



**COLORADO**

**Department of Transportation**

Division of Aeronautics

# **Division of Aeronautics Briefing**

## **David Ulane, Director**

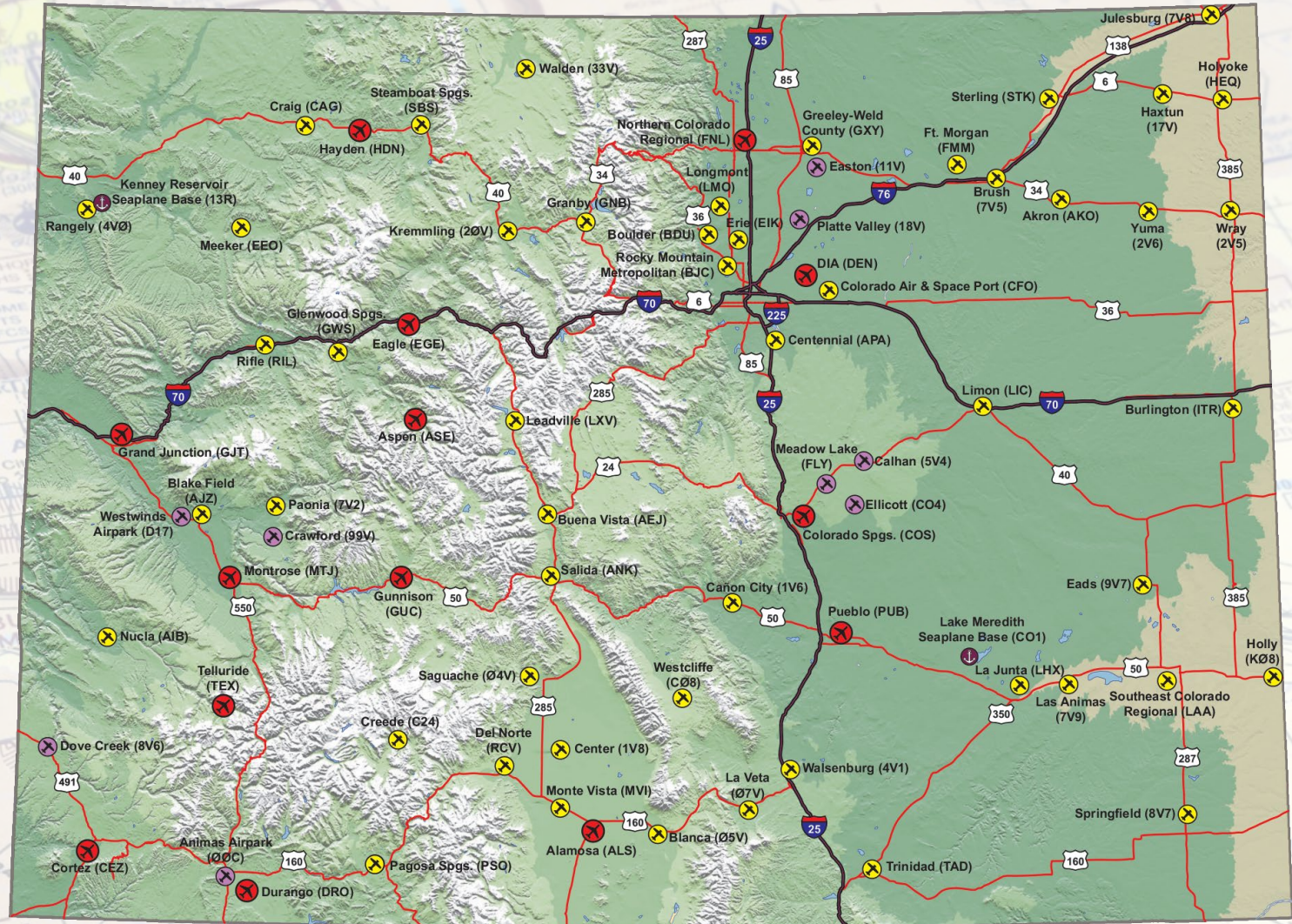




# The Colorado Airport System

## The Statewide Vision

Positioning Colorado's 76 public use airports as a connected network of economic generators, essential lifelines, and viable assets rather than isolated infrastructure



