



Federal Aviation Administration

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 23, 2025

To: Regional Airports Division Directors, AXX-600
Regional Airport Planning and Programming Branch Managers, AXX-610
Airports District Office Managers, XXX-ADO
PATRICK W. MAGNOTTA

From: Jesse Carriger, Acting Director, Office of Airport Planning and Programming, APP-1

Subject: Updated Program Guidance Letter (PGL) 26-01: Funding for Runway End Identification Light (REIL) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Systems

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Purpose

The purposes of this Updated PGL are to expand allowable funding for Runway End Identification Light (REIL) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) system costs, and eliminate benefit-cost analysis (BCA) requirements for PAPIs. This update supersedes the original PGL published on November 14, 2025. It corrects a citation and verbiage without substantive changes.

Background

Table K-2, *NAVAID and Weather Reporting Equipment Project Requirements*, in the current version of FAA Order 5100.38, Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Handbook says AIP can fund PAPIs and REILs at nonprimary airports only with nonprimary entitlement funds.

Discussion

Recognizing these navigational aids (NAVAIDs) support reliable airport access and flight safety, the FAA is expanding eligibility for REILs and PAPIs to all categories of AIP entitlement and discretionary funding at nonprimary airports. This change is in accordance with the definition of “airport development” in 49 U.S.C. § 47102(3)(B)(i).¹

In addition, in Table K-2, Row (i), the FAA is eliminating the requirement for BCAs for PAPIs given the importance of providing pilots with vertical guidance on approach.

All other conditions in the AIP Handbook for REILs and PAPIs, including all other conditions in Table K-2, continue to apply.

Moving Forward

The FAA will update the AIP Handbook in its next version to reflect this guidance.

¹ The definition of “airport development” includes “acquiring for, or installing at, a public-use airport a navigation aid or another aid (including a precision approach system) used by aircraft for landing at or taking off from the airport, including preparing the site as required by the acquisition or installation.”