,521</strong></td>
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Legislation

State Laws Enacted

- Aviation Fuel Revenue Package

The six-bill package, including SB 418, 425, 426, 612, 613, and 614, focused on the use of certain state sales and use tax revenue derived from aviation fuels. While securing additional state revenue to secure federal AIP grants, the legislation also brought the State of Michigan into compliance with the FAA’s November 7, 2014, amendment to its Policy and Procedures Concerning the Use of Airport Revenue. The passage of this legislation was a targeted action on the state’s Aviation Plan filed with the FAA.

- SB 418 – Amends section 203 of P.A. 327 of 1945, Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan. The bill clarifies that the aviation fuel refund of 1.5 cents per gallon available to airline operators demonstrating that they operate interstate on scheduled operations pertains to the privilege tax imposed under MCL 259.203 at the rate of 3 cents per gallon on all fuel sold or used in producing or generating power for propelling aircraft.

- SB 425 and 426 – Amend sections 34 and 35 of P.A. 327 of 1945, Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan. The substance of the bills directs portions of the state’s 2 percent sales/use tax on aviation fuel to the State Aeronautics Fund and Qualified Airport Fund, respectively.

- SB 612, 613 and 614 – These bills amend the Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, General Sales Tax Act, and Use Tax Act by defining a Qualified Airport, establishing reporting and tax distribution requirements, respectively.

Senate Bills 418, 425, 426, 612, 613, and 614 were approved as a package and signed by the governor on December 23, 2015, assigned P.A. 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, and 263 of 2015, with immediate effect.

- HB 4727 – Amends P.A. 259 of 1959, Tall Structure Act, to require meteorological evaluation towers (MET) be marked and registered with the state. METs are used to evaluate wind conditions for locating wind turbines. The law requires towers 50 feet or higher be painted in equal, alternating bands of orange and white, have an orange ball attached to each guy wire, and have safety sleeves placed at each anchor point on the guy wire. The bill was signed by the governor on March 1, 2016; assigned P.A. 28 of 2016, with immediate effect.

- HB 5294 – Sets forth appropriations for FY17 for MDOT (and other departments). The bill was approved by the governor on June 29, 2016; assigned P.A. 268 of 2016.
State Bills Introduced

➢ SB 432 – Would amend P.A. 327 of 1945, Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, to prohibit unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from flying within 1,000 feet of the Mackinac Bridge. Violations would be a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 93 days or a fine of up to $500, or both. The bill would allow the Mackinac Bridge Authority to use UAVs for engineering inspections, security, and marketing purposes. Tie-barred to SB 433. (July 1, 2015, introduced; May 31, 2016, Senate Transportation Committee recommended and referred to the full Senate.)

➢ SB 433 – Would amend P.A. 327 of 1945, Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, to define a UAV as any aircraft or flying device that is remotely controlled. The bill would create a UAV task force to further refine state policy on UAVs. (July 1, 2015, introduced; May 31, 2016, Senate Transportation Committee recommended and referred to the full Senate.)

➢ SB 992 – Would amend P.A. 327 of 1945, Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, to create an Unmanned Aerial Systems Act to regulate UAVs. It would authorize the use of commercial and recreational UAVs, provided they are registered with the FAA. It would prohibit flying a UAV if it interferes with public safety personnel, is used to harass people, invades another person’s privacy, or if the pilot is a registered sex offender. A violator would be subject to 90 days in jail or a fine of $500. (May 25, 2016, introduced and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee; September 21, 2016, committee recommended and referred to the full Senate.)

Federal Law Enacted

➢ H.R. 636 – On May 25, 2016, the MAC approved a motion to draft a letter of support for the Senate’s FAA reauthorization package. On June 21, 2016, a letter was addressed and mailed to the House Speaker, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman, and to each member of the Michigan Congressional Delegation urging support for the Senate’s package contained in H.R. 636 that seeks to protect the aviation industry from a detrimental privatization of the nation’s air traffic control system and subsequent imposition of user fees while continuing to fund the FAA’s operations.

