

**Fiscal Year  
2019**

**Annual Report  
of the  
Michigan Aeronautics Commission**



**Celebrating 90 years of dedicated service supporting aviation in Michigan!**



**Office of Aeronautics**  
Michigan Department of Transportation





STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION  
LANSING



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

December 18, 2019

Dear Reader:

Subject: Fiscal Year 2019 Michigan Aeronautics Commission Report

On behalf of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission, we are pleased to submit the attached annual report. The report provides a summary of the Commission's meeting proceedings for Fiscal Year 2019. 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 several 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](http://www.michigan.gov/aero).

Sincerely,

Roger Salo, Chairman  
Michigan Aeronautics Commission

Michael G. Trout, Director  
Michigan Aeronautics Commission

Roger Salo, Chairperson • Rick Fiddler, Vice Chairperson  
Russ Kavalhuna • Kelly Burris • Dr. Brian Smith  
Paul Ajegba • Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers • Daniel Eichinger • Col. Joseph Gasper  
Mike Trout, Director, Michigan Aeronautics Commission

2700 Port Lansing Road • Lansing, MI 48906  
[www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) • (517) 335-9568

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# Michigan Aeronautics Commission

In accordance with the Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC or Commission) 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 (MDOT) executive administrator for the Office of Aeronautics is designated as director of the Commission. Below are the current commissioners and the commission director.




**ROGER SALO**  
CHAIRPERSON  
(OCTOBER 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2020)

Corporate Director of Aviation – Retired  
Instructor, Western Michigan University  
Founding Member, Michigan Business  
Aviation Association  
Plymouth, MI



**LAURA MESTER**  
COMMISSIONER

Representing Paul Ajegba  
Department of Transportation  
Lansing, MI




**RICK FIDDLER**  
VICE CHAIRPERSON

Vice President - Retired  
Amway Aviation  
Grand Rapids, MI



**F/LT. BRIAN BAHLAU**  
COMMISSIONER

Representing Col. Joe Gasper  
Department of State Police  
Lansing, MI




**RUSS KAVALHUNA**  
COMMISSIONER

President  
Henry Ford College  
Dearborn, MI




**BRIG. GEN. BRYAN TEFF**  
COMMISSIONER

Representing Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers  
Department of Military and  
Veterans Affairs  
Lansing, MI




**KELLY BURRIS**  
COMMISSIONER

Owner of Burris Law, PLLC  
Detroit, MI




**KEVIN JACOBS**  
COMMISSIONER

Representing Daniel Eichinger  
Department of Natural Resources  
Roscommon, MI



**DR. BRIAN SMITH**  
COMMISSIONER

Adjunct Professor, Wayne County  
Community College  
President of Tuskegee Airmen Nat'l. Museum  
Detroit, MI



**MIKE TROUT**  
DIRECTOR

Executive Administrator  
Office of Aeronautics  
Department of Transportation  
Lansing, MI

Michigan Department of Transportation  
Office of Aeronautics  
2700 Port Lansing Road  
Lansing, MI 48906  
Phone: 517-335-9568  
[www.Michigan.gov/Aero](http://www.Michigan.gov/Aero)



Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor ♦ Judy Baker, Commission Analyst

# 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) 2019, \$124,589,994 in AIP contracts were approved by the MAC. Of that total, \$28,084,038 was transferred to general aviation airports, while \$96,505,956 was transferred to primary airports. Primary airports are the principal commercial passenger airports serving traditional airline customers. The total can be further broken down by source of funding, including \$103,608,429 in federal funds, \$17,483,818 in local funds, and \$3,497,747 in state aviation funds. This is an increase over past years due to the approval of several large FAA discretionary projects and the addition of FAA supplemental funding. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport had two large projects – Reconstruction of Runway 3L-21R and Parallel Taxiway M, receiving \$33,800,000 in federal funding. Included in FY 2019 were three transfers under the supplemental program totaling just less than \$16,000,000 in federal funding: Bishop International Airport, Flint (\$900,000), Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids (\$14,000,000), and Manistee County – Blacker, Manistee (\$800,000).

The total program is enhanced by utilizing state and local funding for projects as well. Funding for AIP is appropriated in section 117, Capital Outlay, of MDOT’s FY 2019 funding legislation, Public Act (PA) 207 of 2018. Transfers of the appropriated funds for projects specified in contracts must be approved by the MAC. 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 carried over, 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 major projects in FY 2019 provide examples of the important work undertaken through the AIP:

## **Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW), Romulus Reconstruction of Runway 3L/21R and Parallel Taxiway M**

Runway 3L/21R (8,501 feet by 200 feet) is the shortest of the four parallel runways at DTW and it is used primarily as a takeoff runway by the smaller aircraft that provide passenger service. It was built more than 50 years ago, has reached the end of its useful service life, and now requires full-depth reconstruction. The complete reconstruction of the runway and its associated taxiway system is being completed over a two-year time frame. For the recent 2019 construction season, the focus was on completing the work on Runway 3L/21R. For the upcoming 2020 construction season, the focus will be on completing the remaining work on parallel Taxiway M. The overall project includes complete removal and disposal/recycling of the previous runway and taxiway pavements, excavation and replacement of underground utilities, construction of new runway and taxiway pavements, and replacement of the runway and taxiway edge lighting systems.



