

ADOT AERONAUTICS



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Send your pics to ADOT Aeronautics. You might be featured in our next newsletter! This issue highlights Brett Shank's photographs from his Piper Cherokee Six.



ADOT Group Manager's Update

It was great seeing everyone at the Arizona Airports Association (AzAA) Fall Conference and connecting with so many of you in person. For FY 2027, Aeronautics is planning the following funding levels:

- \$8 million for the (FSL) program,
- \$10 million for the State/Local program,
- \$5 million for the Airport Pavement Management System (APMS) program.



Matthew Munden
ADOT Aeronautics
Group Manager

We'd also like to recognize Carmen Rose, State Airport Engineer, who has accepted a new position and will be departing Aeronautics in January. Carmen has made outstanding contributions to Arizona's airport development programs and has been instrumental in advancing numerous key projects statewide. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her continued success in her next endeavor.

Aeronautics will be advertising Carmen's position soon, along with two new roles created through recent legislation – an Advanced Air Mobility Planner and an Airport Planner – as we continue expanding our team to support Arizona's growing aviation system.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to maintaining a safe, efficient, and forward-looking aviation network across the state.



Carmen Rose
ADOT Aeronautics
State Airport Engineer

Engineer's Corner

Happy fall everyone! It was great to see you all at the AzAA Fall Conference earlier this month. The Conference Planning Committee put together another wonderful event with great content and I'm looking forward to attending the YoPro networking happy hour event at Scottsdale Airport next month.

We received several engineering design submissions while I was on leave and I hope to complete all of the reviews by November 7th, hopefully sooner. I greatly appreciate your patience with the delays or impacts to your design schedules.

We've seen great communication and coordination from everyone as it relates to submitting the required ADOT reports whether it's the quarterly reports for planning and design grants or the weekly reports during construction. Your efforts to remain in compliance with your grant obligations are noticed and appreciated.

As the weather cools down and we enter into the holiday season Odin wishes you a Happy Halloween!



AAM SB 1307 **Arizona Takes Flight into** **Advanced Air Mobility**

Arizona's aviation future is taking shape with new Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) legislation. The recently passed Senate Bill SB137 establishes two new positions within ADOT Aeronautics—an AAM Planner and an Airport Planner. These positions will help guide statewide AAM integration. The legislation directs Aeronautics to develop a statewide AAM plan, identifying public vertiports, electric aircraft charging stations, and related infrastructure needs. These elements will be included in the State Aviation System Plan (SASP).

AAM aircraft are defined to include electric conventional take-off and landing (eCTOL), electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL), and powered-lift aircraft, along with vertiports. Aeronautics will also designate an AAM expert to coordinate with the FAA and other stakeholders.

The bill authorizes cities and counties to establish AAM infrastructure, while electric aviation education efforts will be led by the Arizona Commerce Authority. Implementation begins September 1, 2026, as Arizona prepares for the next era of flight.



ADOT Aeronautics Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent aeronautics survey. We appreciate the time you took to share your experiences and suggestions.

Overall satisfaction was high—91% of respondents rated their experience with ADOT Aeronautics positively. We also received helpful feedback on ways to strengthen our communication and support. Some of the suggestions included copying consultants on sponsor emails, holding more check-in meetings with Aeronautics staff, and offering training opportunities to better understand ADOT programs. This is not an exhaustive list, but we value all the input provided.

It's worth mentioning that several respondents also encouraged Aeronautics to advocate for the protection of State Aviation Funds and prevent potential fund sweeps. It's important to note that Aeronautics is prohibited from engaging in advocacy efforts—that responsibility lies with organizations such as AzAA and with airport sponsors.

We thank everyone who took part in the survey and remind you that we're always open to feedback as we continue improving the programs and services that support Arizona's airports.

Regulatory Roundup



As you've likely noticed, ADOT Aeronautics is hard at work issuing match grants for many of your airports. As projects begin taking shape, this is a good time to review a few key requirements that help ensure projects stay compliant and on schedule.

Once a grant agreement is fully executed by all parties, the project is required to commence within six months of that date. This helps maintain momentum and ensures that funds are used effectively to support timely infrastructure improvements.

Commencing a project can include issuing a Notice to Proceed to a consultant or Contractor. If this cannot be done within the first six months of the grant agreement date, it is important to coordinate with your assigned ADOT Aeronautics Grant Manager as soon as possible, in writing, to document when the project will commence. No communication within the first six months, will result in a phone call and email from your assigned grant manager reminding you of the compliance requirements.

Equally important, project progress must align with the schedule outlined in Schedule Three of the grant agreement. If a project shows little to no progress over a period of 12 months, the State reserves the right to withdraw the grant and reallocate those resources to other ready projects. Staying engaged and communicating with your ADOT Aeronautics Grant Manager and sending updated schedules helps prevent delays and keeps your project moving forward.

As always, sponsors are encouraged to review their grant obligations carefully, maintain active communication throughout the life of the grant, and keep ADOT informed of any changes that may affect the project schedule. Together, we can ensure that Arizona's airport improvement projects continue to take off smoothly and efficiently.

ADOT ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Navigating ADOT Environmental requirements can be tricky. We're hoping a flow chart can help you navigate the right next steps for your active projects. The main thing to remember is that all projects expected to receive funding through an ADOT Aeronautics grant require environmental clearance, no matter what.



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If you have an aviation event you'd like mentioned or featured in our newsletter, please send details to aeronautics@azdot.gov.