On July 15, 2016, the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 was signed into law, extending authorization for programs and related revenue authorities through September 30, 2017, at current funding levels (no user fees/air traffic control privatization).
Policy

Policy Plan for Michigan Air Service

The Commercial Air Service Advisory Committee updated and developed the Policy Plan for Michigan Air Service. This action drew interest, inquiries, and feedback from the community, which was essentially from commercially serviced airports. Being that the updated policy plan focuses on the federal Essential Air Service Program, the new version of the document was subtitled "Analysis of Essential Air Service and Recommendations for Preservation of Access to the Nation’s Air Transportation System.” The revised policy plan was adopted by the MAC during their meeting held on March 24, 2016. The policy plan can be viewed here or go to www.michigan.gov/aero, select "Aeronautics Commission” and then “Policy Plan for Michigan Air Service” under “Reports.”

Michigan Air Service Program

Guidelines for the Michigan Air Service Program were updated for future grants. The eligibility criteria is limited to Part 139 airports, with a tiered matching system in an effort to maximize grant effectiveness. Proposed revised program guidelines were posted for public comment. The MAC approved the program guidelines in November 2016 (FY17).

Hospital Heliport and Helistop Guidelines

The Safety Advisory Committee began discussions on implementing guidance documents for hospital heliport and helistop licensing criteria, particularly language having to do with “suitable” approaches. The committee invited additional industry representatives to provide guidance in setting an appropriate approach standard. The MAC will be asked to approve the guidance documents during FY17.
Statistics

**FY16 Measurements**

- Total Contracts Awarded (Airport Sponsor for AIP, Weather Services, and with FAA) – **135**
- Airport Development Projects – **34 projects let**
- Statewide Paint Marking Program – **7 airports**
- Statewide Crack Sealing Program – **11 airports**
- Pavement Condition Index (PCI), Inspections and Reports – **30 airports**
- Tall Structure Reviews – **3,852 applications reviewed, including 572 wind turbines**
- Individual Non-Primary Airport Grant Closeouts – **91 completed**
- Primary Airport Grant Closeouts – **28 completed**
- State Block Grant Closeouts – **4 completed**
- State/Local Grant Closeouts – **15 completed**
- Licensed Public-Use Airports – **227**
- Licensed Public-Use Heliports – **7**
- Licensed Hospital Heliports/Helistops – **98**
- Public-Use Airport Inspections – **75**
- Public-Use Heliport Inspections – **2**
- Hospital Heliport/Helisop Inspections – **56**
- Registered Aircraft – **5,752**
- Dealer Licenses Issued – **142**
- Licensed Flight Schools – **51**
- Flight School Inspections – **26**
- Safety Seminars for Pilots – **13 seminars, approximately 400 total attendees**
- State Aircraft Utilization – **940.9 hours**
Strategic Plan

Wildly Important Goal
Increase MDOT’s Capacity to Innovate

In all areas of the department, achieve a 25 percent improvement in value-addition (in terms of safety measures, cost reduction, increased quality, or reduced schedule) by December 31, 2016, through the rapid application of innovative products, processes and technology.

Office of Aeronautics
Wildly Important Goals

Update the Michigan Aviation System Plan (MASP) to align with MDOT’s current Strategic Plan. The update incorporates current airport data and federal asset study information, as well as economic impacts of airports on local economies (community benefit assessment). The focus of the update improves safety and sustaining effective partnerships with airport sponsors.

The MASP will be used to assist in the programming of airport projects to align with statewide strategies and goals. The community benefit assessment will provide information that may be critical in competing for and justifying future aviation funding in Michigan, as well as demonstrating to individual communities the benefit of their airports. The measure of success will be the approval and endorsement of the MASP update by the MAC in March 2017. Total funding for this project was $425,000 ($100,000 from the Federal Highway Administration State Planning and Research Program, and $325,000 from the State Aeronautics Fund.)

Replace outdated and inefficient flight scheduling software (FlightPak) with current web-based technology (Aircraft Logs). This project will reduce staff time and costs by providing staff the ability to remotely schedule and receive flight information and utilize mobile technology. The new web-based application streamlines the flight scheduling process and automates flight notifications for staff and passengers, as well as flight operations reporting. Success will be fully measured after the first quarter in FY17, with expectations of achieving a 50 percent reduction in staff time required to open and close flight logs and retrieve current flight information. To date, the biggest benefit being realized is program access while staff are out of the office. Staff are able to check the flight schedule remotely and respond to any inquiries quickly, thereby, providing greater customer service.