The cost of construction for the 2019 portion of this multi-year project totaled \$45,100,956, and it consisted of federal and local funds. The partners involved included the FAA, MDOT, Wayne County Airport Authority (sponsor), Kimley-Horn (consultant), and Ajax Paving Industries (contractor).

### **Bishop International Airport (FNT), Flint Rehabilitation of Primary Runway 9/27 and Parallel Taxiway C**

Runway 9/27 (7,201 feet by 150 feet) is the primary runway at FNT. The last rehabilitation project performed on this runway pavement occurred 17 years ago, and the runway and the associated parallel taxiway are now exhibiting significant reflective cracking and other types of pavement distress. A multi-year rehabilitation program was initiated in 2018 to significantly improve the condition of the runway and parallel taxiway system. For the recent 2019 construction season, the focus was on completing the work on Taxiway C that began last year. For the upcoming 2020 construction season, the focus will be on completing the remaining work on Runway 9/27. In addition to the pavement rehabilitation, the overall project includes the replacement of the runway edge lights, distance-to-go signs, electrical cabling, and conduit, as well as electrical vault improvements.



The cost of construction for the 2019 portion of this multi-year project totaled \$9,749,397, and it consisted of federal, state, and local funds. The partners involved included the FAA, MDOT, Bishop International Airport Authority (sponsor), RS&H (consultant), and LA Construction (contractor).

### **Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR), Grand Rapids Terminal Apron Expansion Project**

Due to an increase in the number of passengers flying into and out of GRR, eight new passenger gates will be added to the terminal building in FY 2020 and 2021. In order to prepare for the additional gates, the concrete terminal apron was significantly expanded during the recent FY 2019 construction season. Other major developments included in this project were construction of a service road, installation of a new drainage system (including glycol deicing fluid recovery infrastructure) apron pavement area lighting, taxiway paving and lighting, and pavement markings.



The cost of construction for the FY 2019 portion of this multi-year project totaled \$29,812,343, and it consisted of federal, state, and local funds. The partners involved included FAA, MDOT, Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority (sponsor), C&S Engineers (consultant), and Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. (contractor).

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed on the MAC web page at [www.Michigan.gov/Aero](http://www.Michigan.gov/Aero), under “Meetings” and then “Contract Approvals.”

## All-Weather Airport Access Program

The MDOT Office of Aeronautics' All-Weather Airport Access Program, under the umbrella of the Michigan Aviation System Plan (MASP), calls for weather observation and data dissemination at each eligible airport in Michigan. This program includes three components: (1) an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS); (2) a 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 41 installed AWOS maintained by the Office of Aeronautics in cooperation with local communities. 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 also entered into a contract with IBM to provide weather briefing services at airports in Michigan. Currently, IBM 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 a local sponsor that spells out the responsibilities for the shared operation and maintenance of the weather system.

In FY 2019, the MAC approved 10 contracts for a five-year term relating to the operation and maintenance of an AWOS, a Data Collection System, and/or weather briefing services. Approvals were for the following airports:

Automated Weather Observation Systems	
Beaver Island Airport, Beaver Island	Presque Isle County/Rogers City Airport, Rogers City
Cheboygan County Airport, Cheboygan	South Haven Area Regional, South Haven
Harbor Springs Municipal Airport, Harbor Springs	Oakland/Troy Airport, Troy
Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island	
Brooks Field, Marshall	Weather Briefing System
Toledo Suburban Airport, Lambertville	Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena

The All-Weather Airport Access Program is currently under review to ensure it reflects the policies contained with the current MASP and effectively supports the needs of its users.

A map of systems maintained by the Office of Aeronautics can be viewed [online](#) or go to [www.Michigan.gov/Aero](http://www.Michigan.gov/Aero), select "Pilot Resources & UAS" and then "Office of Aeronautics AWOS Map" under "Automated Weather Observation Systems."



## 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 2019 is 3.3 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 PA 107 of 1969, the Airport Development Act, the following provides information for FY 2019.

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 FY 2019, outstanding loans amounted to \$87,475. Loan repayments of \$25,137 were received. At the end of the fiscal year, the outstanding loan balance was \$62,338.

Amount Available for New Loans – At the end of the fiscal year, the Airport Loan Program had a balance of \$2,137,662.

Status of Active Airport Loan Agreements as of Sept. 30, 2019					
Airport	Fiscal Year	Loan Amount	Amount Disbursed	Principal Repaid	Amount Outstanding
*Branch County	2020	\$100,000	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --
Beaver Island	2013	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$ 55,565	\$ 44,435
Menominee	2012	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 37,097	\$ 17,903
		\$255,000	\$155,000	\$ 92,662	
<b>Total Loans Outstanding</b>					<b>\$ 62,338</b>

\*MAC approved a loan request of \$100,000 from Branch County Memorial, Coldwater during FY 2019; the amount is scheduled to be disbursed in FY 2020.