Commercial Service Airport



Publicly-Owned & Operated Airport



Privately-Owned Airport Open to the Public



Public-Use Seaplane Base





# Three Pillars of Value



**Economic  
Benefit**



**Community  
Lifeline**



**Wildfire  
Response**



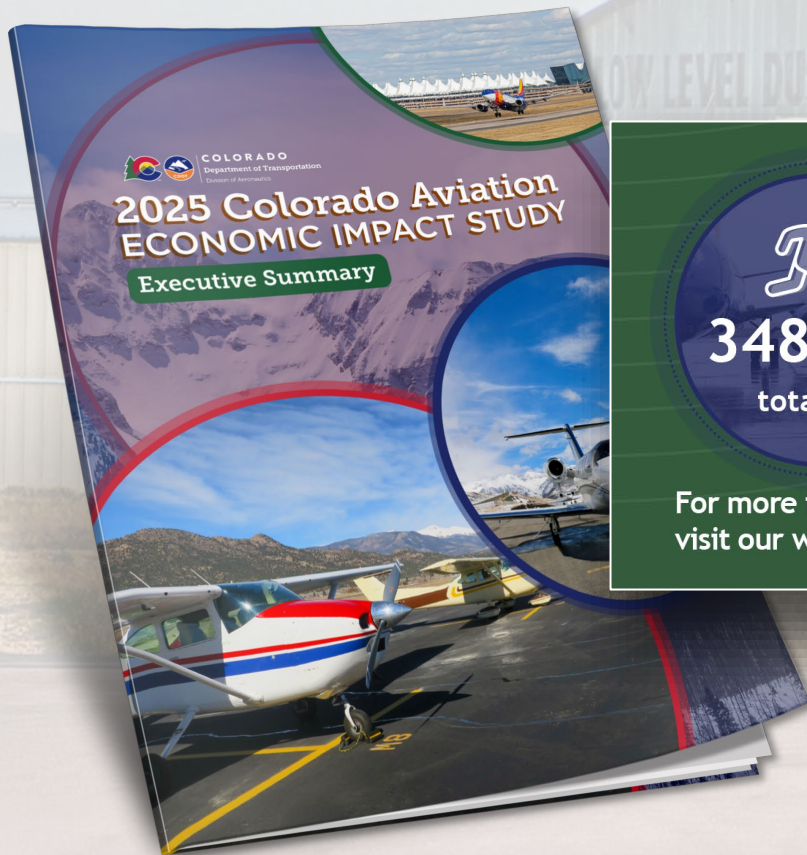




# Three Pillars of Value



## Economic Impact







# Three Pillars of Value



## Community Lifeline







# Three Pillars of Value



## Wildfire Response



**Rocky Mountain Metro Airport**  
Waldo Canyon Fire – 2012



**Sumers Airpark – Glenwood Springs**  
Grizzly Creek Fire – 2020



**Trinidad-Perry Stokes Airport**  
Schwachheim & Poitrey Fires  
April 2026

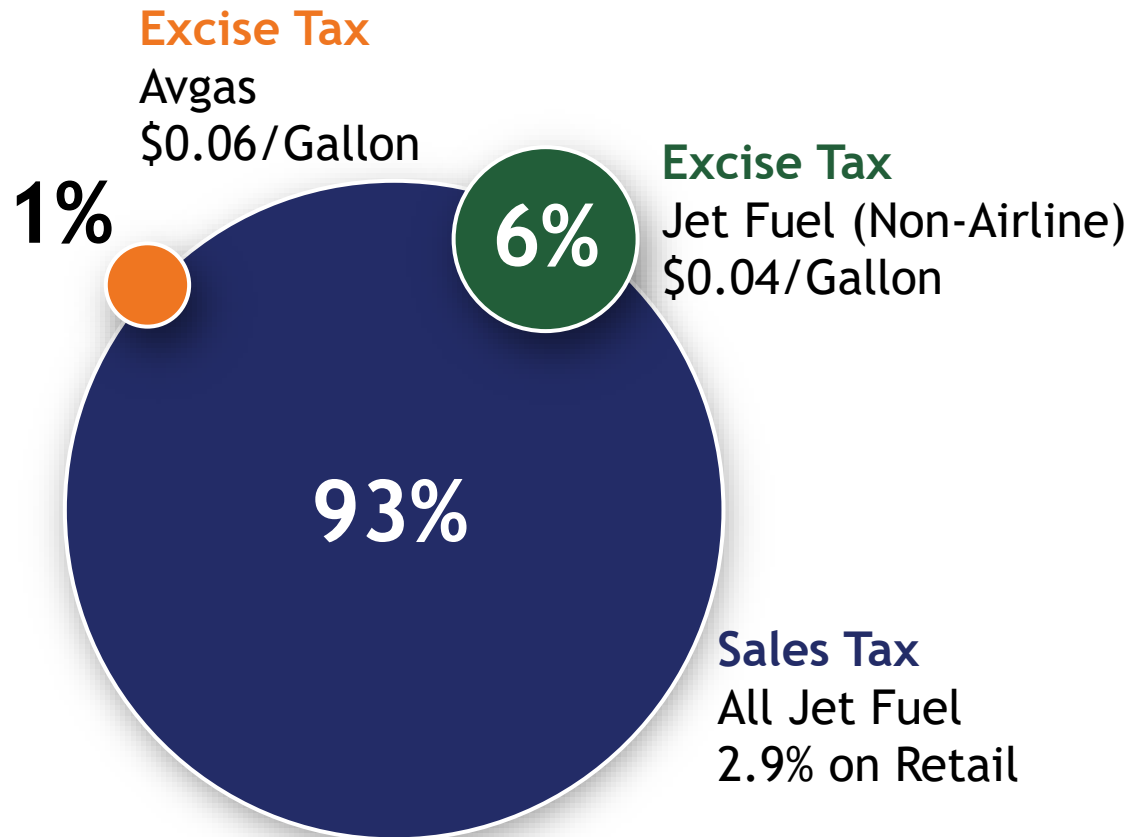
**Without airports, there is no aerial response.**





# The Colorado Aviation Fund

## Aviation Tax Revenue Structure



A charter aircraft being fueled with blended sustainable aviation fuel at Telluride Regional Airport (TEX).