Replace existing invoice payment process with ProjectWise electronic workflow. The existing paper process utilized old procedures, resulting in lost invoices and lengthy approval processes. The new process improves document control and security by incorporating electronic document retention and workflow technologies. This has reduced staff time and paperwork, and streamlined the payment process, which, in turn, provides greater customer service. There has been a 20 percent reduction in the time necessary to process payments. This reduction is mostly due to the elimination of mail time, but also in daily reminders of payments to process as notified by e-mail. The elimination of lost paperwork is difficult to define, but has surely reduced late payments.
Education

On November 12, 2015, the MAC approved a contract providing $25,000 through the Airports Program to the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) for the conduct of workshops, training programs, seminars, and conferences to support the education and training of airport managers and staff throughout Michigan. In addition, the grant helps support student scholarships for those pursuing an aviation-related education by enhancing the existing scholarship program available through MAAE. The Airports Program is funded via appropriations provided in section 114, Aeronautics Services of P.A. 84 of 2015. MAAE provided $3,000 (local match), bringing the total funds available for training efforts to $28,000.

Pilot Safety Seminars: These 13 seminars were held throughout FY16, with more than 400 people in attendance. Seminar locations were throughout Michigan and included Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Bay City, Boyne City, Fowlerville, Jackson, Lansing, Marshall, Mason, and West Branch.

Aviation Fuel Distribution Technician Training Seminar: Held October 6-7, 2015, in Lansing, this seminar was co-sponsored by AvFuel Corp. and MDOT Aeronautics. In attendance were 62 airport FBOs and line service personnel for training related to the handling of fuel products, included fueling of aircraft.

Michigan Airport Conference: The 25th year of this conference, co-hosted by MDOT Aeronautics and MAAE, was held on February 17-18, 2016, in East Lansing. The agenda included updates from MDOT Aeronautics and the FAA, airport roundtable discussions, and a presentation on the National Museum of Aviation and Technology at historic Willow Run. Presentations were held on developing general aviation business plans and best practices for airport cybersecurity, as well as a panel discussion entitled “Crash at Your Airport – Now What?” with the FAA’s Sam Heiter and Oakland County’s J. David VanderVeen. The conference included a legislative reception with exhibitors (pictured).

SimCom Aviation Training: Held in February and March 2016, MDOT Aeronautics pilots attended professional pilot recurrent training in Orlando, Florida.
EAA AirVenture: Held July 24-31, 2016, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. MDOT Aeronautics staff participated and had a booth set up in the National Association of State Aviation Officials tent for the week to promote aviation in Michigan. This annual event hosts more than 500,000 attendees from around the world. (Pictured is Matt Brinker, Office of Aeronautics.)

Western Michigan University College of Aviation Fall Welcome: Held on September 1, 2016, at W. K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek to welcome 225 incoming freshmen aviation students. Matt Brinker represented MDOT Aeronautics with a display and participated in the student/industry professional meet and greet.

Michigan Association of Airport Executives: The fall conference was held September 12-16, 2016, in Gaylord. The agenda included updates from MDOT Aeronautics and the FAA, roundtable sessions, infrastructure protection, airport vegetation management techniques, a Michigan Aviation System Plan update, lunch speakers Maj. Gen. Len Isabelle and United Airlines Captain Denny Flanagan, and much more. The MAC meeting was held in conjunction with the conference.

Airport Management 101: Held on September 21, 2016, in Mt. Pleasant, co-sponsored by MDOT Aeronautics and MAAE. This was a one-day class for small general aviation airports designed to help airport staff, board members, and commissioners manage and maintain their airports (pictured).
Notable Events/Recognitions

Events

Michigan State Transportation Commission/MAC Joint Public Meeting: Held on March 24, 2016, at the Office of Aeronautics in Lansing. MDOT Director Kirk Steudle and Aeronautics Executive Administrator Mike Trout presented. An unmanned aerial systems report was given by MDOT Aeronautics Specialist Matt Brinker and Operations and Maintenance Engineer Steve Cook.