## 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 the increased use of services available at local airports. The program typically consists of four categories: (1) Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Training; (2) Airport Awareness; (3) Capital Improvement and Equipment; and (4) Air Carrier Recruitment and Retention and receives an annual appropriation to carry out activities and projects.

In FY 2019, the MAC approved grants to airport sponsors under the Air Service Program totaling \$214,070 in state funds. Included in this amount is \$43,420, which was allocated toward the new category of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Equipment Acquisition. All grants require a local funding share of between 10 and 50 percent. The awarded grants were issued to the airports listed below and used to fund projects that included ARFF Training, Airport Awareness activities, Capital Improvement and Equipment, and/or PFAS Equipment. The funded PFAS Equipment includes foam calibration test carts, ARFF vehicle modifications, and specialized training.

Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena	Capital Regional International Airport, Lansing
Willow Run Airport, Detroit	Manistee County – Blacker Airport, Manistee
Delta County Airport, Escanaba	Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
Bishop International Airport, Flint	Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon
Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids	Pellston Regional Airport, Pellston
Houghton County Memorial Airport, Hancock	Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac
Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford	MBS International Airport, Saginaw
Gogebic-Iron County Airport, Ironwood	Chippewa County Int’l. Airport, Sault Ste. Marie
Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Int’l. Airport, Kalamazoo	Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City

Passenger aircraft used at some commercial airports.



# Financial Results

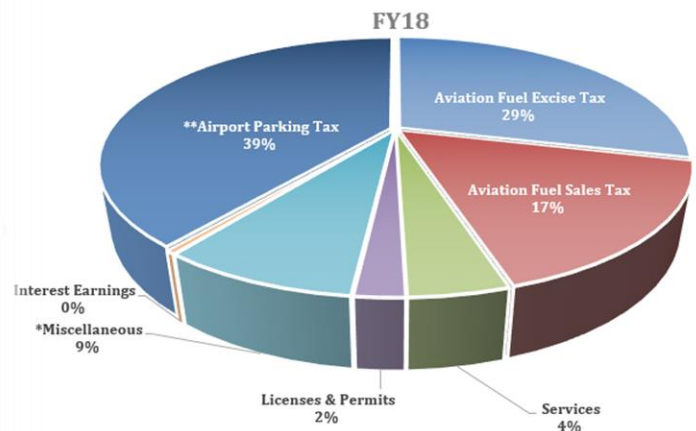
## State Aeronautics Fund

PA 207 of 2018 appropriates funds to MDOT for undertaking aviation programs and services during FY 2019, and appropriations are supported by revenues received during the fiscal year. The total amount of capital outlay awards is 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.

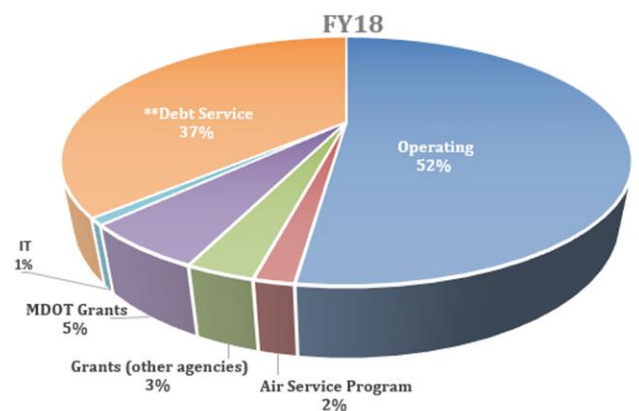
The information depicts revenues and expenditures for FY 2018 and FY 2019. The tables detail actual amounts, while the charts enable comparison within and between the two fiscal years shown on this and the following page.

### Fiscal Year 2018

Revenue		
Aviation Fuel Excise Tax	\$	4,389,279
Aviation Fuel Sales Tax		2,505,176
Services		647,474
Licenses & Permits		322,906
*Miscellaneous		1,285,882
Interest Earnings		(62,779)
**Airport Parking Tax		6,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,087,938</b>



Expenditures		
Operating	\$	6,532,708
Air Service Program		218,252
Grants (other agencies)		371,569
MDOT Grants		696,924
IT		104,641
**Debt Service		4,616,958
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,541,052</b>

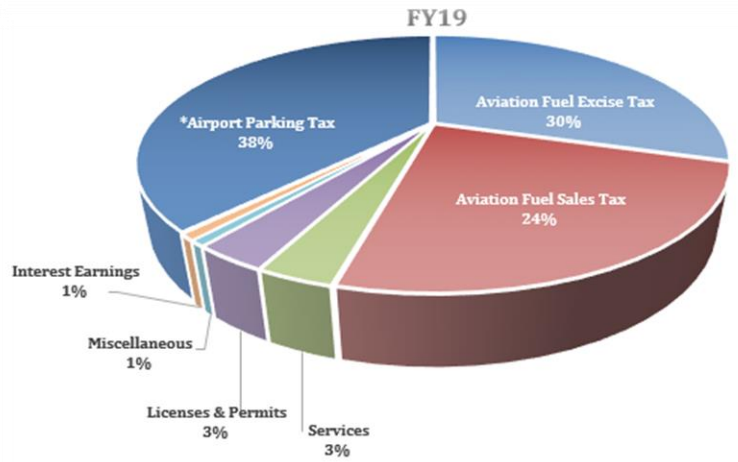


\*Includes \$1,000,000 in proceeds from the sale of a King Air aircraft.