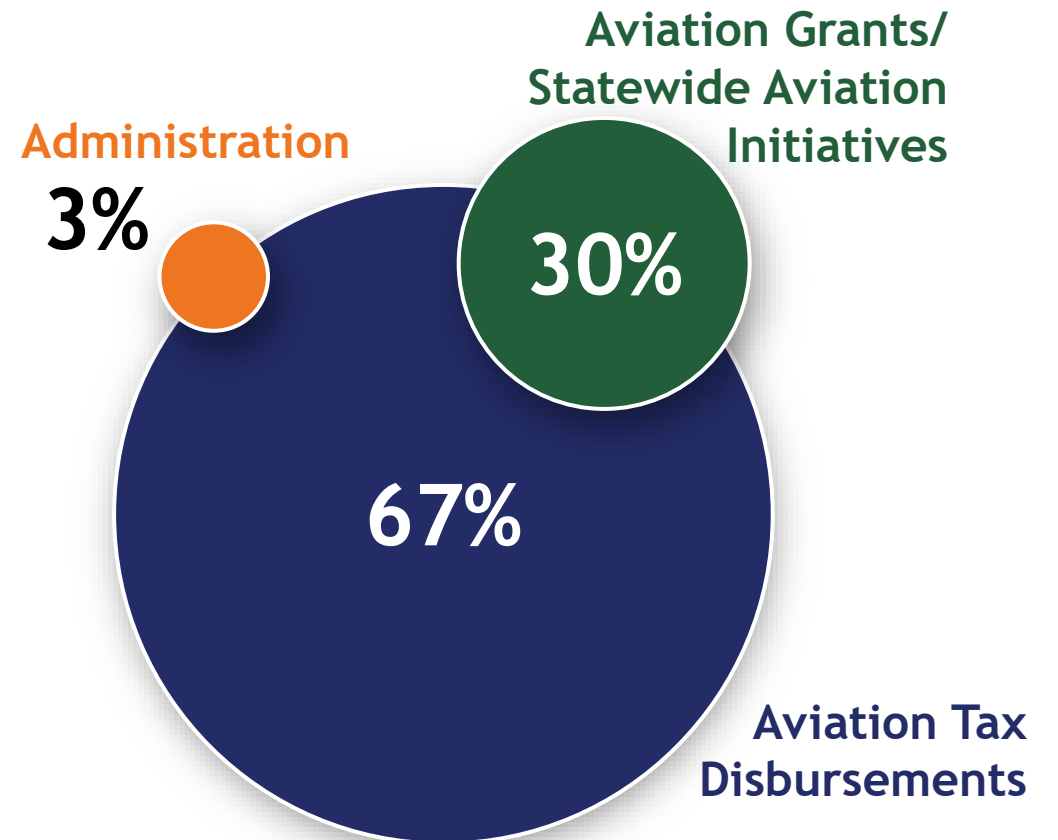


# The Colorado Aviation Fund



A flight simulator at Burlington-Kit Carson County Airport (ITR) funded by the Colorado Aviation Education Grant Program.

## Aviation Tax Expenditures







# 2026 Aviation Grant Summary

## 2026 Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant (CDAG) Program

|                                     |                                      | State        | Local        | Federal       | Total         |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| State and Local Program             |                                      | \$10,153,332 | \$3,688,794  | N/A           | \$13,842,126  |
| Federal Match and Overmatch Program | Airport Improvement Program (AIP)    | \$4,891,220  | \$5,877,282  | \$127,298,788 | \$138,067,290 |
|                                     | Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA) | \$1,369,600  | \$2,168,790  | \$45,504,238  | \$49,042,628  |
| Grand Total (42 Airports)           |                                      | \$16,414,152 | \$11,734,866 | \$172,803,026 | \$200,952,044 |

\$973,800 was allocated for unleaded fuel transition projects.

- Awarded a total of **54** discretionary grants to **42 airports**.
- TOTAL CDAG FUNDS: **\$16.5 Million**.
- <sup>1</sup>Excluding Federal Funds at DEN





# Alternatively Powered Aircraft Study







**COLORADO**

**Department of Transportation**

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Questions?



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Denver Regional Council of Governments  
Transportation Advisory Committee

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Mike Fronapfel

Executive Director, Centennial Airport



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AIRPORT®

Let's be social! @FlyCentennial



# Centennial Airport

## *Who We Are*

- Opened in 1968 as a reliever airport for Stapelton (now DEN)
  - Located in the Denver South area
  - Serves Arapahoe County, Douglas County, Denver, Aurora, Centennial, Greenwood Village, Cherry Hills Village, Lone Tree, Parker and surrounding business centers including the Denver Tech Center, Meridian, Dove Valley and Compark
- Among busiest general aviation airports in the nation
  - Busiest in Colorado
  - Busiest in U.S. in 2023; 360,725 operations
- 3 Runways, 24/7 Towered Operations, International Airport
- 850+ Based Aircraft; including 180+ Jets





# Airport Users



General Aviation: All civil and military operations except for commercial scheduled service

We provide non-stop service to a wide variety of users including:

- Medevac and Air-ambulance
- Military and Department of Defense
- 8 major Flight Schools
- Research and Development
- Corporate Businesses
- Charter
- Cargo
- and more



# Denver International Airport

2023 Arrivals and Departures

Places Flown To/From: 824

Total States Flown To/From: 50

Total Countries Flown To/From: 46

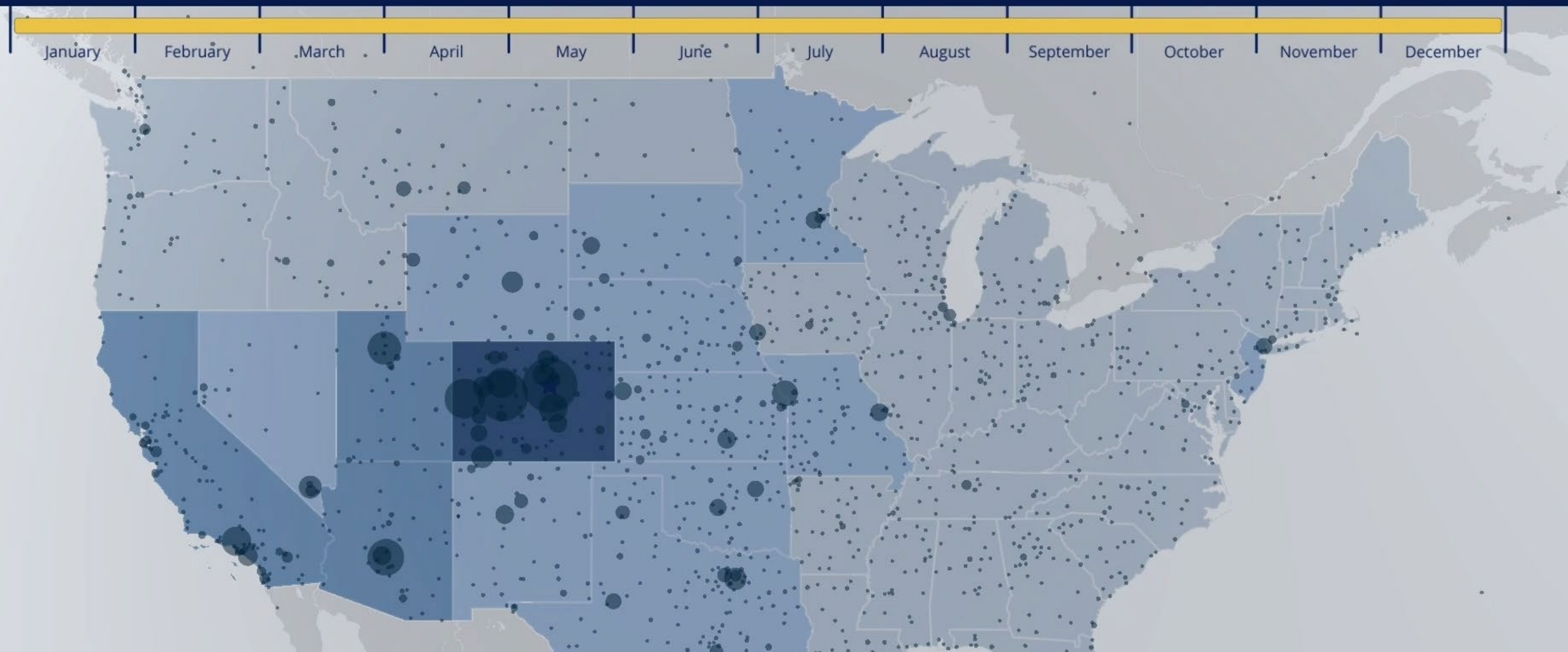
# Centennial Airport

2023 Arrivals and Departures

Places Flown To/From: 1,663

Total States Flown To/From: 50

Total Countries Flown To/From: 41





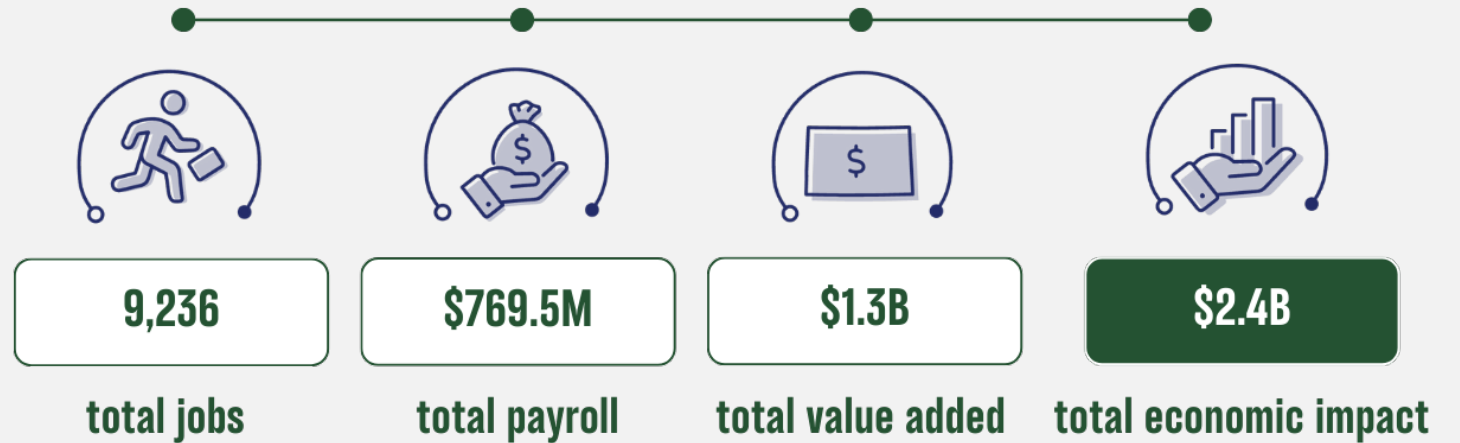
# Economic Impact

As one of the busiest General Aviation airports in the world, we are home to over **125 businesses**, and **more than 9,200 jobs** in the region rely on the airport; including over 3,000 jobs directly on the airfield.



## 2025 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study

*Individual Report for Centennial Airport*



\*SOURCE: 2025 CDOT AIRPORT ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY



# Our Revenue Sources

## *USER-SUPPORTED AIRPORT*

We are financially self-sufficient, accepting no local taxpayer money.

### **Fuel Sales (~50%)**

- Jet Fuel (approx. 16 million gallons annually) *\$8.21 Gallon*
- AvGas (approx. 800k+ gallons annually) *\$7.55 Gallon*

### **Land Leases (~35%)**

- Land leases to tenants (aeronautical and non-aeronautical)
- Land or hangar leases

### **Concession fees (~15%)**

- Restaurants
- Commercial Activity Fees
- Construction Fees



# Vital Lifeline



We connect people in need with essential resources

- Medevac and Air-Ambulance
- Firefighting Aircraft
- Humanitarian Missions

The largest air-ambulance companies in the surrounding 9 states provide service to the entire region through Centennial Airport. **We support approx. 17 lifesaving flights per day.**

\*Based on 6,107 Medevac flights in 2025 alone.

# Unleaded Aviation Fuel

- First airport in Colorado to offer Unleaded Aviation Fuel
  - Now 1 of 3
- Largest FBO user in US





# Noise Abatement

- Noise Office
  - Full time Noise Office/ 2 Employees
  - Permanent Noise Monitoring System
  - Monthly Noise Report
  - Centennial Airport Community Noise Roundtable
  - FAA Study Group
    - FAA sub-technical working group formed to address extended traffic pattern over Greenwood Village
  - Quarterly Flight Safety Noise Abatement Meetings
  - Separate Noise Website
    - [noise.centennialairport.com](http://noise.centennialairport.com)
  - Flight School Dashboard
    - Grading system for flight school participation and adherence to Voluntary Noise Abatement Guidelines
  - Part 150 Study



# Community Investment and Giving

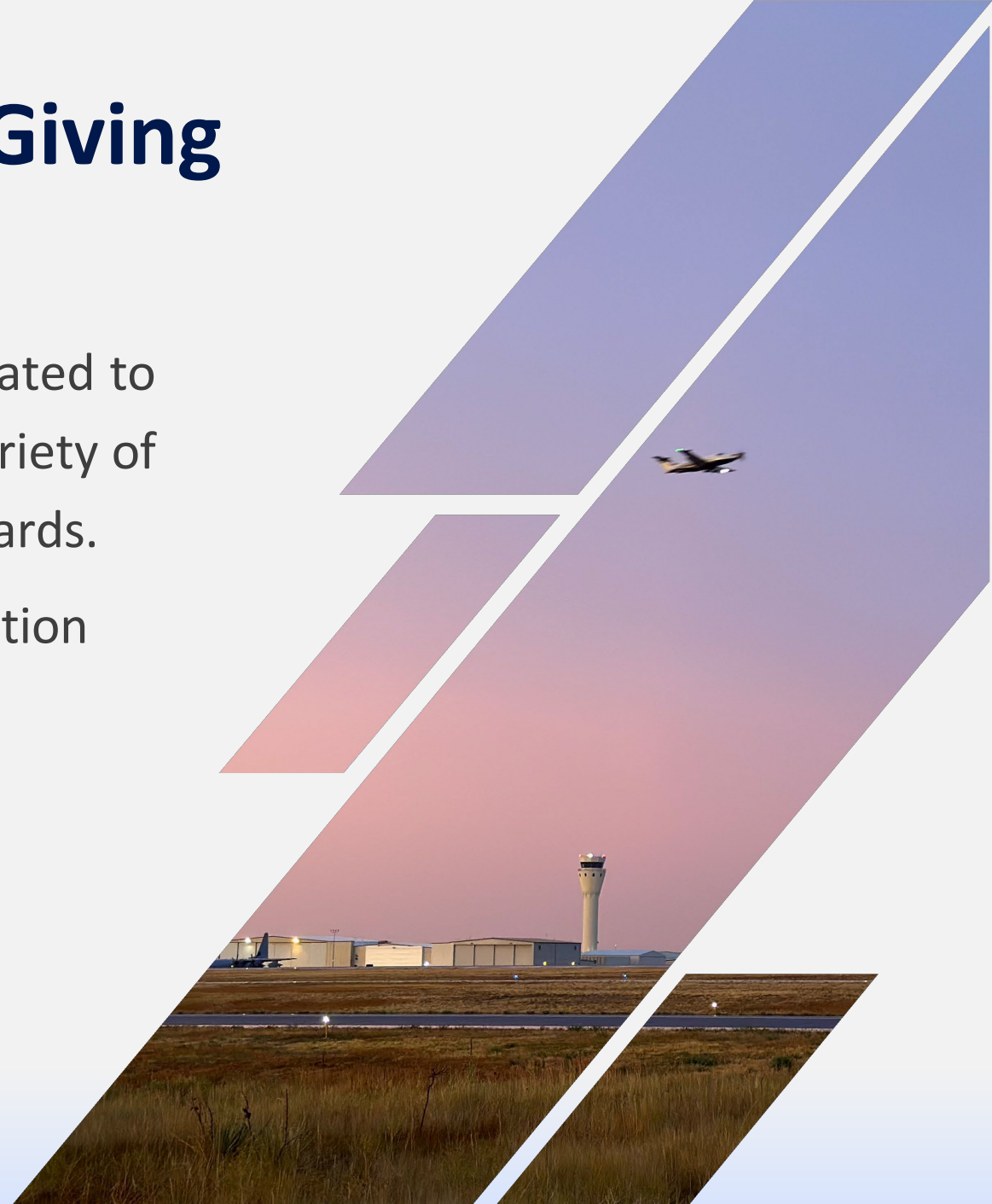
## Centennial Airport Foundation

A designated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to support the advancement of aviation through a variety of educational scholarships and aviation centered awards.

- Three Annual Scholarships to students in aviation
- Gives to aviation education programs

Runway 5K event raises funds for Foundation

- 2024: 1,000+ participants | \$65K raised
- 2025: 1,500+ participants | \$85K raised
- 2026: 2,000+ participants | \$110K raised





# Centennial Airport Gives Back

- In addition to the Foundation, we proudly host and sponsor a variety of charitable events and organizations. We're also honored to serve as a base for several causes, allowing nonprofits and similar groups to utilize our airport in their efforts to give back.

Douglas County Community  
Foundation Heroes Gala



*Hosted by Signature Aviation*  
Benefits the DCCF Community Emergency Relief Fund to provide direct assistance to Douglas County community, nonprofit partners, and first responders during catastrophic events.

Challenge Air for Kids & Friends



*Hosted by Modern Aviation*  
Annual charity event that provides an open house and free airplane rides to children and young adults with special needs.

Morgan Adams Concours d'Elegance



*Hosted by Signature Aviation*  
Benefits the Morgan Adams Foundation to fund kids' cancer research.

Evening of Hope for Pancreatic  
Cancer Research



*Hosted by Wings Over the Rockies Museum*  
Benefits Wings of Hope to raise funds for the prevention, detection and treatment of pancreatic cancer.

AeroAngel Light Up the Sky Event



*Hosted by Wings Over the Rockies Museum*  
Benefits AeroAngel to provide free, private jet flights for seriously ill children to access life-saving medical care far from home.

*Thank you!*



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# Denver Regional Council of Governments

Transportation Advisory Committee

07.27.2026

# Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport



- Opened September 4, 1960
- General Aviation Reliever for DIA
- Second business airport in Colorado
- 24 hour operation
- 3 runways, 450+ based aircraft



