ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AERONAUTICS



Photo: Grand Canyon National Park Airport

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Group Manager Update

Matthew Munden

ADOT Aeronautics Group Manager

It was great seeing so many of you at the AzAA Fall Conference. These events are always a good opportunity to reconnect, hear what is happening at airports across the state, and spend time with our airport partners.

I'm also pleased to share that the Aeronautics Group is now fully staffed. Please join me in welcoming Steve Loschiavo, our newest Airport Grants Manager. Steve is currently training and will eventually take over the airports previously managed by James. We appreciate everyone's patience as he gets up to speed and learns our grant processes.

We also now have a consultant under contract and are working with them on enhancements to the ACIP Portal. This effort is focused on improving the system and making it more useful and efficient for both airport sponsors and ADOT staff. We look forward to sharing more as the work progresses.

Engineer's Corner



Tim Morrison
ADOT Aeronautics
State Airport Engineer

I have three items this issue to go over that we are either working on or need input from the community to resolve.

- **Hard Check vs. ACH**

We encountered a Sponsor that was getting a hard check on Grant Reimbursement Requests (GRR) and wanted to change to direct deposit. If you are a Sponsor who wants to take advantage of this, please respond directly to me tmorrison@azdot.gov.

- **Best Practice for Airport Inspections**

On several occasions we have experienced a lack of communication or appropriate vehicle lighting when visiting an airport. This typically occurs at non-towered airports when entering the Runway Safety Area (RSA). To err on the side of safety we advise two way communications with the aircraft in the traffic pattern and lighting on the vehicle to clearly identify that someone is on the runway.

AC 150/5210-5D - Painting, Marking, and Lighting of Vehicles Used on an Airport

- **State Highway Material Specifications for airport pavement**

We are exploring the process to get state specifications approved for some projects under the Federal State Local (FSL) program. This would require a submittal under AC 150/5100-13C. The intent is to use the ADOT pavement spec for GA Airports (typically aprons).

"State Highway Material Specifications for airport pavement construction may only be used in accordance with 49 USC § 47114(d)5), at nonprimary public-use airports serving aircraft less than 60,000 pounds gross weight. State Highway Material Specifications may be used for airfield pavement construction (subgrade, sub base, base, pavement surface and related materials, drainage, fencing and turf)."

This may also require specification(s) approved by ADOT specific to airports to satisfy the FAA requirements. The goal is to provide a specification that is more easily applied, especially in remote areas while keeping the quality of the final product within acceptable limits.



Photo: Eric Marcus Municipal Airport

Advanced Air Mobility Update



Arizona's Advanced Air Mobility efforts continue to move forward. Recent activity included a Joby Aviation event at Phoenix Deer Valley Airport, providing an opportunity to see emerging AAM technology and discuss how these aircraft may eventually operate within Arizona's aviation system.

ADOT is also beginning the scoping process for a statewide AAM Strategic Plan. The plan will bulid on the AAM work already incorporated into the State Aviation System Plan and will help define Arizona's approach to infrastructure, airport readiness, policy, partnerships, and future AAM implementation.



Jefferey Webbe
Advanced Air Mobility Planner

Drone Policy

ADOT UAS Policy Coming Soon

ADOT is finalizing a new UAS policy that will apply to drone operations conducted for ADOT, including operations performed by consultants and contractors on ADOT projects.

All UAS operations conducted in the National Airspace System for ADOT work must be performed under FAA Part11 107, and aircraft used for ADOT work must be NDAA compliant. These requirements will remain part of ADOT's UAS program moving forward.

Additional guidance and policy requirements will be shared when the policy is released.

Advanced Air Mobility Page



Regulatory Round Up

Updates to ADOT Grant Agreement Language

Updates to ADOT Grant Agreement Language
Please note that ADOT Aeronautics has recently updated the grant language used in our grant agreements. These changes apply to all grants issued on or after July 1, 2026.

Key changes include:

- Quarterly status reports are now required for every grant type, and the requirement begins the moment a grant is executed — not at a later milestone.
- Plan reviews at 30% and 100% are now required only for state and local (S/L) grants. For federal, state, and local (FSL) grants, ADOT will only require submission of plans for our records — we will no longer review and concur on FSL plans.
- Several definitions have been cleaned up for clarity, including what it means to "start" or "commence" a project.

Please take time to carefully review your grant agreements when signing to ensure you understand these updated requirements. If you have questions about how these changes apply to your grant, reach out to your grant manager.
And as a reminder — one thing that hasn't changed: GRRs are still due every quarter, for every grant.

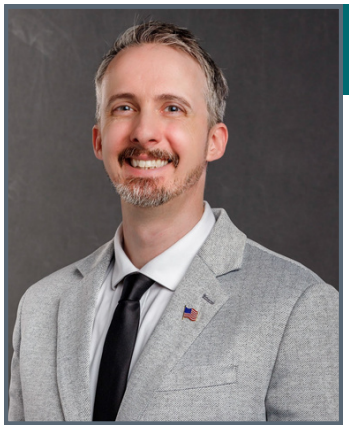
REMINDER

Preliminary Work Date

A Preliminary Work Date is needed for every grant, including both State/Local (S/L) and Federal/State/Local (F/S/L) grants. The date should reflect the earliest date that eligible project work was performed or project costs were incurred.

If a grant agreement is issued on January 1, 2026, but eligible work was performed by the sponsor or consultant beginning October 1, 2025, the Preliminary Work Date should be October 1, 2025.

Grants Managers use this date when reviewing invoices to confirm that the invoiced work occurred on or after the Preliminary Work Date and is eligible for reimbursement.



James McEvoy
ADOT Airport Planner

Planning Update

With the addition of our new Airport Grant Manager, the Aeronautics Group is now fully staffed. This will have the eventual effect of freeing up resources for more planning related operations within ADOT Aeronautics. With that in mind, please remember to keep ADOT apprised of planning activities occurring on your airports. The FAA will remain the sole approval authority for planning documents for airports in the NPIAS, however, ADOT should still be included in the process. Non-NPIAS airports must obtain approval on planning documents from ADOT.

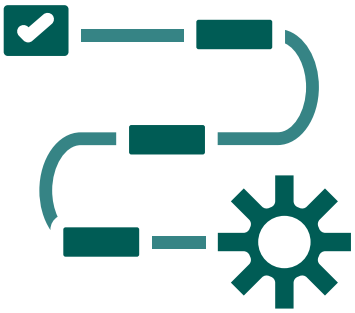
Contact ADOT Airport Planner James McEvoy jmcevoy@azdot.gov with any questions.

Airport of the Year Nominations Coming Soon

As we approach the new year, start thinking about your airport's accomplishments from 2026. Airport of the Year nominations are expected to open around the beginning of the year, and we encourage airports to highlight significant projects, operational improvements, partnerships, community impacts, or other achievements from the past year.

Congratulations again to Grand Canyon National Park Airport (GCN), ADOT's 2026 Airport of the Year. GCN was recognized following completion of a major $12 million runway rehabilitation project that improved safety and operational reliability.

More information on the upcoming nomination process will be provided as it becomes available.



Plan Review Workflow

When submitting plans for review, please email the State Airport Engineer and copy your assigned Airport Grants Manager. Plans should not be sent only to the Grants Manager. This process helps ensure the submittal is routed efficiently for review while keeping the Grants Manager informed.

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Tim Morrison	State Airport Engineer	(602) 901-8315
Jeff Webbe	Advanced Air Mobility Planner	(520) 683-5024
James McEvoy	Airport Planner	(520) 607-0361
Jennifer Murrietta	Airport Grants Manager	(602) 879-7548
Sonia Pizano	Airport Grants Manager	(480) 952-8107
Stephen Loschiavo	Airport Grants Manager	(480) 647-8565

AZAA NEWSLETTER

AIRPORT ASSIGNMENTS

Thank you for continuing to share your photo submissions! If we did not use your images in this issue, we will most likely use them in an upcoming issue.