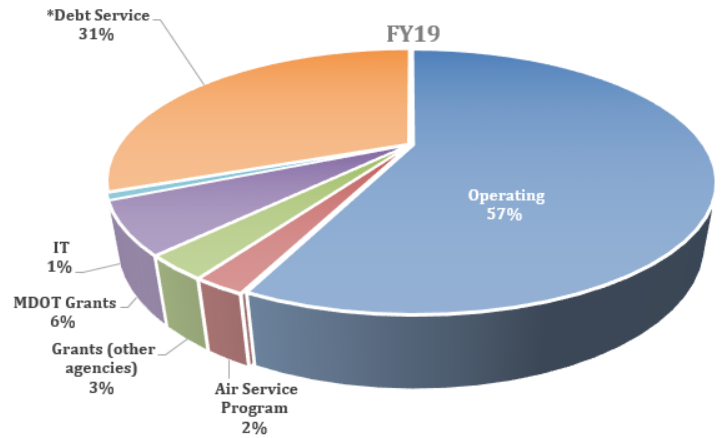
\*\*In accordance with PA 680 of 2002 and PA 135 of 2006, \$6,000,000 was received from the Detroit Wayne County Airport Parking Tax. Of this, \$4,616,958 was used for debt service and the remaining \$1,383,042 was used for capital projects in the AIP.

**Fiscal Year 2019**

<b>Revenue</b>		
Aviation Fuel Excise Tax	\$	4,701,857
Aviation Fuel Sales Tax		3,806,852
Services		511,390
Licenses & Permits		504,647
Miscellaneous		113,765
Interest Earnings		122,351
*Airport Parking Tax		6,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,760,862</b>



<b>Expenditures</b>		
Operating	\$	6,377,401
Air Service Program		250,000
Grants (other agencies)		317,792
MDOT Grants		693,882
IT		92,436
*Debt Service		3,437,804
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,169,315</b>



\*In accordance with PA 680 of 2002 and PA 135 of 2006, \$6,000,000 was received from the Detroit Wayne County Airport Parking Tax. Of this, \$3,437,804 was used for debt service and the remaining \$2,562,196 was used for capital projects in the AIP.

## Legislation

### PA 207 of 2018 Boilerplate Provisions Met in FY 2019 PA 207 of 2018

- **Sec. 383** – Prepared and submitted annual aircraft travel report to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Transportation and the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies.
- **Sec. 804** – Sold one aircraft and notified the State Budget Director, the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Transportation, and the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies.

### State Laws Enacted

- **PA 442, 444, 445, 446, 468 and 469 of 2018** – A package of six bills was signed into law in December 2018 by former Gov. Rick Snyder that regulates Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), or drones. The legislation was based on recommendations from the UAS Task Force and mostly amended the UAS Act, which was passed in 2016. The following describes each law:
  - PA 442** – Specifies how a state agency can use a UAS to inspect a private entity, requiring the agency to obtain permission (written or verbal) or a search warrant. Emergency usage is covered under the law, and MDOT is exempted from infrastructure inspections.
  - PA 444** – Declares for purposes of penal law that a UAS is an extension of the individual.
  - PA 445** – Makes it a felony to use a UAS to interfere with a key facility, like a utility, refinery, chemical factory, or transportation facility.
  - PA 446** – Requires the MAC to conduct a UAS education campaign. The MAC is required to receive and consider public comments on UAS usage. The departments of State Police, Natural Resources, Corrections, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs will provide support to the MAC.
  - PA 468** – Broadens definitions of law enforcement and emergency medical personnel. The law also prohibits UAS from interfering with corrections officers.
  - PA 469** – Amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to create sentencing guidelines.
- **PA 32 of 2019** – Amends PA 436 of 2016 (the UAS Act). Allows for a political subdivision to regulate UAS or drones under certain circumstances. The law was signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on June 25, 2019, with immediate effect.
- **PA 66 of 2019** – Sets forth appropriations for FY 2020 for MDOT. The law was signed by the governor on Sept. 29, 2019.

### State Bills Introduced

- **HB 4168/4169** – Would amend PA 167 of 1933 (the General Sales Tax Act) and PA 94 of 1937 (the Use Tax Act). Both bills would exempt the purchase of certain aviation equipment. (Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy on Feb. 13, 2019.)

- **HB 4300** – Would amend PA 436 of 2016 (the UAS Act). Would prohibit use of UAS in the Department of Natural Resources investigations except in certain circumstances. (Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Communications and Technology on March 7, 2019.)
- **HB 4852** – Would amend PA 436 of 2016 (the UAS Act). Would prohibit local municipal ordinances from being more restrictive than law with the operation of UAS or drones. (Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Communications and Technology on Aug. 28, 2019.)