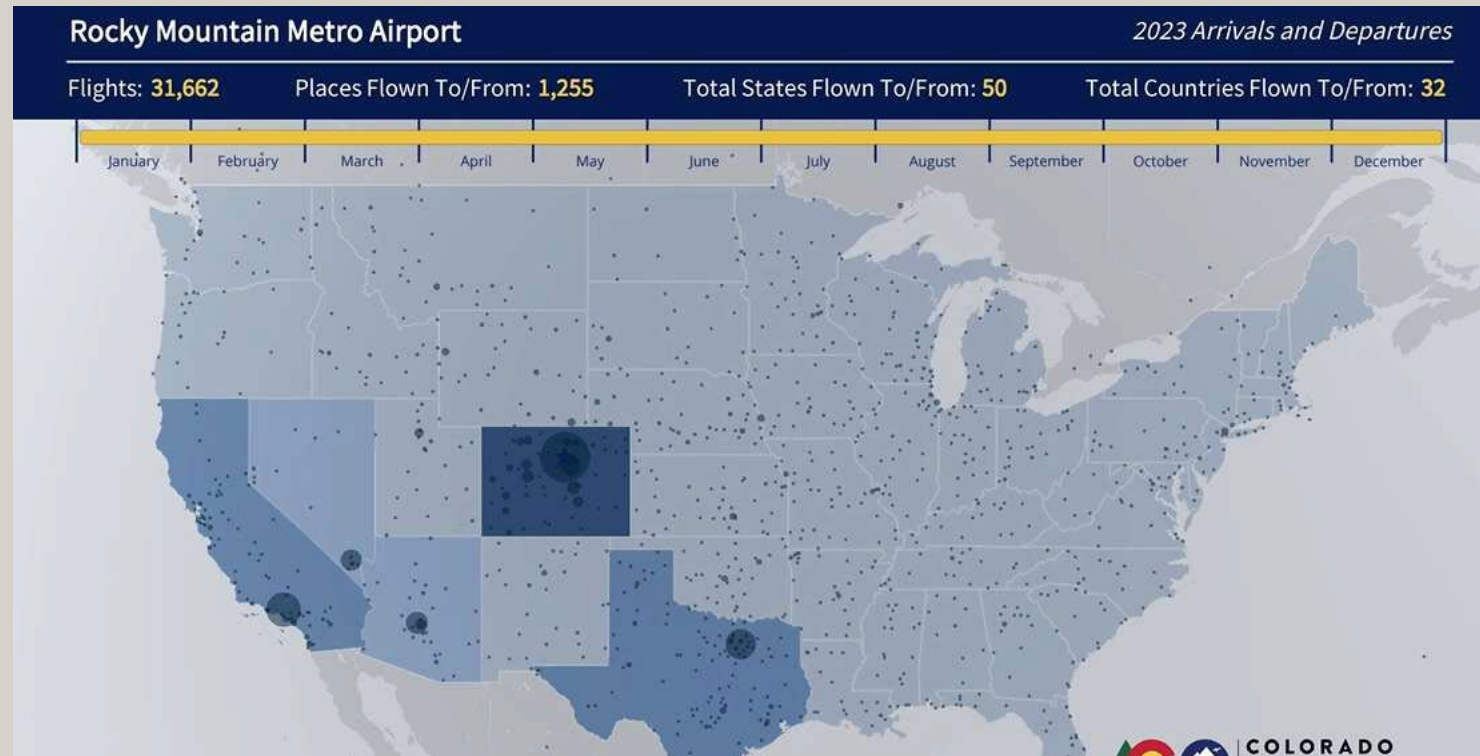


# Airport Users

- Part 139 Certified airfield
- Wildfire Helitak base
- Pilatus
- Corporate flight departments
- Charter (Netjets, etc.)
- 4 major flight schools



# Arrivals and Departures

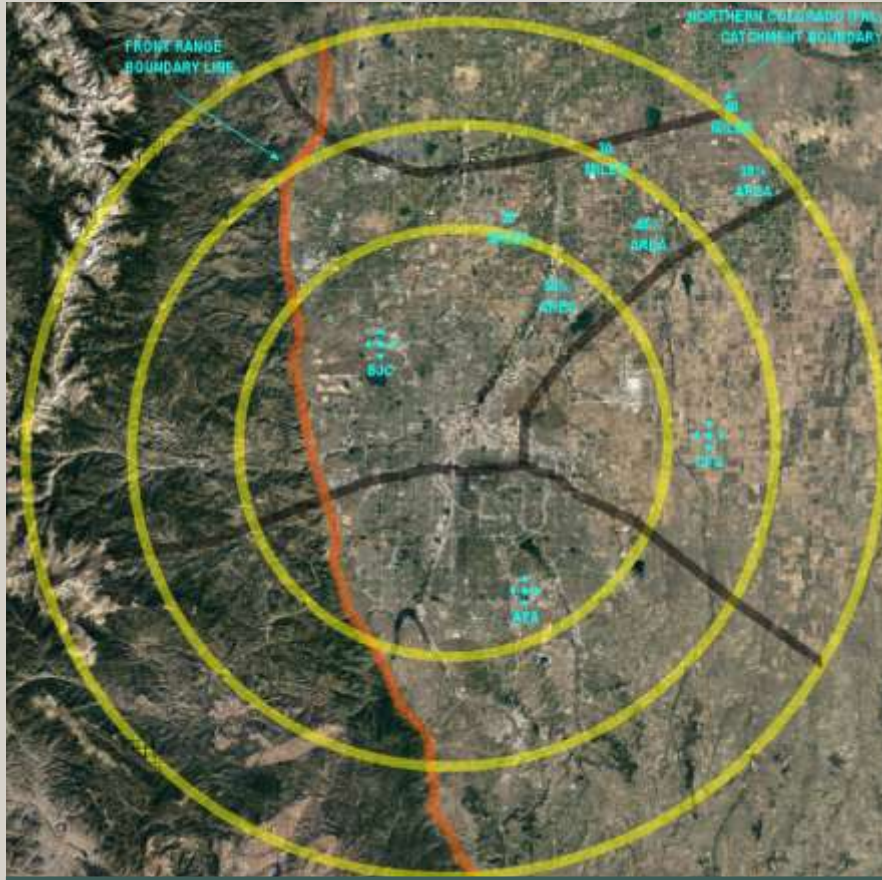


- 31,662 flights
- 1,255 places
- 50 states
- 32 countries





# Regional Multi-Nodal Transportation



- Catchment area for the airport extends beyond Boulder and Downtown Denver
- Within 20 miles, 50% of the catchment area heads to BJC
- Ground transportation is primary POV with some ride share through Uber / Lyft
- Limited connectivity through RTD and potentially limited with CoCo



# Economic Impact

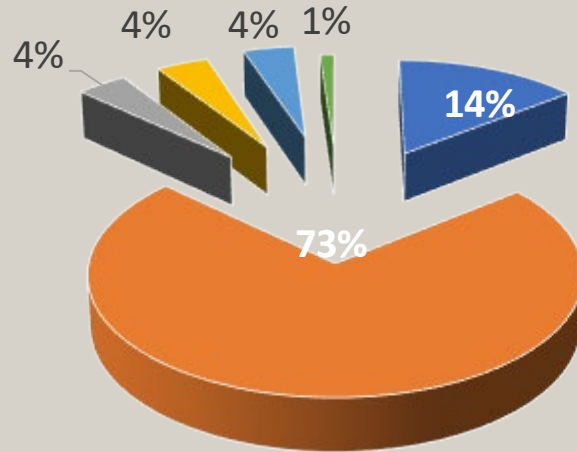




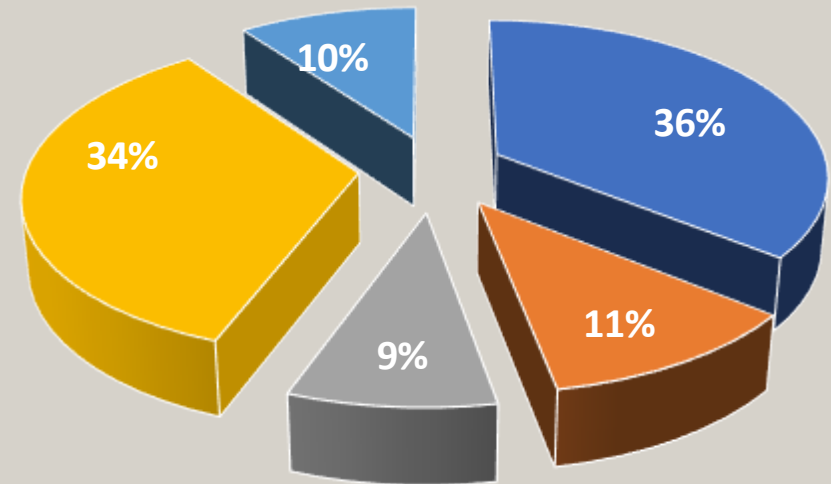
# Revenue

and

# Expenses



- Fuel Tax and Fuel Flow
- Lease Revenue
- Interest Revenue
- US Customs
- Intergovernmental
- Other



- Salaries
- Benefits
- Interdepartmental
- Services/contracts
- Supplies



# A critical front on the WUI

- Homebase for quick response to the Wildland-Urban Interface
- State Firehawk, US Forest Service, and NCAR





# Unleaded Fuel Transition

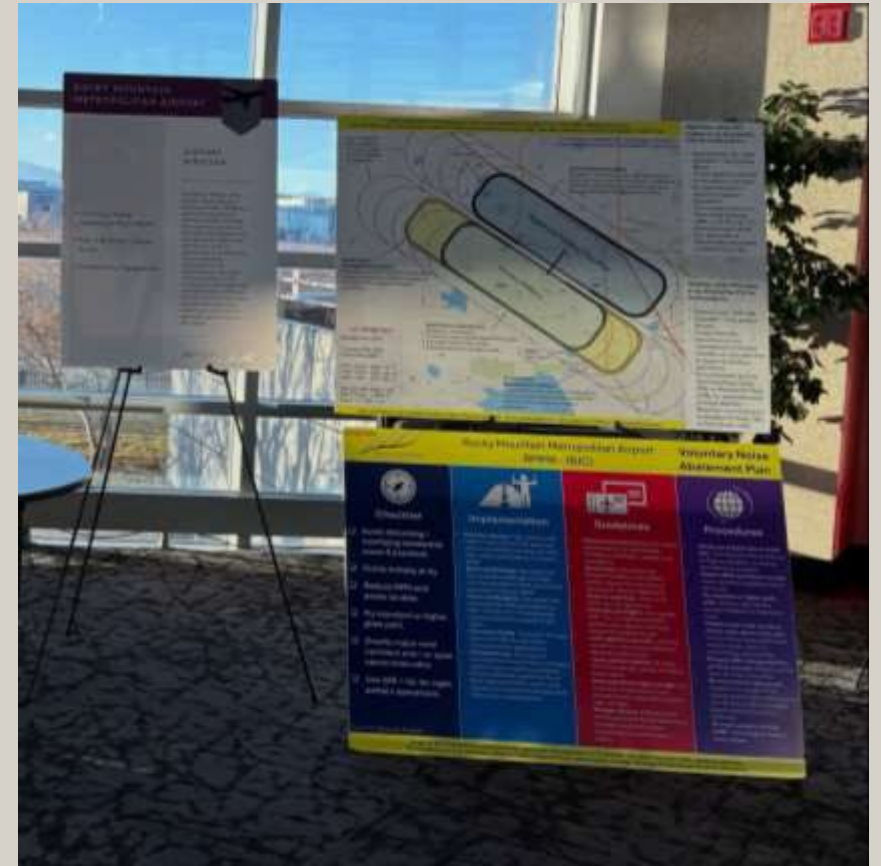


- Unleaded fuel (UL94) available on 2/17/26
- 1 of 3 airports in Colorado
- Investment by airport, FAA, and CDOT



# Fly Quiet program and Engagement

- VNAP (HB24-1235)
- Part 150 Noise Study
- Noise Reporting
- Quarterly Town Halls
- Grounded Conversations
- Airfield Tours
- Events and Programs







**JEFFERSON**  
COUNTY COLORADO

# Thank you for your time!



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**  
METROPOLITAN AIRPORT

