

Navigating New Frontiers: National Aviation Convention Held in Anchorage

By Megan Flory, RESPEC AASP Public Involvement Lead

The 94th Annual National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Convention & Trade Show was held in Anchorage this September. With over 400 people from 36 states, it was **the most well-attended NASAO convention ever** and gave DOT&PF the opportunity to showcase Alaska's successes and advancements to a national audience. Four packed days of excursions (including seaplane rides at Lake Hood and an Alaska Railroad ride to Turnagain Arm), breakout sessions, and networking explored the theme Navigating New Frontiers with conversations about advanced air mobility, unmanned aerial systems, and advancing workforce development.

Each year, NASAO recognizes states and individuals for their contributions to state aviation. This year, Alaska's own John R. Binder III, former Deputy Commissioner of Aviation for DOT&PF, won the Kenneth A. Rowe Ambassador of Aviation Award. In a press release, NASAO explained why John was given the award:

John R. Binder III has made a lasting impact on the aviation landscape of Alaska and the nation through his leadership, vision and dedication. He is recognized for his transformative leadership of Alaska's aviation system—one of the largest and most complex in the country. During his tenure, he oversaw 235 rural airports, two international airports, and several critical statewide programs, ensuring reliable access to transportation in a state where aviation is essential. A retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel and longtime advocate for aviation safety and infrastructure, Binder also served on the NASAO board of directors, bringing Alaska's unique voice to national aviation policy conversations. His career reflects a deep commitment to public service, operational excellence, and advancing aviation at the state and federal levels.



Members of the AASP team, including DOT&PF staff and B2Gnow, at the NASAO Convention.

NASAO also presented the State Aviation Distinguished Service Award to Richard Mills, P.E. (Arkansas Division of Aeronautics); the Most Innovative State Program Award to the Tennessee

Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division; the NASAO Center Aviation Education Program Award to the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission; and the President's Award to Gregory W. Campbell (Virginia Department of Aviation) and John S. Eberhardt III (ATA Aviation).

The convention was described as a "resounding success" by NASAO leadership. Congratulations to everyone at DOT&PF and NASAO who helped organize such a remarkable week of aviation! And a special shout-out to all the members of the AASP team who were able to join to collaborate in person and celebrate Alaska's aviation system. Next year's convention will be held in Grand Forks, North Dakota.



John R. Binder III, Marty Blake, and Troy LaRue (from left to right) posing with John's award

IN THIS ISSUE:

Navigating New Frontiers
AASP Spotlight
FAA News & Update
In the Works

Air Time Q&A
Coach Class
AASP Project Manager
Update



Judy Chapman

By Megan Flory, Community & Sustainability Planner, RESPEC

Judy Chapman didn't know what she wanted to be when she grew up. Instead of following a rigid, planned career path, Judy followed her passion



for Alaska and the outdoors through jobs at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF). Her various positions always allowed her to be a "steward of state resources," something she takes great pride in. Today, she is the Deputy Director of Statewide Planning for the Project Delivery Division of DOT&PF, overseeing multimodal transportation planning across the state.

After high school, Judy found a job working at Hatcher Pass Lodge for the Alaska Conservation Corps. She spent her summers giving tours, staffing the visitor center, taking out the trash, and tackling whatever other tasks needed to be done. Judy kept working for DNR through college, eventually moving to the Parks Design and Construction section in 1990 as a site planning technician. She credits this position with teaching her about the entire project development process from

planning through bidding and construction; most jobs focus on just one or two aspects of the process, but this position showed her how all the pieces fit together. During her years working at DNR, she acquired her private pilot's license and spent many hours in the air.

After a decade with DNR, Judy landed a job with the DOT&PF Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) board. She's worked with DOT&PF ever since, advancing from transportation planner to manager, then to the Northern Region Planning Chief before moving into her current role. Now, Judy oversees planning efforts for all modes of transportation, from aviation to marine transportation, transit to recreational facilities; in fact, Judy is one of the very few individuals with a holistic understanding of the planning, funding, and design processes for all modes of transportation. Her work takes her across the state and keeps her calendar full, with no two days looking the same. Judy appreciates when communities are heavily engaged with projects and advocate for their needs, like they did for the Nanwalek & Port Graham Airport Relocation project early in her career, or the ongoing Denali Area Airport Planning Study. It can be a challenge to address community needs in the face of limited funding and

changing administrative priorities, but Judy is up for the job.

Lauren Little, Chief of Project Delivery and Acting Northern Region Director, said of Judy:

I first met Judy when she was the Northern Region Planning Chief. Through our many years collaborating together—and ultimately working closely on the Statewide Project Delivery Team – Judy has always impressed with her thorough understanding of the various needs and constraints of our funding and systems, incredible willingness and ability to tackle any challenge or need, and general unflappableness in the face of constant change. I appreciate every day working with Judy on tackling our various modal needs, and her depth in the aviation system is unparalleled at DOT&PF.

Judy advises young people to follow their hearts in their job, because it will lead you to things you are naturally good at; this philosophy, along with her willingness to learn anything and everything she can along the way, has guided her through a long, successful career working for the State of Alaska. Thank you, Judy, for your hard work and dedication to keeping Alaska moving!



FAA NEWS & UPDATES

At the time of this publication, certain FAA functions are still impacted by the government shutdown. The lapse in federal appropriations poses a threat to the Essential Air Service (EAS) and Alternate Essential Air Service (AEAS) programs, though the US Department of Transportation has secured funding for both programs through November 2. Read the official notice [here](#)¹.

In The Works...

Implementation of a new Geographic Information System (GIS) tab will draw information from the AASP and display it visually on maps. GIS is a computer system for capturing, storing, analyzing, and visualizing geographically referenced data, and Alaska DOT&PF's Statewide Aviation group continues to build the foundation for the Department's airport GIS, which will then connect to the AASP to provide a variety of information to allow users to understand spatial patterns, relationships, and trends to make informed decisions. More to come as these new tools are developed this winter.





AirTime

Q What's new with CIMP's?

A The Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program (CIMP) Inspection Manual

has officially been posted on the internal AASP website. The manual, along with our iPad application, ensures CIMP inspections are accurate, detailed, and consistent across the state. Planners and other state staff can request CIMP's



for upcoming years through the AASP (CIMP > Action > Request Inspection), or by reaching out to their designated airport planner or maintenance specialist. Several reports are available on the internal website under the CIMP Inspection tab, or

by request, including a comprehensive Rating Report that includes all A-F scores, and the Deficiency Report, which details D & F ratings. The database also captures documentation for past and current inspection methods.



By Annette Lapkowski, PE,
B2Gnow/BlackCat Project
Manager

Coach Class Self-Service Reports

As a reminder, the AASP has a series of self-service reports as part of the website. You can select Reports from the main page to view current offerings. One key report that changes significantly year-to-year is the Airport CIP. The report includes airport project information for the DOT&PF's airport capital improvement program, funded by FAA through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and the Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) Program (Reports > Airport CIP).

Other self-service reports include:

- Airport Needs Directory
- Airport Contacts
- Staffed Airport Hours
- Runway Details
- Approach Attributes
- Airport Summary



Reports: Airport CIP

Standard Reports

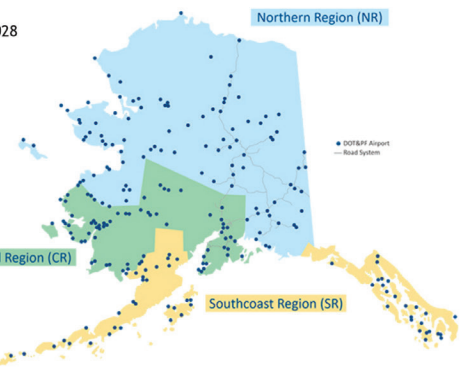
The following reports include airport project information for the DOT&PF's airport capital improvement program, funded by FAA through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and the Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) Program. Project delivery, scopes and cost estimates are subject to change as Congress authorizes program changes and appropriates funding and as projects are developed and bid throughout each fiscal year. Click on these links for additional information on Project Development and Project Prioritization

Filter Type:
 State Region:
 Expected Funding Year(s) (FFY): ☒ 2025 ☐ 2026 ☐ 2027 ☐ 2028

Category: ☒ Airfield ☒ Building ☒ Other
☒ M&O / Equipment ☒ Planning ☒ AIAS

Facility Type: ☒ Statewide ☒ Airport/Heliport
☒ Airport ☒ Airport/Seaplane Base
☒ Heliport ☒ Seaplane Base

Sort:
☒ by Airport Alphabetically
☐ by Project Category Alphabetically



Export

AASP Project Manager Update

Edgar Tinajero, RESPEC AASP Project Manager

With winter around the corner and snow on the way, another season of Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program (CIMP) inspections is coming to a close and the team continues to focus on support documentation, such as the CIMP manual and training videos. Beyond implementing CIMP improvements, the team is hard at work updating the website. On a smaller scale, our team is also using GIS to develop map that graphically depict air carrier routes. If you're an air carrier and having a route map graphic sounds interesting, please reach out to the AASP team for more information.

The team continues to develop educational documents for the public, including recent updates to the [Alaska Bypass Mail Program white paper](#)² and [Essential Air Service fact sheet](#)³. New fact sheets are in development for Airport Layout Plans, Wind Roses, and Part 77 Airspace Surfaces and new white papers detailing airport leasing and master planning.

While everyone enjoys a good read, we're all excited to announce the publishing of our first round of videos in the Aviation in Alaska

Video Series.

The first three videos—Medevac Operations in Alaska, Rural Airport Contractors, and Airport Rescue and Firefighting—are posted on the AASP website's⁴ new Video tab. Future topics include Airport Managers and Part 139 airport requirements. This video series is intended to highlight the complexity and critical importance of Alaska's rural airport system, with a focus on the people who keep the system running.



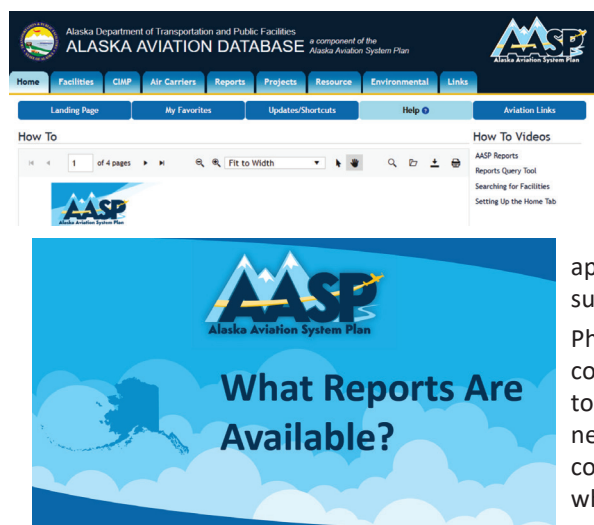
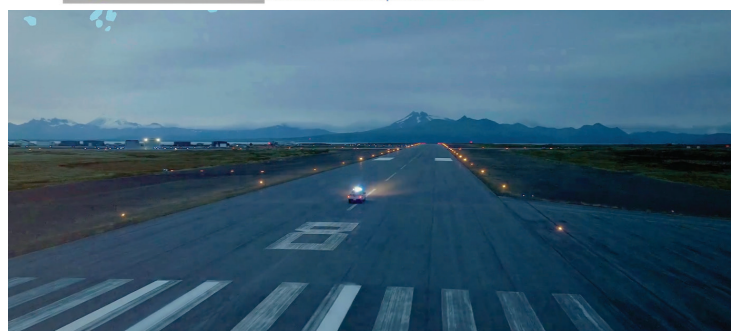
Aviation in Alaska Video Series

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is currently producing a series of short videos that highlight the complexity and critical importance of Alaska's rural airport system. Each video will focus on a different aspect— from the lifesaving role of medevac operations to the requirements of FAA Part 139 certification, to ARFF emergency response, the role of rural airport contractors, and the essential leadership of airport managers across the state. Together, these stories will illustrate how Alaska's aviation network functions as a lifeline for all who call Alaska home, and many who visit.



This video explores how medevac flights connect rural Alaska to critical medical care, highlighting the pilots, crews, and airport staff who make it all possible—often in extreme conditions. Alaska's airports play a critical role in these emergencies, providing the infrastructure and access needed when every second counts.

Fact Sheet: Medevac Operations in Alaska



Our team has also published the first round of tutorial videos for users of the internal website, explaining what reports are available, how to search for facilities, and how to customize your home tab. Still to come are videos on the CIMP inspection process, including installing the application and process deficiencies to support future capital projects.

Phase III of the AASP is nearing completion and the team is now working to develop recommendations for the next phase. An End of Phase survey is coming soon to collect their opinions on what went well and where the system needs improvement.



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¹<https://www.regulations.gov/document/DOT-OST-1997-2960-0219>

²https://www.alaskaasp.com/media/5517/2025-10-21_aasp-11f_bypassmail_whitepaper_final.pdf

³https://www.alaskaasp.com/media/5121/eas_25.pdf

⁴<https://www.alaskaasp.com/Videos.aspx>