## Federal Laws Enacted

- **PL 115-254 – FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018** – On Oct. 5, 2018, President Donald Trump signed legislation that authorized \$97 billion in funding for federal aviation programs over five years (FY 2019-2023). The legislation established new conditions for recreational use of drones and repeals hobbyist rules. It also requires FAA to establish regulations on passenger seat dimensions, service animals, and mobile communications by passengers during scheduled air services, among other regulations.

AIP was authorized at \$3.4 billion each fiscal year through 2023. The legislation established a new discretionary grant program for airports that authorizes \$1 billion for grants in FY 2019, increasing to \$1.1 billion in FY 2023. At least 50 percent of the funds would have to be used for non-hub and small hub airports, as well as general aviation airports. This act does not appropriate funds; that is yet to occur.

- **PL 116-6 – Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019** – On Feb. 15, 2019, the president signed legislation to fund most federal government programs and agencies through the end of FY 2019. The legislation provided an increase in funding for many highway, transit, rail, and aviation programs. FAA received \$17.5 billion, where the AIP received an additional \$500 million to accelerate infrastructure investments at airports and will remain available through Sept. 30, 2021.

## Bylaws and Policy

### Pilot Shortage Task Group

During FY 2018, the MAC announced the establishment of a task group to study the pilot shortage issue and its impacts on the Michigan aviation industry. The task group was led by former Commissioner Dave VanderVeen and charged with providing initial recommendations to the MAC on ways the state can address the shortage issue. This was done with the acknowledgment that shortages of maintenance and avionics technicians will also be a challenge in the years ahead.

During FY 2019, the following recommendations were identified as a starting point. The task group recognized additional coordination, discussion, and action would be necessary as the issues surrounding not only a pilot shortage but an overall aviation professional shortage (including pilots, maintenance professionals, cabin staff, and others) will grow in severity within Michigan over the coming years.

1. Develop a greater understanding of the aviation professional shortage within all levels of state government, including the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and the Michigan Department of Education.
2. Encourage a collaborative environment for all aviation organizations and interests to speak with one voice on pilot shortage issues within Michigan.
3. Encourage the aviation community to pursue participation in the Michigan Marshall Plan for Talent program.
4. Encourage the aviation industry's participation in Michigan workforce development initiatives, such as MICareerQuest.
5. Support and expand active pilot development programs.
6. Pursue opportunities identified through the FAA's Aviation Maintenance Workforce Development Pilot Program.
7. Support modernization of FAR Part 147.

### Michigan Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Response Team (MPART) – Airport Sub-Group

During FY 2018, the Commission and MDOT Office of Aeronautics staff established and led the Airport Sub-Group of the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team. The Airport Sub-Group's initial actions included identifying and describing concerns related to the storage, use, and disposal of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), which may contain the contaminant PFAS, at airports in Michigan. Later, the group initiated and completed efforts to identify areas of previous AFFF discharges, as well as current inventories at Michigan airports. During these efforts, the Airport Sub-Group initiated discussions with FAA officials on behalf of Michigan airports to adjust AFFF testing requirements to ensure not only proper fire protection but also to protect public health in Michigan.

During FY 2019, the Commission established and approved grants totaling \$400,000 in partnership with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to support acquisition and implementation of airport fire apparatus testing equipment that

allows fire systems to be tested without the need to expend firefighting foam into the environment.

Additionally, the Commission adjusted the existing ARFF grant category of the Michigan Air Service Program Guidelines to make acquisition of Part 139-approved ARFF and AFFF testing equipment eligible for grant funding.

The Commission approved grants to airport sponsors in the amount of \$43,420, which were allocated toward the new category of PFAS Equipment Acquisition. All grants under the Air Service Program required a local funding share.

ARFF training equipment in use.



# Statistics

## FY 2019 Measurements

- Total Contracts Awarded (Airport Sponsor for AIP, Air Service Program, Weather Services, and with FAA) – **159**
- Airport Development Projects – **27 projects let**
- Statewide Paint Marking Program – **22 airports**
- Statewide Crack Sealing Program – **16 airports**
- Pavement Condition Index (PCI), Inspections and Reports – **36 airports**
- Tall Structure Reviews – **5,414 applications reviewed, including 511 for wind turbines**
- Environmental Reviews and Clearances – **94 airport development projects cleared (4 environmental assessments and 90 categorical exclusions)**
- Non-Primary Airport Subgrant Closeouts – **51 completed**
- Primary Airport Grant Closeouts – **20 completed**
- State Block Grant Closeouts – **7 completed**
- State/Local Grant Closeouts – **15 completed**
- Licensed Public-Use Airports – **226**
- Licensed Public-Use Heliports – **7**
- Licensed Hospital Heliports/Helistops – **81**
- Public-Use Airport Inspections – **44**
- Public-Use Heliport Inspections – **0**
- Hospital Heliport/Helistop Inspections – **40**
- Registered Aircraft – **5,270**
- Dealer Licenses Issued – **68**
- Licensed Flight Schools – **54**
- Flight School Inspections – **23**
- State Aircraft Utilization – **638.3 hours**



# Strategic Plan

## Ongoing Strategic Initiatives

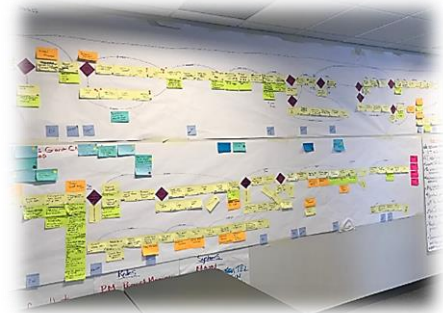
2018/2019 Actions and Results

### Office of Aeronautics

#### Grant Closeout Process Improvement

Address all open grants eligible for closure to maintain a positive cash balance in the State Aeronautics Fund. A successful closeout process improvement activity was conducted by the MDOT Performance Excellence Section during 2018 and 2019. This process improvement examined the closeout process in detail to look for steps that were redundant or did not add value and increased the time needed for a closeout.

An improved process was developed using input from the Office of Aeronautics Project Management Unit and Programming Section, Project Accounting Section of Finance, FAA's Detroit Airport Development Office, and airport industry associates. The new process has been in effect and shows improvements in quicker closeouts from 18-24 months to nine-12 months.



#### Michigan Aeronautics Code Modernization

Improve quality of service by eliminating outdated, redundant, and inefficient policies in the Michigan Aeronautics Code. The comprehensive revisions of the code sought to increase the MDOT Office of Aeronautics' flexibility and efficiency in regulating aviation in Michigan. Success was measured by achieving internal review of the code, seeking legislative change, and implementing modifications to the Michigan Aeronautics Code.

MDOT Office of Governmental Affairs staff have begun preparing a FY 2020 legislative outreach strategy for the coming legislative session.

#### Flight Operations Manual Safety Review

Perform a comprehensive review of the current flight operations manual used by the Air Transport Unit to ensure the highest level of safety continues within the unit. A flight operations manual is a living document used to set specific guidelines for aircraft operation. With internal changes and a continually evolving aircraft operating environment, a formalized review of the flight operations manual increases the safety and standardization of MDOT Office of Aeronautics' air transport flights. Additionally, this review process included an aircraft emergency tabletop exercise to ensure coordination with all appropriate entities in the event of emergency situations.

## Education

On Nov. 7, 2018, the MAC approved a contract providing \$30,000 to the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) to conduct workshops, training programs, seminars, and conferences that support the education and training of airport managers and staff throughout Michigan. The grant helps support student scholarships for those pursuing an aviation-related education by enhancing the existing scholarship program available through MAAE and promotes internships at airports. The grant also offers financial assistance to high school students interested in completing the ground school training required to becoming a private pilot. The contract is funded via appropriations provided in Section 112, Aeronautics Services of PA 207 of 2018. MAAE provided \$6,000 (local match), bringing the total funds available for training efforts to \$36,000.

Aviation Fuel Safety Seminar: Held Oct. 9-10, 2018, in Lansing, the seminar was co-sponsored by Avflight Lansing, AvFuel Corp., and the MDOT Office of Aeronautics. In attendance were 70 airport fixed-base operators (FBOs) and line service personnel for training related to the handling of fuel products, included fueling of aircraft.

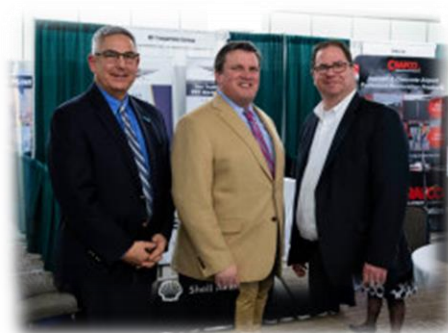
Aeronautics Hangar Visit: A group of students from Western Michigan University College of Aviation majoring in Aviation Management and Operations toured the MDOT Office of Aeronautics on Nov. 2, 2018 (pictured).



Second annual Women's Aviation Career Symposium (WACS): Held Jan. 26, 2019, in Lansing. More than 50 women from the mid-Michigan area attended the event, which was founded by three women aviators: Helen Hagg, Mary Poirier, and Pam Tobin, all current or retired corporate pilots. WACS attendees were able to meet and network with more than 25 aviation professional women who are corporate and airline pilots, military personnel, mechanics, air traffic controllers, seamstresses, ground handlers, and flight attendants. Roundtable discussion panels were held where attendees asked questions about different careers and learned about the everyday life of each panelist. Attendees were able to tour corporate jets and visit booths from many local aviation companies and schools. MDOT Office of Aeronautics staff had a booth set up (pictured) and participated in panel topics. Keynote speaker Adlay Kejjan gave an inspirational talk about her life as a Syrian refugee and the obstacles she had to overcome to become a pilot, certified flight instructor, and paramedic. This event was a great success and an excellent opportunity for women to network and pursue careers in aviation.



