

Aeronautics Commission



The Aeronautics Commission is empowered and directed to encourage, foster and assist in the development of aeronautics in the State and to encourage the establishment of airports and air navigation facilities as part of the transportation infrastructure for the state, region and nation. In working with the Governor's Office, the West Virginia Legislature, Congressional Offices, and public and private entities, the Commission seeks opportunities for expanded economic development on airport property and near airports.

AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Susan V. Chernenko, Director



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Susan V. Chernenko has served in West Virginia state government over 34 years. She was appointed Appointments Coordinator for Governor John D. Rockefeller IV and appointed Director of Administration for Governor Gaston Caperton during his two terms as Governor. Ms. Chernenko has served as Director of the West Virginia Department of Transportation Aeronautics Commission since 1997. In this capacity, she works closely with the Governor's Office, legislature and congressional offices on state and federal aviation policies, regulations and funding. She represents West Virginia as a member of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), and currently serves as a member of the NASAO Board of Directors representing West Virginia and seven other states in the Eastern Region. She was the first West Virginian and first woman elected as Chairman of NASAO in 2003-2004. She is an appointed member to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Standing Committee on Aviation and has served continuously since her initial appointment in 2000. She is also an appointed member of the Transportation Research Board Aircraft/Airport Compatibility Committee and has served since 2007. She is a member of the American Association of Airport Executives, Airports Council International-North America and the Aero Club of Washington. Ms. Chernenko is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire. She and her husband, Gary, reside in Charleston, West Virginia.

WEST VIRGINIA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Paul A. Mattox, Jr., P.E. (Putnam County)
Secretary, Department of Transportation.....Hurricane
- Eldon J. Haught (Ritchie County)
Chairman.....Smithville
- Richard S. Wachtel (Berkeley County)
Member.....Martinsburg
- Ben Mallory (Kanawha County)
Member.....South Charleston
- John W. Woods (Putnam County)
Member.....Scott Depot
- Susan V. Chernenko (Kanawha County)
Director.....Charleston

AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

AVIATION FUNDING

The West Virginia Aeronautics Commission operates from two funding sources: dedicated revenue received from the tax on aviation fuel sales and General Revenue appropriated by the legislature. The Commission utilizes General Revenue Funds to identify immediate and future air transportation and infrastructure needs, provide financial assistance for firefighting training, assist airports in public awareness programs and marketing initiatives, provide funds to airport projects that are not eligible for federal funds. One hundred percent of aviation fuel tax revenues are used to match federal dollars for airport improvement projects.

HISTORY

Created by the West Virginia Legislature in 1947, the West Virginia State Aeronautics Commission was placed under the Office of the Secretary of Transportation in 1989. The Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor with the Secretary of Transportation serving as an ex officio member.

The Commission is authorized to cooperate with the federal government and state agencies in the planning, acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of airports and other air navigation facilities in the state and is authorized to accept federal aid funds, either outright or matching. The Commission has been given broad power and authority regarding the public safety and operation of all airports in the state.

The Commission's vision for the future of aviation in West Virginia is to continue to provide firefighting/homeland security/emergency training to airport firefighters and mutual aid responders, improve the statewide system of airports, implement aviation programs and policies to improve aviation infrastructure, attract additional air service and increase safety and security at airports.

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AGENCY INITIATIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In an effort to promote the state's airports, improve aviation infrastructure, expand air service and improve aviation safety, the Aeronautics Commission has defined the following goals:

Continue working with federal and state agencies to capture additional federal funding for airports.

Continue to conduct statewide firefighting/homeland security/emergency training for airport firefighters and mutual aid responders.

Continue to provide state matching funds for airport improvement projects (e.g., runway extensions and rehabilitations, snow removal equipment, weather systems, taxiway improvements, master plan updates, wildlife management services, security fencing, purchase firefighting suits and equipment, terminal renovations, signage and environmental assessments).

Continue to identify air transportation and infrastructure needs to meet current and future demands; provide additional funding and administrative assistance to airports.

Annually, the Aeronautics Commission meets its goal of matching 100% of Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds. In Fiscal Year 2010, the Commission provided over \$1,127,676 in state matching funds (Aviation Fuel Tax) to West Virginia public use airports for 35 projects that matched over \$21,500,000, in federal funds. The Aeronautics Commission provided \$840,000 in additional general revenue funds to airports for improvements and air service marketing; provided additional funds to twelve Civil Air Patrol Squadrons; and funds for firefighting training.

In partnership with WVU Fire Service Extension Office, the Aeronautics Commission provided firefighting/homeland security/emergency training to over 160 West Virginia airport firefighters and mutual aid responders.



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For further information, please visit our website:

<http://www.transportation.wv.gov/aeronautics/Pages/default.aspx>