MAC Meeting: Held on May 25, 2016, at MDOT’s Macomb Transportation Service Center. Immediately following the meeting, attendees were invited to Selfridge Air National Guard Base for a tour of STARBASE One and the Selfridge Military Air Museum.

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Fly-In: Held September 16-17, 2016, at W. K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek. The event featured aircraft displays, exhibits, and a schedule full of seminars and fun activities for all. MDOT Aeronautics staff met with members of the aviation community at the MDOT Aeronautics booth.

Business Aviation Expo: Held on September 22, 2016, at Oakland County International Airport in Pontiac. Oakland County partnered with MBAA, MDOT, FBOs, and original equipment manufacturers. Invitations were mailed to businesses and corporations throughout southeast Michigan to learn what advantages and opportunities aviation can provide for their businesses. The event featured tours of more than 20 business aircraft, with the opportunity to engage with aviation experts, network with aircraft manufacturers, private aviation companies, local executives, aviation support services providers and aviation-related exhibitors. MDOT Aeronautics Executive Administrator Mike Trout, Commissioners VanderVeen, Salo, Fiddler, Kamarainen, and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson welcomed the aviation community to the event. Aeronautics staff also met with members of the aviation community at the MDOT Aeronautics booth.

Recognitions

Mary Kay Trierweiler and Randy Coller received a Simply Super Service Award in January 2016 for their excellent service in providing the 2015 Michigan Aeronautical Chart and Airport Directory.

Jack Barstow Airport, Midland, was presented with the Airport of the Year Award during the Michigan Airports Conference in February 2016 in recognition of their outstanding efforts in promoting general aviation in Michigan with the planning and development of the observation and education gateway project on the airport. The project illustrates the value of the airport to the Midland community by providing an opportunity to discover aviation programs and aviation history, while enjoying the dynamic airport environment.

C&S Companies in Livonia was presented with the Consultant of the Year Award during the Michigan Airports Conference in February 2016 in recognition of excellence in aviation engineering services and dedication to the development of a quality air transportation
system in Michigan. C&S Companies has proven their ability to deliver practical engineering solutions while adapting to diverse project requirements and budgets.

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) in Grand Rapids was honored in February 2016 by the Airports Council International (ACI), achieving the first place ranking in the Best Airports by Size and Region – North America (2 million to 5 million passengers per year) category and tying for second place in the Best Airports by Region – North America (all airports with more than 2 million passengers per year) category as part of ACI’s Airport Service Quality Awards.

The “Wings over Northern Michigan” Gaylord Airshow Committee was presented with the group Award of Excellence by the MAC in September 2016 for tremendous organizational effort in hosting outstanding events over the years, promoting aviation to new generations, and bringing attention to aviation businesses across Michigan.

Matt Barresi, Gaylord Regional Airport director, was presented with the individual Award of Excellence by the MAC in September 2016 for his outstanding contributions to the community by promoting aviation activities that foster goodwill and showcase the value of Gaylord Regional Airport. His commitment to community involvement and dedication serving as an active member of numerous organizations exemplified the professionalism and character worthy of receiving such an award.

Col. Jack Lousma, former astronaut and Michigan native, was presented with a lifetime achievement award by MBAA and a special tribute signed by Gov. Snyder in September 2016.

Other Notables

Commissioner Roger Salo served as technical advisor on the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission Transport Subcommittee concerning the current and future condition and needs of aviation in Michigan.

Commissioners Rick Fiddler and Roger Salo were reappointed by Gov. Snyder for a second four-year term, expiring May 27, 2020.

Commissioners Russ Kavalhuna and Dave VanderVeen, at the September MAC meeting, were elected as chairman and vice chairman for the 2016-2017 term, replacing Rick Fiddler and Russ Kavalhuna as chairman and vice chairman, respectively.

Former Chairman Rick Fiddler was presented a plaque from Commission Director Mike Trout, commending him for an outstanding 2015-2016 year (pictured from left to right).