
Report of the Secretary of Transportation to the United States Congress Pursuant to Section 47103 of Title 49, United States Code

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to transmit to you the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), 2001-2005.

The NPIAS estimates the costs associated with establishing a system of airports adequate to meet the needs of civil aviation and to support the Department of Defense and the Postal Service. It draws selectively from local, regional, and State planning studies. The estimates incorporate requirements imposed by the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR-21).

A report has also been sent to the President of the Senate.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Norman Y. Mineta

Enclosure
The Honorable Richard Cheney  
President of the Senate  
Washington, DC  20510

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Enclosure
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The statistics in this report had already been collected and were being prepared for publication prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The consequences of those attacks included an immediate and substantial decline in air travel, a major emphasis on aviation security, and the temporary deferral of many airport capital improvements. The decline in travel is expected to be temporary, and the various segments of the aviation community agree that the long-term activity outlook probably has not changed significantly. The recovery period is typically estimated as several years. This suggests that development that was proposed prior to September 11 will still be needed, but some of it could be put off until activity rises to the point where it is warranted.

About 2/3 of the development in the NPIAS is intended to accommodate growth in air travel, including more passengers and cargo and more and larger aircraft. Information collected by the Federal Aviation Administration through January 2002 indicates that major airfield programs, such as the planning and development of new runways at the busiest airports, are proceeding with little change in schedule. These are large scale, long-term programs that involve a sequence of planning, review, approval, financing, and construction, typically over a period of about 10 years, and they are not particularly sensitive to short-term fluctuations in traffic. The expansion of passenger terminal buildings has slowed significantly, due to uncertainty about future security requirements, the decline in passenger traffic, and the near-term financial problems of airports dealing with declining revenues and increased operating costs. About 1/3 of the development in the NPIAS is intended to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and keep airports up to standards for the aircraft that use them. The need for this development has not changed significantly as a result of September 11 but the timing of the implementation may be affected by financial concerns of airports, particularly lower revenues and urgent security requirements.

The projected capital cost of acquiring and installing security equipment has increased substantially since September 11, but a full and accurate estimate is not available yet, so it is not possible to reflect the increase in this report.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) is submitted to Congress in accordance with Section 47103 of Title 49 of United States Code. The plan identifies 3,364 existing airports that are significant to national air transportation and contains estimates that $46.2 billion in infrastructure development that is eligible for Federal aid will be needed over the next 5 years to meet the needs of all segments of civil aviation.

The NPIAS is used by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) management in administering the Airport Improvement Program. It supports the FAA’s strategic goals for safety, system efficiency, and environmental compatibility by identifying the specific airport improvements that will contribute to achievement of those goals.

The NPIAS includes a section on the condition and performance of the airport system, highlighting six topics: safety, capacity, pavement condition, financial performance, accessibility, and noise. The findings are generally favorable, indicating that the system is safe, convenient, well maintained, and largely supported by rents, fees, and taxes paid by users. Problems are apparent in specific areas, with a large number of people exposed to high noise levels and delays due to airfield and ground access congestion at some of the busiest airports.

The noise situation is improving due to industry and Government efforts to replace noisy aircraft and obtain a quieter aircraft fleet. As of January 1, 2000, quieter Stage 3 airplanes constituted 100 percent of the air carrier aircraft operating at U.S. airports. Continued improvement will be made, and the population exposed to significant noise levels is expected to continue to decline, although less rapidly.

Air traffic delays began to rise in 1996 and have continued to increase. A more gradual increase in delays is expected in the future, and major airfield improvements together with enhanced technology are planned to help mitigate those delays. The Airport Capacity Benchmark Report, issued by the FAA in April 2001, analyzed the relationship between airfield capacity and airline schedules at the busiest airports and emphasized the important role of new runway construction in providing adequate capacity.

Most U.S. residents have excellent access to air transportation, with 98 percent of the population living within 20 miles of a NPIAS airport. The primary mode for ground access is by highway, but congestion and concern about air quality are stimulating interest in improved public transportation to airports in urban areas.

The cost estimates of future airport development included in this report are 32 percent higher than the preceding report, issued in 1999. Every category of airport shows higher development needs, with the greatest increases at large hub, non hub, commercial service
and general aviation airports, and lesser increases at medium hub, small hub, and reliever airports.

The cost estimates were obtained primarily from airport master and system plans that were prepared by planning and engineering firms for state and local agencies. Although these plans are not yet subject to uniform benefit/cost analysis, they are usually funded in part by the FAA, are consistent with FAA forecasts of aeronautical activity, follow FAA guidelines, and have been reviewed and accepted by FAA planners who are familiar with local conditions. Efforts have been made to obtain a realistic estimate of development needs that coincides with local and state capital improvement plans. The NPIAS only includes development to be undertaken by airport sponsors and does not include improvements to air traffic control and navigation aids that are typically funded by the FAA. Because the NPIAS is an aggregation of airport capital projects identified through the local planning process, rather than a spending plan, no attempt is made to prioritize the development projects that comprise the database or evaluate whether the benefits of specific development projects would exceed the costs.

Airports with significant commercial service account for 82 percent of the $46.2 billion total development; reliever airports serving general aviation in metropolitan areas account for almost 6 percent; and general aviation airports account for 12 percent.

**Figure 1** NPIAS Cost by Airport Type
The purpose of NPIAS development is primarily to bring existing airports up to current design standards and add capacity to congested airports. A significant amount (20 percent) is for the development of passenger terminal buildings. This is an increasingly important area of investment, as terminals are modified, expanded, and replaced to accommodate more passengers, larger aircraft, and increased competition among airlines.

![NPIAS Cost by Type of Development](image)

**Figure 2 NPIAS Cost by Type of Development**

The NPIAS only includes development that is eligible to receive Federal grants under the Airport Improvement Program. Funds for airport development may be derived from a variety of sources, including airport cash flow, bonds, Federal/state/local grants, and passenger facility charges. The combination of funding sources and their adequacy varies with type of airport and level of activity.
Chapter 1
System Composition

Overview

The United States accounts for approximately 30 percent of all commercial aviation and 50 percent of all general aviation activity in the world. An extensive system of airports has been developed to support this activity. A primary purpose of the NPIAS is to identify the airports that are important to national transportation and, therefore, eligible to receive grants under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). The NPIAS is composed of all commercial service airports, all reliever airports, and selected general aviation airports. The word "airport" includes landing areas developed specifically for helicopters and seaplanes as well as conventional fixed wing aircraft landing areas.

U.S. Department of Transportation

The mission of the Department of Transportation (DOT) is to serve the United States by ensuring a fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future.

Toward this end, the Department has six strategic goals:

1. Safety: Promote the public health and safety by working toward the elimination of transportation-related deaths, injuries, and property damage.

2. Mobility: Shape America’s future by ensuring a transportation system that is accessible, integrated and efficient, and offers flexibility of choices.

3. Economic Growth and Trade: Advance America’s economic growth and competitiveness domestically and internationally through efficient and flexible transportation.

4. Human and Natural Environment: Protect and enhance communities and the natural environment affected by transportation.

5. National Security: Advance the Nation’s vital security interests in support of national strategies, such as the National Security Strategy and National Drug Control Strategy, by ensuring that the transportation system is secure and available for defense mobility and that our borders are safe from illegal intrusion.
6. **Organizational Excellence**: Advance the Department’s ability to manage for results and innovation.

**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

FAA supports the DOT strategic goals with three mission-based strategic goals and an enabling Environment goal of its own:

1. **Safety**: By 2007, reduce U.S. aviation fatal accident rates by 80 percent from 1996 levels.

2. **Security**: Prevent security incidents in the aviation system.

3. **System Efficiency**: Provide an aerospace transportation system that meets the needs of users and is efficient in the application of FAA and aerospace resources.

4. **The Environment**: Address what may be the single greatest challenge to the continued growth and prosperity of civil aerospace as we enter the 21st century.

DOT and FAA together set annual Performance Goals that represent targets toward achieving the strategic goals presented above. The NPIAS and the AIP, by improving the safety, capacity, and condition of the airport system, contribute substantially to achieving the following FY 2002 Performance Goals:

1. **Air Carrier Fatal Accident Rate**: Reduce fatal aviation accidents (U.S. commercial air carriers) per 100,000 departures. FY 2002 goal is no more than .038.

2. **General Aviation Fatal Accidents**: Reduce the number of fatal general aviation accidents. FY 2002 goal is no more than 379 fatal accidents.

3. **Runway Incursions**: Reduce the number and rate (per 100,000 operations) of runway incursions. FY 2002 goal is no more than 236 runway incursions.

4. **Aviation Delay**: Reduce aviation delays per 100,000 activities. FY 2002 goal is no more than 171.

5. **Runway Pavement Condition**: Maintain the percent of runways in good or fair condition (commercial service, reliever, and selected general aviation airports). FY 2002 goal is at least 95 percent of runways.

6. **Aircraft Noise Exposure**: Reduce the number of people in the U.S. (in thousands) who are exposed to significant aircraft noise (65 decibels or more). FY 2002 goal is no more than 440,000 people.
GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE NATIONAL AIRPORT SYSTEM

The airport system was envisioned almost 60 years ago, when civil aviation was in its infancy, and it has been developed and nurtured by close cooperation among Federal, state, and local agencies. The general principles guiding Federal involvement have remained unchanged; the airport system should have the following attributes to meet the demand for air transportation:

- Airports should be safe and efficient, located at optimum sites, and developed and maintained to appropriate standards.
- Airports should be affordable to both users and Government, relying primarily on user fees and placing minimal burden on the general revenues of local, state, and Federal Government.
- Airports should be flexible and expandable, able to meet increased demand and to accommodate new aircraft types.
- Airports should be permanent, with assurance that they will remain open for aeronautical use over the long term.
- Airports should be compatible with surrounding communities, maintaining a balance between the needs of aviation and the requirements of residents of neighboring areas.
- Airports should be developed in concert with improvements to the air traffic control system.
- The airport system should support national objectives for defense, emergency readiness, and postal delivery.
- The airport system should be extensive, providing as many people as possible with convenient access to air transportation, typically not more than 20 miles travel to the nearest NPIAS airport.
- The airport system should help air transportation contribute to a productive national economy and international competitiveness.

In addition to these guiding principles, specific to airport development, a guiding principle for Federal infrastructure investment in general, as stated in Executive Order 12893, is that such investments must be cost beneficial. The FAA implements these principles by using program guidance to ensure the effective use of Federal aid. A national priority system guides the distribution of funds, supplemented when necessary by specific requirements for additional analysis or justification. For example, airport capacity development projects must be shown to be cost beneficial to receive major support under the Airport Improvement Program.
COMMERCIAL SERVICE AIRPORTS

Commercial service airports are defined as public airports receiving scheduled passenger service and having 2,500 or more enplaned passengers per year. There are 546 commercial service airports. Of these, 422 have more than 10,000 enplanements and are classified as primary airports.

Primary airports receive an annual apportionment of at least $1 million in AIP funds (when AIP funding levels meet or exceed $3.2 billion), with the amount determined by the number of enplaned passengers.

LARGE HUBS

The term "hub" is used by the FAA to identify very busy commercial service airports. For instance, large hubs are those airports that each account for at least 1 percent of total U.S. passenger enplanements. Some enplanements originate in the local community and some consist of en route passengers transferring from one flight to another. Several large hub airports have little passenger transfer activity (Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Boston, LaGuardia, Ronald Reagan Washington National, and San Diego International, for example), while transfers account for more than half of the traffic at others (Cincinnati, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Dallas-Ft. Worth, for example). Together the 31 large hub airports account for 70 percent of all passenger enplanements. Large hub airports tend to concentrate on airline passenger and freight operations and have limited general aviation activity. Five large hub airports (Salt Lake City, Honolulu, Las Vegas, Miami, and Phoenix) have an average of 350 based aircraft, but the other 26 large hubs average only 39 based aircraft each. Thus, locally based general aviation plays a relatively small role at most large hubs.

The Nation's air traffic delay problems are concentrated at 31 large hub airports where the average delay per aircraft operation was 6.14 minutes in 2000. Delays occur primarily during instrument weather conditions when runway capacity is reduced below that needed to accommodate airline schedules.

MEDIUM HUBS

Medium hubs are defined as airports that each account for between 0.25 percent and 1 percent of the total passenger enplanements. There are 37 medium hub airports, and together they account for 19 percent of all enplanements. Medium hub airports usually have sufficient capacity to accommodate air carrier operations and a substantial amount of general aviation. Medium hub airports have an average of 169 based aircraft. The delay per operation averaged 3.2 minutes for the 37 medium hub airports in 2000.
SMALL HUBS

Small hubs are defined as airports that each enplane 0.05 percent to 0.25 percent of the total passenger enplanements. There are 74 small hub airports that together account for 8 percent of all enplanements. Less than 25 percent of the runway capacity at small hub airports is used by airline operations, so these airports can accommodate a great deal of general aviation activity, with an average of 139 based aircraft. These airports are typically uncongested and do not account for significant air traffic delays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number Airports</th>
<th>Airport Type</th>
<th>Percentage of All Enplanements</th>
<th>Percentage of Active GA Aircraft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Large-Hub Primary</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Medium-Hub Primary</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Small-Hub Primary</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>280</td>
<td>Nonhub Primary</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Other Commercial Service</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>Relievers</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>27.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,558</td>
<td>General Aviation</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>37.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,364</td>
<td>Existing NPIAS Airports</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>86.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,942</td>
<td>Low Activity Landing Areas (Non-NPIAS)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Distribution of Activity

NONHUB PRIMARY

Commercial service airports that enplane less than 0.05 percent of all commercial passenger enplanements but more than 10,000 annually are categorized as nonhub primary airports. There are 280 nonhub primary airports that together account for 3 percent of all enplanements. These airports are heavily used by general aviation aircraft, with an average of 89 based aircraft.

OTHER COMMERCIAL SERVICE

Commercial service airports enplaning 2,500 to 10,000 passengers annually are categorized as other commercial service airports. There are 124 of these airports in the

1 Based on active aircraft fleet of 219,464 aircraft in 1999.
NPIAS, and they account for 0.1 percent of all enplanements. These airports are used mainly by general aviation and have an average of 36 based aircraft.

**Reliever Airports**

General aviation pilots often find it difficult and expensive to gain access to congested airports, particularly large and medium hub airports. In recognition of this, the FAA has encouraged the development of high capacity general aviation airports in major metropolitan areas. These specialized airports, called relievers, provide pilots with attractive alternatives to using congested hub airports. They also provide general aviation access to the surrounding area. The 260 reliever airports have an average of 228 based aircraft, and together account for 27 percent of the Nation's general aviation fleet. All of the airports that are designated as relievers by the FAA are included in the NPIAS.

**General Aviation Airports**

Communities that do not receive scheduled commercial service may be included in the NPIAS as sites for general aviation airports if they account for enough activity (usually at least 10 locally owned aircraft) and are at least 20 miles from the nearest NPIAS airport. The activity criterion may be relaxed for remote locations or other mitigating circumstances. The 2,558 general aviation airports in the NPIAS tend to be distributed on a one-per-county basis in rural areas and are often located near the county seat. These airports, with an average of 32 based aircraft, account for 38 percent of the Nation's general aviation fleet. These airports are the most convenient source of air transportation for about 19 percent of the population and are particularly important to rural areas.

**New Airports**

The NPIAS also identifies 125 new airports over the next 5 years. General aviation airports account for 89 percent of the new airports, relievers account for 7 percent, and commercial service airports account for 4 percent (all of which are in Alaska and will replace existing airports). There are no new primary airports proposed to open in the next 5 years. However, several communities are evaluating the long-term need for an additional commercial service airport to serve the community (Peotone, IL and Las Vegas, NV). In addition, there are several studies underway by airport sponsors to examine the feasibility of replacing their existing airports (Panama City, FL; Bowling Green, KY; and Hazleton, PA).

**Airports Not Included In NPIAS**

The NPIAS includes 3,364 of the 5,314 airports open to the public (Figure 3). There are 1,950 airports open to the public that are not included in the NPIAS. Approximately 1,000 publicly owned, public use airports are not included because they do not meet the
minimum entry criteria of 10 based aircraft, are within 20 miles of a NPIAS airport, or are located at inadequate sites and cannot be expanded and improved to provide safe and efficient airport facilities. The FAA usually recommends replacement of inadequate airports. The remaining airports are privately owned, public use airports that are not included because they are located at inadequate sites, are redundant to publicly owned airports, or have too little activity to qualify for inclusion. In addition, almost 14,000 civil landing areas that are not open to the general public are not included in the NPIAS. The airports that are not included in the NPIAS have an average of 1 based aircraft, compared to 32 based aircraft at the average NPIAS general aviation airport.

Figure 3  Number of Airports by Ownership
STATE PLANS INCLUDE MORE AIRPORTS

Each state has an airport system plan that identifies the location and scale of development that is considered necessary to satisfy the state's need for air transportation. The state plans contain a total of more than 6,000 airports, about 70 percent more than the NPIAS. The airports that are included in state plans but not in the NPIAS are usually small airports that have local significance but are not considered to have national significance.
1. 546 Airports – commercial service account for:
   100% of enplanements
   22% of general aviation aircraft
   82% of NPIAS cost
   67% of the population resides within 20 miles of these airports

2. 806 Airports – 546 commercial service and
   260 relievers account for:
   100% of enplanements
   49% of general aviation aircraft
   87% of NPIAS cost
   78% of the population resides within 20 miles of these airports

3. 1,273 Airports – 546 commercial service,
   260 relievers, and 466 general aviation airports
   with over 50 aircraft account for:
   100% of enplanements
   69% of general aviation aircraft
   91% of NPIAS cost
   85% of the population resides within 20 miles of these airports

4. 1,867 Airports – 546 commercial service,
   260 relievers, and 1,061 general aviation
   airports with over 25 aircraft account for:
   100% of enplanements
   79% of general aviation aircraft
   94% of NPIAS cost
   85% of the population resides within 20 miles of these airports

5. 3,364 NPIAS Airports – commercial service,
   relievers, and general aviation airports account for:
   100% of enplanements
   86% of general aviation aircraft
   100% of NPIAS cost
   98% of the population resides within 20 miles of these airports

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Figure 4 Geographic Coverage

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1 Alaska and Hawaii are included in the statistics shown above.
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CHAPTER 2

CONDITION AND PERFORMANCE

OVERVIEW

The Federal role in airport development is largely related to optimizing system performance. The primary purpose of this chapter is to describe how well the airport system is operating and to highlight any trends that are apparent. Six key factors have been selected to gauge the level of system performance: capacity, safety, noise, pavement condition, accessibility, and financial performance.

APPLICATION

Each of the six factors is relevant to the quality of air transportation and, taken together, they provide a good overview of system performance. However, the six factors are not equally sensitive to capital improvements, and increased investment is not necessarily the most effective way to improve performance.

For instance, airport investment is only one of a variety of measures that must be combined to reduce the already low rate of accidents. Communications, navigation and surveillance systems, airport inspection, pilot training, avionics, human factors, and aircraft and engine technology also contribute to the gradual improvement of aviation safety. Federal aid to airports can be particularly useful in focusing on specific issues, such as the implementation of security measures, provision of rescue equipment, development of safety areas around runways, and removal of obstructions in runway approach zones.

The principal factor in reducing the number of people exposed to high noise levels is the expanded use of quieter aircraft, and the Federal Government has actively encouraged new technology in this area. However, Federal aid is very useful in addressing hard-core problems that would otherwise persist despite the use of quieter aircraft. Federal aid for planning and implementing noise compatibility measures has fostered a more cooperative relationship between airports and surrounding communities, helping to relieve a serious and complex societal issue.

A section on monitoring the performance of terminal buildings will be added to future reports, if and when a suitable technique is developed. A report is not possible at this time because there is no consensus about which aspects to measure and how to measure them.
CAPACITY

The performance of the airport system is affected by many factors, including the layout of individual airports, the manner in which airspace is organized and used, operating procedures, and application of technology.

A major concern in airport system planning is the adequacy of runways to handle anticipated aircraft operations. If air traffic demand exceeds runway capacity, air traffic is delayed, causing expense to airlines, inconvenience to passengers, and increased workload for the FAA air traffic control system.

Most airports are uncongested because they serve small communities and a single runway is able to handle over 200,000 operations annually, which is approximately the amount of activity that would be generated by a city with 350,000 inhabitants. More runways are one means to provide more capacity. Other means are described in the section of this report on noncapital alternatives. As traffic increases, it can also be divided among airports within a system. Reliever airports are developed to serve general aviation, allowing commercial service airports to concentrate on air carrier operations.

When a city becomes so large that it generates more than 10 to 12 million originating passengers per year, a second commercial service airport may be warranted. There are few cities this large: London, Paris, and Tokyo fit the example, as well as New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Miami, Houston, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Boston, and Washington in the United States.

The concentration of traffic at an airport can result in congestion and delay. In 2001, the DOT developed a standard definition for delay as an instance when an aircraft arrives at the gate 15 minutes or more after its scheduled arrival time. The number of airline arrivals and departures that are delayed 15 minutes or more is compiled by DOT for busy airports and is available monthly for consumers. Other delay statistics are collected and used for specific purposes. For example, air traffic controllers identify instances where aircraft are delayed 15 minutes or more in a given flight segment, and the FAA uses this information to monitor the day-to-day operation of the air traffic control system. Airport planners and designers use the average delay per aircraft operation as a measure of congestion which is related to demand and capacity, it can be forecast, and it can be translated into a dollar cost of delay.

Experience shows that delay increases gradually with rising levels of traffic until the practical capacity of an airport is reached, at which point the average delay per aircraft operation is in the range of 3 to 5 minutes. Delays increase rapidly once traffic demand increases beyond this level. An airport is considered to be congested when average delay exceeds 5 minutes per operation. Beyond this point delays are extremely volatile, and a small increase in traffic, adverse weather conditions, or other disruptions can result in lengthy delays that upset flight schedules and impose a heavy workload on the air traffic control system.
There were 18 airports with average delay in excess of 5 minutes per operation that accounted for most of the severe air traffic delays in the United States during 2000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airports with Average Delay In Excess of 5 Minutes Per Operation In 2000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>→ New York LaGuardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Newark International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Philadelphia International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Atlanta Hartsfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Boston Logan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ New York John F. Kennedy International</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Detroit Metropolitan</td>
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<td>→ Chicago O’Hare International</td>
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<td>→ Washington Dulles International</td>
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<td>→ Minneapolis-Saint Paul International</td>
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<td>→ St. Louis International</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Los Angeles International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ San Francisco International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Phoenix Sky Harbor International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Miami International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Houston George Bush Intercontinental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Congested Airports

After several years of stability air traffic delays began to rise in 1996, apparently because of the introduction of new separation standards which increased the distance between certain types of aircraft, steady growth in traffic, and reduced use of land and hold short operations that allow independent arrivals for specific aircraft types on intersecting runways, where airport geometries permit. A more gradual increase in delays is expected in the future, and major airfield improvements together with enhanced technology are planned to help mitigate those delays.

The FAA addressed the current and future capacity of major airports in the Airport Capacity Benchmark Report 2001. The report indicates that technology improvements may increase airport capacity by three to eight percent over the next 10 years, and air traffic procedural improvements might provide another five to ten percent increase. However, the largest increases, in the range of 30 to 60 percent, can be achieved through
new runway construction. Two-thirds of the airports that had more than five minutes of delay per operation in 2000 are currently planning or building new runways and/or reconfiguring the airfield (Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Washington Dulles, Minneapolis-St. Paul, St. Louis, Miami, Houston, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and San Francisco). Additionally, 7 other large hub airports are currently planning or building new runways (Denver, Orlando, Seattle, Charlotte, Baltimore-Washington, Tampa, and Chicago O’Hare).

**ALTERNATIVE MEASURES**

The construction of new runways is not the only response to airfield congestion. The continued application of certain measures, termed alternative measures, will help to limit delay without substantial investment.

Delays can be reduced, in part, by modifying air traffic control procedures to improve the flow of aircraft en route and in the terminal area. The FAA is developing more flexible en route procedures. Long-term goals for operational procedures focus on free flight, in which air traffic controllers will intervene only to prevent conflicts. The FAA is developing new instrument approach procedures that will enhance runway capacity during adverse weather. A new safety and capacity program is expected to facilitate aircraft taxiing in very low visibility weather conditions.

Efficiency at some airports may improve by increased use of land and hold short procedures.

Over the next two decades, the FAA expects additional enhancements due to advances in technology related to automation; information systems; communications, navigation, and surveillance; and weather.

Redistribution of traffic among airports to make more efficient use of facilities is another measure that can be used to reduce delays. Reliever airports have been developed in metropolitan areas to give general aviation pilots an attractive alternative to using congested commercial service airports. Large cities usually have a system of reliever airports, one or more of which can accommodate corporate jet aircraft and others designed exclusively for use by smaller, propeller-driven aircraft. Relievers have been very successful at relocating general aviation activity from congested airports. As a result, general aviation activity at congested airports is a small and decreasing percentage of total operations (3.4 percent of the operations at O’Hare, 2.8 percent of the operations at Atlanta Hartsfield, 4.1 percent of the operations at John F. Kennedy Airport, and 5.3 percent of the operations at LaGuardia Airport) while general aviation activity at all other airports with airport traffic control towers accounts for nearly 60 percent of the operations. Twenty-seven percent of the general aviation aircraft in the United States are based at the 260 reliever airports.
The concept of relocating passenger transfer operations from congested hub airports in Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, and other metropolitan areas to remote airports has also been considered. However, it appears that passenger transfer operations are most efficiently located at airports that generate a considerable amount of origin and destination traffic, and this only occurs in or near metropolitan areas. The FAA has discussed this subject with representatives of several major airlines and has concluded that they will continue to locate their hub operations as close as possible to large population centers rather than in rural, sparsely populated areas.

Airline scheduling practices tend to limit the level to which delays are likely to rise, particularly at transfer hub airports. Air carriers are willing to tolerate a certain amount of congestion, but when delays become excessive and the reliability of connections decline, the carriers are likely to take remedial actions, such as canceling flights, consolidating schedules, or relocating some operations to other airports. These actions may be ineffective, however. Intense competitive rivalry among air carriers at an airport may also encourage them to schedule too many flights at peak hours, thereby exacerbating congestion and delay.

Another factor that helps to limit delay is the ability of carriers to introduce service to outlying, suburban airports, using them to relieve congestion at the principal airport. This regional approach is particularly effective in very large cities that are the point of origin and destination for many trips by air, such as New York, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

A measure that increased runway efficiency in the past was the use of larger aircraft, particularly at congested airports, in order to move more passengers per operation (Table 3). Further growth in aircraft size may be limited by the design of many airports. The distance between adjacent taxiways and runways and the layout of terminal buildings can limit wingspans and fuselage lengths, and the strength of pavement and underlying structures, such as bridges and culverts, may limit aircraft weight. Because of these factors, future increases in aircraft size may be more gradual and more expensive to accommodate, particularly at older and more congested airports. A report released by the General Accounting Office in February 2002 estimated the cost of infrastructure changes to accommodate new large aircraft at 14 airports to be between $500 million and $2 billion, depending on a number of unresolved issues. However, increases in aircraft size may be tempered by customer preferences for frequent service. The popularity of smaller, regional jets will also tend to limit the average number of passengers per aircraft operation.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>Enplaned Passengers</th>
<th>Air Carrier Departures</th>
<th>Large Hubs - Passengers/Departure</th>
<th>National Average - Passengers/Departure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>124,497,086</td>
<td>2,581,972</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>131,277,693</td>
<td>2,472,756</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>42.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>197,679,376</td>
<td>2,887,239</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>55.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>264,507,144</td>
<td>3,439,446</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>325,150,414</td>
<td>3,887,651</td>
<td>83.7</td>
<td>72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>393,110,251</td>
<td>4,245,508</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>81.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>439,556,180</td>
<td>4,540,627</td>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>85.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>476,048,528</td>
<td>4,639,222</td>
<td>102.6</td>
<td>94.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 Activity at Large Hub Airports

Demand management is a broad term that includes a number of policies that are designed to reduce congestion and delay. One demand management policy is the imposition of peak/off-peak period landing fees. Such fees would encourage air carriers to use larger aircraft or to shift flights to off-peak hours, both of which would reduce congestion. At many airports, especially those located in major urban areas, adding substantial amounts of new capacity is not possible. Properly structured landing/takeoff fees may encourage the more efficient use of scarce airport capacity. As one of several ways of alleviating airport congestion, the FAA and DOT are exploring the potential role of demand-management policies.

SAFETY

The operators of public airports maintain a high level of safety by selecting the best available sites, designing airfields to high standards, and applying appropriate operating and maintenance procedures. The cause of most accidents on or near airports is attributable to pilot error, such as failure to perform adequate preflight preparation and inspection of aircraft, or failure to achieve and maintain adequate airspeed. Airports, occasionally, are cited as a contributing factor in accidents. When they are, it is often in conjunction with weather conditions, such as when snow, ice, or water is on the runway. These factors are being alleviated by pavement surface treatments to enhance friction and improve aircraft braking performance, by the acquisition of snow removal equipment, and by emphasis on measures to detect and correct slippery runway conditions.
Since so few accidents are attributable to airport deficiencies, it has not been possible to develop a statistically significant relationship between safety and capital investment in airports. However, the success of airports in not becoming a link in the chain of events or circumstances that lead to an accident can be attributed to their adherence to Federal standards for design and operation. These standards, which have been developed over time, provide the necessary dimensions or procedures to accommodate aircraft operations along with an extra margin of safety to accommodate deviations from the norm.
For example, the standards for runway safety areas are designed to minimize damage to aircraft and injuries to occupants when an aircraft unintentionally leaves the runway. The standards provide for graded areas contiguous to the runway edges that are free of ruts, humps, and other surface irregularities. In addition, only objects that have to be in the safety area because of their function, such as runway lights or signs, should be in the safety area and they should be mounted so that they break away if struck by an aircraft. The consequences of incidents are less likely to be severe because of the measures that are part of the design standards.

In September 2000 the FAA completed physical inspections of runway safety areas for all air carrier runways at commercial service airports. The purpose of the inspections was to document objects and features that could pose an increased risk for aircraft that leave the runway, develop a plan for improving safety areas to the maximum extent practicable, and to identify incremental improvements that would reduce the risk to aircraft when a standard runway safety area is not practicable. It was determined that 55 percent meet standards and 31 percent can be brought to standards but 14% are not practicable to improve to meet standards, regardless of funding. The FAA will continue to work with airport sponsors and the local community to improve runway safety areas as rapidly as possible.

Airport operators who undertake capital development with Federal funds are required to adhere to certain design standards. This results in uniformity from one airport to the next and helps promote safety by reinforcing pilot expectations. Uniformity is particularly important in the area of visual cues, such as marking, lighting, and signs.

Airports served by air carrier aircraft with a seating capacity of more than 30 passengers are subject to initial safety certification inspection by FAA credentialed inspectors and annual re-inspection to determine continued compliance with regulatory safety standards. These standards are contained in Part 139 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR), Certification and Operations: Land Airports Serving Certain Air Carriers. There are approximately 575 certificated airports. In 1996, Congress provided the FAA with the authority to extend Part 139 certification requirements to airports served by commercial air carrier aircraft with a seating capacity of more than 9 passengers. A proposed rulemaking implementing this new authority is underway.
Part 139 establishes 18 general areas of safety standards, ranging from specific items, such as the condition of runway surfaces and training requirements for aircraft rescue and fire fighting personnel, to more general requirements for the development of an airport emergency plan and wildlife control plan. While all areas identified in Part 139 are inspected, special inspection initiatives may emphasize one or more aspects of Part 139. For instance, the FAA is very concerned about reducing the number and severity of runway incursions which is defined as any occurrence on an airport runway involving an aircraft, vehicle, person, or object on the ground that creates a collision hazard or results in a loss of required separation with an aircraft taking off, intending to take off, landing, or intending to land. In early 1990’s the number of runway incursions declined. However, since 1993 the number of runway incursions have steadily increased with a sharp increase in 2000 (Figure 6). In 2001, the FAA established a Runway Safety Program Office to focus on decreasing the number and potential consequences of runway incursions.

![Figure 6 Runway Incursions](image)

**AIRCRAFT NOISE**

Community concern about aircraft noise is a major constraint on the operation and expansion of existing airports and the development of new ones. The problem is
particularly serious in metropolitan areas, where airports are heavily used and there is strong pressure to develop residential areas around them.

The Federal Government pursues a program of aircraft noise control in cooperation with the aviation community. Much of the program is aimed at reducing noise at the source, through the use of quieter engines. The FAA adopted Part 36 of the Federal Aviation Regulations in 1969, establishing noise certification standards for new design turbojet and transport category aircraft. In 1976, the Federal Aviation Regulations were amended, to allow U.S. operators until January 1, 1985, to quiet or retire the noisiest (Stage 1) aircraft.

In 1977, the regulations were again amended; defining three "stage" levels to categorize aircraft noise emissions and requiring aircraft certificated after March 3, 1977, to meet the more demanding Stage 3 requirement.

The Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990 was then enacted, setting December 31, 1999, as the deadline for elimination of Stage 2 aircraft in the contiguous United States weighing more than 75,000 pounds. As of January 1, 2000, quieter Stage 3 airplanes (including hush-kitted Stage 2 airplanes) constituted 100 percent of the air carriers operating at U.S. airports.

A program to encourage noise reduction has supplemented the steady and substantial improvements in noise exposure due to quieter aircraft and compatible land uses in areas around airports. Part 150 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, adopted in January 1985, established a system for measuring aviation noise in the community and for providing information about land uses that are normally compatible with various levels of noise exposure. Part 150 encourages airport operators to develop Noise Exposure Maps and Noise Compatibility Programs. Noise Exposure Maps identify noise contours and land use incompatibilities and are useful in evaluating noise impacts and discouraging incompatible development. Once the FAA determines that Noise Exposure Maps have been prepared in accordance with Part 150, the airport operator may submit a Noise Compatibility Program, coordinated with affected parties, outlining measures to improve noise and land use compatibility.

Through fiscal year 2000, 247 airports were participating in the Part 150 program, 216 had Noise Exposure Maps in compliance with program requirements, and 198 had Airport Noise Compatibility Programs approved by FAA. An FAA-approved Noise Compatibility Program clears the way for an airport to obtain Federal aid for noise projects. Certain noise projects to benefit schools and medical facilities can be federally funded without an approved Noise Compatibility Program. These projects constitute a very small share of the federal aid given to noise each year. Approximately $2.7 billion has been granted for airport noise compatibility projects since 1982.

The improvement in the noise situation around airports since 1975 has been dramatic, with the estimated population exposed to severe noise (noise exposure in excess of Day-
Night Sound Level (DNL) 75 dB) declining from 7 million persons to slightly below 600,000 exposed to significant noise (noise exposure in excess of DNL 65 dB) in the year 2000 (Figure 7). This improvement is remarkable because it took place during a period of substantial growth in air transportation, with enplanements more than tripling.

**Figure 7 Population Exposed to High Noise Levels Compared to Enplanements**

Despite the reduction in aircraft noise emissions, public concern and sensitivity is still very high. In recent years, complaints and organized opposition have come from populations exposed to comparatively low levels of noise, sometimes at locations miles from the nearest airport. This will be a factor in future planning for the airport and airspace system and will provide an impetus for further reductions in engine noise emissions.

**Pavement Condition**

Airfield pavement needs regular maintenance to seal cracks and repair damage, and major rehabilitation is needed on a 15- to 20-year cycle to remedy the effects of age and exposure. If pavement is neglected, severe deterioration can cause damage to propellers, turbines, and aircraft landing gear.
In an effort to ensure that pavement receives the optimum level of maintenance, the FAA has been authorized by Congress to permit the use of AIP grants for routine pavement maintenance at nonprimary airports. In order for an eligible sponsor to receive an AIP grant for pavement maintenance, the sponsor must be unable to fund maintenance with its own resources and must implement a pavement maintenance management program.

As part of airport inspections, the FAA updates the Airport Master Records for public-use airports, and reports the results as part of the Airport Safety Data Program. Runway pavement condition is classified as good (all cracks and joints sealed), fair (mild surface cracking, unsealed joints, and slab edge spalling), or poor (large open cracks, surface and edge spalling, vegetation growing through cracks and joints). Data for 2000 indicate that, nationwide, 73 percent of runways at NPIAS airports are rated good, 22 percent are fair, and 5 percent are poor. Pavement at commercial service airports is much better than average, with 79 percent good, 19 percent fair, and 2 percent poor. Poor runways at commercial service airports are not used by large aircraft. They are usually short runways that are occasionally used by light aircraft to avoid crosswinds. Runways with potentially hazardous pavement deficiencies are temporarily closed by management pending resolution and repair.

The pavement conditions are improved over 1986, when runways at commercial service airports were rated 78 percent good, 15 percent fair, and 7 percent poor. Comparisons between two sets of observations made 14 years apart are not always reliable, but in this case a large number of observations were taken. Because the rules for classification are straightforward and a similar trend was reported in 1990, 1993, and 1998 it is believed that the reported improvement is accurate. In comparison, the overall pavement condition of the Nation’s highways in 1997 was rated 41 percent good, 52 percent fair, and 7 percent poor. The favorable report on runway condition is a credit to the thousands of state and local agencies that operate airports.
In July 1998 the General Accounting Office (GAO) completed a report on runway conditions at national system airports. The GAO collected data on runway pavement condition from about 35 percent of airports eligible for Federal funding and determined that approximately 88 percent of the runways in the sample were in fair or better than fair condition.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

Airports have been planned to make air transportation as convenient and accessible as possible. A review of the 1990 census reveals that most Americans reside within 20 miles of a NPIAS airport (20 miles is a surrogate for 30 minutes ground travel time). Primary and commercial service airports are within 20 miles of 67 percent of the population (78 percent when reliever airports are included). When general aviation airports are also included, 98 percent of the population is within 20 miles of a NPIAS airport.
### Population Within 20 Miles of a NPIAS Airport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airport Categories</th>
<th>Percentage of U.S. Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary and other Commercial Service</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary, Other Commercial Service, &amp; Reliever</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All NPIAS Airports</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 Population within 20 Miles of a NPIAS Airport

However, geographic proximity alone does not ensure that airports are conveniently accessible. Highway congestion in metropolitan areas can seriously impede ground access. Many cities are considering expanded use of public transportation to improve the convenience and reliability of airport access and to enhance air quality.

Ridership statistics for existing transit linkages to major airports indicate an important, but distinctly limited, role for metropolitan rail systems. The most successful linkage is to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) via the modern and extensive Metrorail system. Transit has accounted for about 15 percent of trips to DCA and may climb higher because the terminal provides very convenient access to transit. The next best performers are Atlanta's MARTA rail link to Hartsfield Airport and Chicago Midway Airport, each with a 7.5 percent market share, and Boston's MBTA rail link to Logan Airport, with a 6 percent market share. Transit links to Chicago O'Hare, Philadelphia International, Metropolitan Oakland, Lambert St. Louis, and Cleveland Hopkins Airports each account for between 2.5 percent to 4 percent of airport access trips.

Experience to date suggests that public transportation (bus, rail, etc.) usually will not attract more than 25 percent of ground access trips to major airports. The same appears to be true in Europe, where higher market shares are achieved only by linkages to extensive national rail systems that connect to cities beyond the metropolitan area served by the airport.

The immense difficulty of shifting airport access from highway to transit is illustrated by Figure 9, showing the percentage of passenger origins and destinations within various travel times of selected airports. Highway coverage is very good, with 70 percent to 90 percent of passengers within 45 minutes of the airport during peak travel periods. Transit coverage is significantly less extensive, with less than 10 percent of travelers able to reach the Baltimore or Minneapolis airports in 45 minutes. Even in Boston, where the airport is linked to an extensive metropolitan rail system, only 25 percent of passengers can reach the airport within 45 minutes, and no more than 40 percent of passengers can reach the
airport by transit, even if they allow 90 minutes for the trip. Because highway access is more convenient for most travelers, it accounts for most trips to airports.

In encouraging appropriate solutions to ground access problems, the Department of Transportation advocates a multimodal approach that is the most efficient and convenient to the public. The Department promotes an airport ground access planning process that is consistent with surface transportation planning processes conducted under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. To be effective, the planning of ground access improvements for busy airports must address a number of issues. Some of these are primarily the concern of airport operators, such as the need to expand airport capacity, improve accessibility, and minimize environmental damage to neighboring communities. Others are of primary concern to those responsible for transportation planning at both the State and local levels, or are driven by various Federal laws and regulations. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Aviation Administration jointly issued a report entitled Intermodal Ground Access to Airports: A Planning Guide, dated December 1996, to help transportation planners achieve efficient ground access systems. The document is designed to assist local and Metropolitan Planning Organization planners in conducting analyses of airport access improvements in a manner that is consistent with the planning process and used for statewide and metropolitan area transportation management systems.

There has been no recent, formal study of the adequacy of surface access to airports from a national system perspective. However, an informal survey of FAA regional and field offices in 2000 indicated that access planning is well conducted for the Nation’s 50 busiest airports. The FAA contacted representatives of airports, metropolitan planning organizations, State Departments of Transportation, and regional representatives of the FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Over 90 percent of the parties contacted indicated that airport plans and ground access plans are well coordinated, and are compatible in terms of data, forecasts, and assumptions. Where differences were reported, they did not appear to be large enough to jeopardize the ground access planning process. The vast majority of parties contacted reported that the planning process is working effectively.

Some general concerns were identified. There are occasions when the differences in forecasts are significant. These appear to be most frequent when rail access is being proposed. There is concern about various restrictions on the use of airport and aviation funds, and the difficulty of blending funds from various sources to support large, multi-purpose access programs. There is also concern about how well air quality issues in non-attainment areas are considered in the broad airport planning arena. Finally, it was noted that the airport planning process tends to be episodic and focus on the immediate environs of the airport, while the surface transportation planning process tends to be ongoing and is conducted from a regional perspective. The FAA will work with FHWA, FTA, and local agencies to address ground access issues at major airports.
Figure 9  Accessibility of Selected Airports

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**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

An understanding of airport finance is an essential baseline in the formulation of national aviation policy. Airports account for approximately 9 percent of all spending on air transportation. However, because airports are owned and operated by thousands of state and local agencies, it is difficult to compile comprehensive data on their financial operations. It is also difficult to state the precise amount of public spending on development, operations, or maintenance for the airport system because the sources of information on airport income and expenses are limited, especially for the smaller airports.

In 1996, pursuant to section 111 of the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994, airports were required to file two financial reports with the U.S. Department of Transportation. One of these financial reports requires sponsors of federally assisted airports to report the amounts paid and services provided to other units of government. The other financial report requires sponsors of commercial service airports to report in detail the total revenue and expenditures at the airport, including revenue surplus. Financial reports are due to the FAA 120 days after an airport's fiscal year ends.

Reports were received from 507 airports for fiscal years ending in 1999. These were supplemented by data collected by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) in their annual Rates and Charges Survey. In an effort to gather information regarding its member airports income and expenditures, AAAE conducts periodic surveys of airports. The statistics presented in Table 5 were derived from the data filed with the FAA on Form 125 and the AAAE survey data, as well as estimates for airports that did not respond to either survey. The data for airport categories from large hub to other commercial service are based on Form 125. In these categories almost 100 percent of airports filed data with the FAA. The data for reliever and general aviation airports are estimates based on sample data from Form 125 and AAAE sources. Only one-sixth of reliever airports and two percent of the general aviation airports are covered by the AAAE survey responses. The total was developed by expanding sample data based on an activity factor. The AAAE survey covered the same base period as FAA Form 125.

Total airport revenues are estimated to have been $20.7 billion in 1999, with $11.0 billion in operating revenues and $9.6 billion in non-operating revenues. The operating revenues are equally split between aeronautical fees and non-aeronautical fees, each with $5.5 billion. The highest aeronautical fees are for landing fees and terminal rents, at $4.0 billion combined. This is almost matched by non-aeronautical revenues for concessions, parking, and rental cars, at $3.9 billion combined.

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1 Based on 1999 air carrier passenger revenues of $118.3 billion, general aviation aircraft purchases of $7.8 billion and GA operating costs of $18.8 billion (all net of user taxes and airport fees), Aviation Trust Fund income of $8.4 billion (net of grants to airports), and airport income of $15.2 billion (net of non-aeronautical income). This is the latest information available.
All NPIAS airports are estimated to have received total non-operating revenues of $9.6 billion, including $5.2 billion from bond proceeds, $1.8 billion from grants, $1.4 billion from passenger facility charges, and $1.2 billion from other non-operating sources. PFC revenue is approximately 8 percent of large and medium hub airport revenue, and 7 percent of revenues of small hub airports. Bond proceeds include both new issues and an unspecified amount of reissues of existing debt. Detailed information on Federal grants can be obtained from the FAA's annual reports.

Total expenses for all NPIAS airports were estimated to be $20.6 billion, with $6.8 billion in operating expenses and $13.9 billion in non-operating expenses. The high level of non-operating expense points to the high levels of capital investment in the nation’s airport system. Of the $13.9 billion in non-operating airport expense, $7.8 billion (or 56 percent) was for capital expenditures.

The data in Table 5 show considerable variation in income sources and expenditures among airport categories. For example, concessions and rental car plus parking revenues are 19 percent of total revenues for large hub airports, 25 percent of revenues for medium hub airports, and 23 percent for small hub airports, but are a negligible part of income of general aviation airports. The 31 large hub airports generated 63 percent of revenues. Net revenues are positive for large and medium hub airports and negative for the other airport groups.

Table 5 also indicates that the largest airports are relatively self-sustaining, and receive between 3 and 11 percent of their budget from the Federal grants. The small airport groups - other commercial service, reliever, and general aviation - look to Federal grants to pay an average of 28 percent of their budget. Large and medium hubs generally have excellent credit ratings and often borrow funds to accomplish some portion of needed development. However, these airports may face constraints, such as restrictions in use agreements, bond documents, and local ordinances, which can limit access to external debt financing. The pressure to remain cost competitive with other airports may limit the amount of borrowing an airport elects to undertake with revenue bonds. Smaller airports have limited incomes and generally do not have adequate operating surpluses to repay borrowed funds. As a result, small airports tend to rely heavily on grants to finance capital improvements. Note that Table 5 contains estimated grants and actual grants. The estimated grants, based on the airport’s fiscal year, are reported on FAA Form 5100-125 and are included in the total revenue data. The actual grants are based on the FAA’s fiscal year and are not included in the total revenue data.
## Estimated Airport Income (1999)
($ Millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Large Hub</th>
<th>Medium Hub</th>
<th>Small Hub</th>
<th>Nonhub</th>
<th>Commercial Service</th>
<th>Reliever</th>
<th>General Aviation</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landing Fees</td>
<td>1,365.9</td>
<td>329.2</td>
<td>113.2</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1,904.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terminal Rents</td>
<td>1,545.7</td>
<td>279.7</td>
<td>147.3</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>44.3</td>
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<td>2,069.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Base Operator</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>354.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cargo</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>360.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Aeronautical Fees</td>
<td>528.7</td>
<td>99.3</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>850.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total Aeronautical</strong></td>
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<td>$769.30</td>
<td>$368.90</td>
<td>$196.90</td>
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<td>Concessions</td>
<td>834.2</td>
<td>118.2</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>1,066.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parking and Rental Car</td>
<td>1,621.7</td>
<td>663.4</td>
<td>313.3</td>
<td>100.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>127.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2,827.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-Aeronautical Fees</td>
<td>989.6</td>
<td>235.8</td>
<td>149.1</td>
<td>102.1</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>100.8</td>
<td>1,603.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total Non Aeronautical</strong></td>
<td>$3,445.5</td>
<td>$1,017.4</td>
<td>$519.4</td>
<td>$212.9</td>
<td>$10.2</td>
<td>$185.4</td>
<td>$105.9</td>
<td>5,496.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$7,119.20</td>
<td>$1,786.70</td>
<td>$888.30</td>
<td>$409.80</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$474.70</td>
<td>$332.70</td>
<td>$11,036.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond</td>
<td>4,021.6</td>
<td>583.2</td>
<td>285.1</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>161.9</td>
<td>122.3</td>
<td>5,236.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Estimated) Grant</td>
<td>425.3</td>
<td>258.2</td>
<td>199.0</td>
<td>285.7</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>208.2</td>
<td>386.9</td>
<td>1,799.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual FY 99 Federal Grants</td>
<td>(407.5)</td>
<td>(331.2)</td>
<td>(281.8)</td>
<td>(369.3)</td>
<td>(64.0)</td>
<td>(149.0)</td>
<td>(342.2)</td>
<td>(1,945.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger Facility Charge</td>
<td>1,031.7</td>
<td>247.9</td>
<td>114.0</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1,443.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-Operating Revenue</td>
<td>522.0</td>
<td>243.2</td>
<td>106.7</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>180.3</td>
<td>1,160.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$6,000.7</td>
<td>$1,332.4</td>
<td>$704.8</td>
<td>$463.6</td>
<td>$48.7</td>
<td>$400.2</td>
<td>$689.5</td>
<td>$9,639.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$13,119.9</td>
<td>$3,119.1</td>
<td>$1,593.1</td>
<td>$873.9</td>
<td>$73.7</td>
<td>$874.9</td>
<td>$1,022.2</td>
<td>$20,675.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Revenue per Airport</td>
<td>$423.2</td>
<td>$84.3</td>
<td>$21.5</td>
<td>$3.1</td>
<td>$0.6</td>
<td>$2.9</td>
<td>$0.4</td>
<td>$6.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5** Estimated Airport Income (1999)
### 1999 Estimated Airport Expenditures (\$ Millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Large Hub</th>
<th>Medium Hub</th>
<th>Small Hub</th>
<th>Nonhub</th>
<th>Commercial Service</th>
<th>Reliever</th>
<th>General Aviation</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>1,444.2</td>
<td>396.8</td>
<td>261.5</td>
<td>169.7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>121.5</td>
<td>128.8</td>
<td>2,534.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>7,41.6</td>
<td>114.9</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>1,076.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>767.8</td>
<td>257.5</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>144.5</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>1,349.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Operating Exp</td>
<td>1,066.6</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>181.1</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>152.1</td>
<td>1,803.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expense</strong></td>
<td>$4,020.20</td>
<td>$1,057.10</td>
<td>$633.70</td>
<td>$366.7</td>
<td>$32.90</td>
<td>$298.40</td>
<td>$355.5</td>
<td>$6,764.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service Payments Net of Capitalized Interest (DSPNCI)</td>
<td>2,595.1</td>
<td>607.2</td>
<td>234.2</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>3,657.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum Capital Expense</td>
<td>4,371.3</td>
<td>1,136.5</td>
<td>553.3</td>
<td>396.4</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>630.1</td>
<td>648.2</td>
<td>7,775.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-Operating Expense</td>
<td>1,664.3</td>
<td>297.7</td>
<td>306.3</td>
<td>88.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>2,434.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non Operating Expense</strong></td>
<td>$8,630.7</td>
<td>$2,041.3</td>
<td>$1,093.8</td>
<td>$569.5</td>
<td>$44.6</td>
<td>$690.1</td>
<td>$797.2</td>
<td>$13,867.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>$12,650.9</td>
<td>$3,098.4</td>
<td>$1,727.5</td>
<td>$936.2</td>
<td>$77.5</td>
<td>$988.5</td>
<td>$1,152.7</td>
<td>$20,631.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Revenue (Income after Expenses)</strong></td>
<td>$469.0</td>
<td>$20.7</td>
<td>$(134.4)</td>
<td>$(62.8)</td>
<td>$(3.8)</td>
<td>$(113.5)</td>
<td>$(130.5)</td>
<td>$44.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Expense per Airport</td>
<td>$408.1</td>
<td>$83.7</td>
<td>$23.3</td>
<td>$3.3</td>
<td>$0.6</td>
<td>$3.3</td>
<td>$0.5</td>
<td>$6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio Total Rev &amp; Exp</td>
<td>103.7%</td>
<td>100.7%</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
<td>88.7%</td>
<td>100.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6  Estimated Airport Expenditures (1999)
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CHAPTER 3

ACTIVITY FORECASTS

OVERVIEW

Increased demand for air transportation will significantly affect the future pattern of capital investment in airports. Gradual growth in domestic air travel and more rapid growth in international travel will lead to a steady stream of projects to expand passenger facilities. Major airlines will probably continue using large transfer hubs, but few if any major new hubs are expected.

ACTIVITY FORECASTS

The early 1990’s were a period of slow growth and financial difficulty for the aviation industry, due to the lethargy of the U.S. and world economies. However, relatively strong growth in both US and world economies since 1994 is largely responsible for strong demand for aviation services. Between 1994 and 2000, passenger enplanements by U.S. commercial air carriers reporting data to the Department of Transportation grew at an annual rate of 4.2 percent, and these carriers reported cumulative net profits of $47 billion. In 2000, the large air carriers’ system-wide load factor increased to an all-time record high of 72.2 percent. Regional/commuter passenger traffic will continue to grow at a faster rate than their larger domestic counterparts. The increasing number of high-speed turboprops and regional jets operated by the regional/commuter airlines is expected to stimulate activity at nontraditional regional/commuter markets. The active general aviation fleet has increased for the fifth consecutive year, up 7.2 percent in 1999.

The FAA's forecasts through 2012 are based on assumptions of sustained economic growth, with the U.S. economy expected to grow at a moderate annual rate of 3.1 percent, while the worldwide economy grows at a slightly more rapid rate of 3.4 percent, including a particularly rapid rate of 4.4 percent in Latin American and 4.6 percent in the Far East/Pacific Basin countries. Inflation is expected to remain in the moderate range, barring any major disruption in the price and availability of oil.

__________________________

1 Source: FAA Aerospace Forecasts FY 2001-2012 issued in March 2001
Domestic air carrier enplanements are forecast to increase at a 3.6-percent rate annually through 2012 and international enplanements to increase by 5.9 percent, for a system average annual growth of 3.8 percent in enplanements. Air carrier aircraft operations will grow at a slower rate of 3.1 percent annually because of the use of larger aircraft. Regional/commuter enplanements are expected to increase at 5.7 percent annually and aircraft operations at 2.4 percent. General aviation operations are forecast to increase at a rate of 2.3 percent annually.

### Aviation Activity Forecasts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aviation Activity</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Annual Growth (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enplanements (Millions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>604.1</td>
<td>927.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>54.6</td>
<td>108.4</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System (Domestic &amp; Int’)</td>
<td>658.7</td>
<td>1,035.8</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commuter/Regional</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft Operations (Millions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Carrier</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commuter/Regional</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Aviation</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7  Aviation Activity Forecasts

**Implications of Forecasts**

The forecast for a 57-percent increase in passenger enplanements between 2000 and 2012 suggests that a major investment will be needed to expand terminals to accommodate more passengers and larger aircraft. The technology used in future terminals will be similar to current designs in many respects, although a major increase is likely in the use of automated people movers to expedite pedestrian traffic around large terminal complexes. Also, new terminal designs are more likely to incorporate public transit, particularly in cities with well-developed transit systems.
The trend toward the use of midfield terminals at airline transfer hubs will continue. Midfield terminals are key features at Atlanta and Pittsburgh and the new Denver airport, and similar developments are underway at Detroit Metropolitan and Washington Dulles. Unlike most terminals, which have automobile parking on one side and aircraft parking on the other, midfield terminals are surrounded by parked aircraft, maximizing the opportunities for efficient passenger transfers. Access to ground transportation is usually provided by an underground automated people mover.

Another feature of transfer hubs is the use of automated baggage handling equipment to speed the transfer of baggage between flights. It is difficult to accommodate automated baggage handling equipment in existing buildings, but this equipment is being incorporated into new terminals at transfer hubs, where the structure can be designed specifically to accommodate it.

The 57 percent increase in passengers is expected to be accomplished by a 43 percent increase in air carrier aircraft operations. Over the next decade, the FAA anticipates that the average seating capacity of air carrier aircraft will increase by approximately 1 seat per year. In addition, aircraft utilization is expected to continue to increase as more carriers seek to reduce gate turn-around times. Load factors are also expected to remain at current historical high levels. The implications of the increase in air carrier aircraft operations will vary, depending on activity levels at individual airports. The growth will present little problem for most low activity airports, which have unused runway capacity. The increase in air carrier operations at medium hubs will be accommodated by scheduling more flights for off-peak periods, attracting a portion of general aviation activity to reliever airports, and developing new runways to increase airfield capacity.

A substantial increase in aircraft operations at a large hub airport may warrant consideration of additional runways by the airport proprietor. The planning and environmental processes, which must be completed before a new runway can be built, generally take many years to complete and are typically controversial within the local community. The prospects for new runway construction are somewhat better at airline transfer hubs than at the older and more congested origin/destination airports serving major metropolitan areas. Seventy-five percent of the large transfer hubs have new runways planned or under consideration while about forty-seven percent of the origin/destination airports have new runways planned or under consideration. Airlines selected transfer airports as hubs in part because of their potential for expansion, and airport management is eager to provide adequate runway capacity in order to ensure that the airlines continue to operate there, rather than switching hub operations to a competing airport. Much of the additional capacity at transfer hubs is intended for use by commuter and regional airline aircraft, which transport passengers from smaller cities within several hundred miles of the hub. This traffic is expected to grow as regional carriers acquire jet aircraft to supplement their propeller driven fleets.
Capacity-enhancing efforts are also underway at many of the airports that primarily serve origin and destination traffic. However, in some cases new runways are not feasible and the alternative of delay management is being explored. For example, the FAA is currently exploring short- and long-term alternatives for managing capacity at LaGuardia Airport, which prior to the events of September 11, 2001, accounted for as much as 25 percent of flight delays nationwide (original Federal Register Notice dated June 12, 2001; revised Federal Register Notice dated March 22, 2002, established new closing date for comments). In the short term the FAA is seeking to extend the existing allocation of AIR-21 slot exemptions and would hold a new lottery to allocate limited available capacity. Longer term, the FAA is examining implementing a demand management approach to allocate limited runway capacity among aircraft operators.

