



Federal Aviation Administration

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 14, 2025

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

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for

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

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

Purpose

The purposes of this PGL are to expand allowable funding and eligible airports for Runway End Identification Light (REIL) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) system costs, and eliminate benefit-cost analysis (BCA) requirements for PAPIs.

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 only at nonprimary airports and 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” under 49 U.S.C. § 47101(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 and the limitation that only nonprimary airports are eligible, 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.”