Michigan Airports Conference: The 28th year of this conference, co-hosted by the MDOT Office of Aeronautics and MAAE, was held on Feb. 20-21, 2019, in East Lansing. The agenda included updates from the MDOT Office of Aeronautics and FAA, airport roundtable discussions, and a panel discussion with FAA, MDOT, and TSA on several topics selected by the audience. Other sessions included topics on PFAS (Current State of Evolution Toward Use of Fluorine Free Foam), Environmental Spill Response and Jet Fuel Spill Case Study, a unique session on



Airport Strategic Planning, and much more. As lunch speaker, James Fults from the Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development spoke about the Michigan Marshall Plan for Talent. The conference included a legislative reception with exhibitors (pictured).

SimCom Aviation Training: Held in February 2019, MDOT Office of Aeronautics pilots attended professional pilot recurrent training in Orlando, Florida.

Everything DiSC Workplace: Held in February 2019, MDOT Office of Aeronautics staff attended a one-day training session on how to communicate and connect effectively with colleagues whose priorities and preferences differ from yours. The session was facilitated by the MDOT Performance Excellence Section.

Michigan Aviation Professionals Training Course: Held May 30-31, 2019, in Mt. Pleasant, this was a class for small general aviation airports designed to provide new managers, elected officials and consultants a jumpstart on understanding the complexities of managing an airport. The course was co-sponsored by the MDOT Office of Aeronautics, Mead & Hunt, and MAAE.

UAS Certification Course: Held June 12-14, 2019, in Lansing, at the MDOT Office of Aeronautics. This class was geared primarily toward learning all information needed to obtain an FAA Part 107 certification. Think of it as your driver's license for drones in the sky. The first two days were intensive studying for FAA Part 107 and new upcoming MDOT policies and practices. The third day was reserved for a question and answer session, as well as a hands-on flight practicing session with certification remote pilots guiding students through simple flight maneuvers with drones.

Aeronautics Hangar Visit: A group of students from the MDOT Youth Development and Mentoring Program, Southwest Region, toured the MDOT Office of Aeronautics on Aug. 2, 2019. The tour began in the auditorium with a brief tutorial on the role of MDOT Aeronautics and proceeded to a hangar for viewing of aircraft and later outside for an overview of airport safety.

MAAE: The fall conference was held Sept. 9-13, 2019, in Port Huron. The agenda included updates from the Transportation Security Administration, the MDOT Office of Aeronautics and the FAA, as well as an update on PFAS (firefighting foam). "Train Your Mind on Excellence" was presented by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, U.S. Army (ret.), and Dr. Bob Wertkin of Western Michigan University spoke on "Aligning and Embracing Five Generations." Airport roundtable discussions took place, cybersecurity risk and airport emergency planning sessions were held, and much more.

UAS Initiatives: The MDOT Office of Aeronautics continues to support Office of Research and Development in the MTRI Phase III project of putting UAS into use for MDOT on a daily basis. Staff is collaborating with the Office of Survey Support to obtain a well-rounded workflow utilizing UAS for efficiency department wide. Staff wrote and instituted guidance and policy on using UAS internally for the department and has been working with Alpha Consulting for the past 18 months to secure an FAA Certificate of Authorization (COA) for



UAS. The Office of Aeronautics has not attained the COA yet but is continuing to work with FAA to obtain this important ruleset for MDOT. Aeronautics' first UAS certification class had 22 participants, and MDOT overall has 14 certified pilots operating under the MDOT UAS policy. Department-wide, there are 15 drones registered with FAA and in service under the MDOT UAS policy. In addition to training future MDOT UAS pilots and managing the department's UAS program, the Office of Aeronautics has been investigating UAS uses from an airport management perspective and has been utilizing UAS to identify runway path obstructions off the ends of airport runways. This ensures the safety of departing or arriving aircraft using the airport's certified approaches and keeps the airport sponsor up to date on the status of any obstructions above (or close to being above) the minimum height requirements for each runway. Aeronautics' UAS future includes looking at UAS to manage assets on airport property, including pavement cracks and paint marking monitoring, hangar and property assignments, assisting with airport 5010 inspections, tall structure compliance, and investigating other uses that the department can benefit from, such as bridge inspection, pre- and post-construction surveying, construction monitoring and compliance, and traffic management capabilities. The MDOT Office of Aeronautics is also investigating how best to do outreach and education of UAS usage to the community to show its advantages and help build knowledge and support of UAS economic potential for the state of Michigan.



## Notable Events/Recognitions

### Events

The 2019 International Aviation Art Contest was sponsored by the National Association of State Aviation Officials and was open to children between the ages of 6 to 17. Entries were judged in January 2019 by MDOT Office of Aeronautics staff in three classes according to age and creative use of the theme “My Dream to Fly.” A total of 243 entries from 10 schools was received. The top three entries in each age group were forwarded to Washington, D.C., to be judged in the national competition.

Off-Site MAC Meetings: Held on May 22, 2019, at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids and on July 24, 2019, at the Chippewa County International Airport in Sault Ste. Marie. Special recognitions were presented by the Commission in honor of the airports for hosting and preserving Michigan’s aviation legacy.

### Recognitions

Mark Noel, Office of Aeronautics Planning and Development Section, was presented with a Simply Super Service Award in November 2018 for the exceptional treatment and service that he provided to Somat Engineering, Inc.

Steve Houtteman, Bryan Budds and Mike Trout, Office of Aeronautics, received certificates in November 2018 from the governor for serving on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team.

South Haven Area Regional Airport was presented with an Airport Sponsor of the Year award (*General Aviation Airport Category*) during the Michigan Airports Conference in February 2019 in recognition of sustained excellence in contribution to aviation progress in the state of Michigan. The airport authority and airport manager David Johnson were commended for their responsiveness in implementing significant safety enhancement projects to the runway approaches at the airport and for their dedication to airport operational safety.

Sawyer International Airport was presented with an Airport Sponsor of the Year award (*Air Carrier Airport Category*) during the Michigan Airports Conference in February 2019 in recognition of sustained excellence in contribution to aviation progress in the state of Michigan. Airport manager Duane DuRay was commended for his generous assistance to the MDOT Office of Aeronautics during its Grant Closeout Improvement Process. He was also commended for overseeing the complex rehabilitation of Runway 1/19 at Sawyer International Airport.



Duane DuRay was presented with a Service Award during the Michigan Airports Conference in recognition of his outstanding contributions stated above. (Pictured from left to right: Duane DuRay, manager of Sawyer International Airport and Mark Noel, manager of the MDOT Office of Aeronautics Planning and Development Section.)

RS&H was presented with the “Robert G. Peckham” Consultant of the Year Award during the Michigan Airports Conference in February 2019 in recognition of excellence in aviation

consultant services and dedication to airport development throughout the state of Michigan. Erich Thiel, David Joye, and Maan Mohiedeen were commended for their responsiveness in resolving various construction challenges associated with the rehabilitation of Taxiway C at Bishop International Airport. Their innovative, effective, and timely solutions have resulted in continued progress with the project schedule, as well as the enhancement of airport safety.

Alex Erskine of FAA was presented with a Service Award during the Michigan Airports Conference in February 2019 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to airport development and aviation progress in the state of Michigan. He was commended for his exceptional level of service that he continuously provides to the MDOT Office of Aeronautics, particularly the time and effort devoted during the Grant Closeout Improvement Process.

Women in Aviation – Great Lakes Chapter/Helen Hagg, Mary Poirier and Pam Tobin were presented with the group Award of Excellence by the MAC on Sept. 11, 2019, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to aviation education through their leadership with the Women in Aviation - Great Lakes Chapter in carrying out its mission to connect, engage and inspire women to explore the field of aviation. The MAC acknowledged their dedication most recently in establishing and hosting the Women’s Aviation Career Symposium, a successful event for women to network and pursue the many exciting careers in aviation. (Pictured from left to right: MAC Director Mike Trout, Mary Poirier, Helen Hagg, Pam Tobin, and MAC Acting Chair Roger Salo.)



John Mayfield, FAA, Detroit Airports District Office was presented with the individual Award of Excellence by the MAC on Sept. 11, 2019, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Michigan as manager of the FAA Detroit Airports District Office and the valuable leadership he has provided to ensure the safety, strength and stability of Michigan’s airport system. His professionalism in the administration of the FAA Airport Improvement Program over the past 10 years, including the vital State Block Grant Program, has contributed to more than a billion dollars invested in airport development across the state and has had a significant economic impact on local communities. (Pictured from left to right: MAC Director Mike Trout, John Mayfield, and MAC Acting Chair Roger Salo.)



## Other Notables

Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna was honored during his investiture ceremony on Oct. 18, 2018, as the sixth president of Henry Ford College.

Commissioner Rick Fiddler was inducted as a “Living Legend of Aviation” and honored during an awards dinner in Beverly Hills, California, on Jan. 18, 2019, hosted by John Travolta, “The Official Ambassador of Aviation.” There are currently 100 “Living Legends of Aviation.” The annual awards gala is the most important and prestigious recognition event in aviation.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed two new MAC commissioners on July 12, 2019. Kelly Burris, of Pleasant Ridge, is the owner of Burris Law, PLLC and a former engineer with McDonnell Douglas and Boeing. She also is a licensed pilot who has participated in the Angel Flight program. Ms. Burris was appointed to succeed J. David VanderVeen, whose term expired on May 27, 2019. Dr. Brian Smith, of Detroit, is an adjunct professor of mathematics and calculus at Wayne County Community College District and a former senior engineering specialist with General Dynamics Land Systems. He currently serves as the president of the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum. Dr. Smith was appointed to succeed Pete Kamarainen, whose term expired on May 27, 2019.

Commissioners Roger Salo and Rick Fiddler were elected as chairperson and vice chairperson for the 2019-2020 term at the September MAC meeting, replacing Pete Kamarainen and Roger Salo as chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively.

Former Chairperson Pete Kamarainen was presented with a plaque from MAC Director Mike Trout, commending him for an outstanding 2018-2019 year.

Outgoing Commissioners Pete Kamarainen and J. David VanderVeen were presented with special tributes recognized by the governor for their service to the state of Michigan. (Pictured from left to right: newly elect MAC Chair Salo, Pete Kamarainen, J. David VanderVeen, and MAC Director Mike Trout.)