OTHER FACTORS

The requirement for airports is affected not only by the volume of air transportation but also by the way in which it is provided. Airlines are expected to continue to concentrate their schedules at busy transfer hubs, where large numbers of flights converge in short periods of time to maximize the opportunity for passenger transfers. The current number of hubs appears to be adequate to meet airline requirements. No additional hubs are expected within the next 5 years. Increased direct service, bypassing hubs, is likely when warranted by airline marketing considerations. Parallel runways are planned at some transfer hubs to accommodate operations by regional airlines, which are being used to connect to smaller cities.

Lower-cost carriers are likely to serve major metropolitan areas, possibly initiating service to uncongested, secondary commercial service airports where existing facilities are underutilized. In some cases, however, service has been initiated at major airports. For example, low-cost carriers presently operate at the major airports in Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and St. Louis.

The globalization of the airline industry, rapid growth of air transportation overseas, and the increased range of aircraft will combine to bring more international passengers to more U.S. airports. The effects will vary but may include requirements for longer runways, terminal building expansion, and provision of Federal inspection facilities for immigration, customs, and agriculture at airports where international traffic is increasing.

The increased number of turboprop and jet aircraft in the general aviation fleet will result in a demand for longer runways at certain reliever and general aviation airports, particularly those used by business and corporate aircraft.
CARGO

Air cargo is very important to the U.S. economy, as illustrated by U.S. Department of Commerce statistics that 34 percent of exports measured by value in 1997 were shipped by air. Air transportation is a preferred mode for the shipment of high-value, lightweight, and perishable goods. Between 1993 and 1997, the value of shipments by air increased 64.7 percent, reflecting the increased emphasis on speed.

Air cargo is concentrated at busy commercial service airports, and much of it is carried in the baggage compartments of scheduled passenger aircraft. Less than 5 percent of scheduled flights are by all-cargo aircraft, and these are usually derivatives of passenger aircraft. Cargo flights usually occur during off-peak periods and do not substantially contribute to airport congestion and delay problems.

The principal need for airport development is related to the cargo sorting and transfer facilities developed by small-package, express carriers. Many of the busiest facilities are concentrated in a geographic area around the Ohio River Valley where flights can be brought together efficiently to transfer cargo. These airports must have high-capacity, all-weather runway systems to support reliable operations. Improvements may also be warranted at selected airports, such as JFK, O'Hare, Miami, Anchorage, and Los Angeles International, to keep pace with rapid growth in international air cargo.

INNOVATIONS

Efforts are underway to develop transportation and communication technology that may eventually affect the demand for conventional air transportation. Prototypes of tiltrotor aircraft may evolve into effective vehicles for air travel between city centers or suburban areas, bypassing congested airports. High-speed trains are being demonstrated that could attract more passengers to rail in specific markets, and research is underway into magnetic levitation (maglev) vehicles. Teleconferencing and other electronic communication techniques could affect the demand for business travel. These innovations may eventually have a significant effect on airport development needs, but this is not expected to occur during the next 5 years, which is the period addressed by this report.

CONVERSION OF SURPLUS AIRFIELDS

About 30 surplus military airfields are expected to be converted to civil use. Most of these military airfields have long runways and associated facilities that can accommodate large civil aircraft. Seven of the surplus military airfields have become commercial service airports (England AFB; Myrtle Beach AFB; Agana Guam NAS; Pease AFB; Scott AFB; Bergstrom AFB and K.I. Sawyer AFB) with Bergstrom and K.I. Sawyer replacing constrained civil airports. Two other surplus airfields have attracted significant cargo
service (Mather AFB and Rickenbacker AFB). The remaining surplus airfields are located in areas where general aviation and reliever airports are needed.

**AIR QUALITY**

Improved air quality is an increasingly important consideration in transportation plans for urban areas. Many large cities must reduce vehicle emissions substantially in order to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. The FAA must determine that projects receiving Federal aid under the Airport Improvement Program conform to applicable State Implementation Plans, which often call for large reductions in emissions. In 2001, the FAA selected 10 public-use airports to participate in the Inherently Low-Emission Airport Vehicle (ILEAV) Pilot Program authorized by AIR-21. The intent of the program is to improve air quality at the Nation’s airports by encouraging the use of alternative fuel vehicles.


Chapter 4

Development Requirements

Overview

Information on the development needed to provide an adequate national system of airports is derived primarily from locally prepared airport master plans and regional and state system plans. Although these plans are not yet subject to uniform cost/benefit analysis, their development recommendations are tied to the current use and condition of each airport and the forecast increase in activity. Costs are categorized by type of airport and by purpose of development: Safety and Security, Reconstruction, Standards, Environment, Airfield Capacity, Terminal Buildings, Ground Access, and New Airports. These development costs are shown on Table 8. For comparison purposes, a table (Table 9) is provided showing development requirements contained in the previous edition of the NPIAS. Because the NPIAS is an aggregation of airport capital projects identified through the local planning process, rather than a spending plan, no attempt is made to prioritize the development projects that comprise the database or evaluate whether the benefits of specific development projects would exceed the costs.

Process

The principal data sources for the NPIAS are airport master plans prepared for airport owners by consulting firms. These plans are reviewed by FAA field offices. They follow a standard outline contained in an FAA advisory circular that links development to current and forecast activity. The plans include consideration of all significant aviation requirements, including the needs of national defense and the postal service. Plans for major development, such as new runways or runway extensions, tend to be controversial and the planning process provides interested parties with the opportunity to request a public hearing. Proposed development items that are either not justified by the forecast of aviation activity, such as additional runways, or ineligible for Federal funding, such as hangars, are screened by FAA planners and are not entered into the NPIAS database. The combination of a planning process that links development to activity, an FAA review that culls out unnecessary and ineligible development, and the discussion of controversial proposals at public hearings results in reasonable and well-documented estimates of future airport development requirements. However, the actual timing and cost of development may vary from airport master plans. For instance, projects may be deferred or developed in stages in order to reduce immediate costs, or conversely, an unexpected rapid increase in activity may justify accelerating certain development.

Airports and airlines frequently engage in discussions regarding major airport investment programs. Airlines have questioned the scope and timing of specific development...
proposals, including major new airports, ground access projects, and certain terminal and airfield improvements. The NPIAS generally reflects the airport operator's viewpoint regarding the scope and schedule for proposed development. If proposals are downsized, rescheduled, or accomplished in stages, development costs could be significantly lower. The total cost of development in the report is 32 percent higher than the preceding report, issued in 1999. Every category of airport shows higher development needs, with the greatest increases at large hub, non hub, commercial service and general aviation airports, and lesser increases at medium hub, small hub, and reliever airports.

**Additional Costs Not Included in the NPIAS**

The NPIAS only includes development that is eligible to receive Federal grants under the Airport Improvement Program. It does not include ineligible airport development, such as automobile parking structures, hangars, air cargo buildings, or the revenue-producing portion of large passenger terminal buildings. It does not include development eligible under the passenger facility charge program but ineligible under the Federal grant program, such as gates and related areas. Neither does it include improvements to highway and transit systems beyond the airport property line, even though some improvements that are for airport access and on property owned or effectively controlled by the airport sponsor may be eligible for AIP funds. There is no precise estimate of airport access requirements, but they are known to be substantial.

The NPIAS is drawn from approved plans and may not include some emerging requirements related to new large aircraft and enhanced security measures, for which cost estimates have yet to be formulated. The NPIAS only includes development to be undertaken by airport operators and does not include improvements to air traffic control and navigation and approach aids that are funded entirely by the FAA.

The NPIAS also does not include development needed to relieve airfield congestion in metropolitan areas when there is no local consensus about how to address the problem.

** