U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

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I am pleased to present the *1994 Aviation Capacity Enhancement Plan*. Building system capacity that will minimize delays and allow fair access for all types of aviation is one of seven key strategic issue areas for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Aircraft delays cost the airlines and their passengers millions of dollars each year. Over the last 3 years, the same 23 airports have experienced 20,000 hours or more of annual aircraft flight delays, even though the demand for aviation services has been relatively static and the number of flights delayed 15 minutes or more has declined systemwide. The latest aviation activity forecasts (March 1994) project a moderate rate of growth in passenger enplanements and air carrier aircraft operations as the United States economic recovery gathers strength. As the number of aircraft operations increases, the level of delay will increase unless improvements are made to aviation system capacity.

The FAA is committed to increasing the capacity and reducing delays in the National Airspace System. In an effort to energize and refocus our efforts, I recently announced the creation of the Administrator's Council on Capacity. The Council will be chaired by the Assistant Administrator for Airports and the Executive Director for System Operations. The Council, working closely with industry, will be responsible for developing priorities for agency programs based on their impact on capacity and will provide impetus to accelerate the development of near term capacity initiatives.

Improving aviation system capacity is a continuing dynamic process that evolves as user needs change and technology advances. This plan attempts to identify and facilitate actions that can be taken by both the public and private sectors to prevent projected growth in delays while at the same time remain flexible and practical in order to accommodate future change.

This plan supports the FAA Strategic Plan, which is consistent with the Secretary of Transportation's National Transportation Policy.

David R. Hinson
Administrator

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16. Abstract

A comprehensive review of Federal Aviation Administration programs intended to improve the capacity of the National Air Transportation System. The Plan identifies the causes and extent of capacity and delay problems currently associated with air travel in the U.S. and outlines various planned and ongoing FAA projects with the potential to reduce the severity of the problems in the future. The major areas of discussion are:

1) Airport Development
2) Airport Capacity
3) Airspace Capacity
4) New Instrumant Approach Procedures
5) Technology for Capacity Improvement
6) Marketplace Solutions

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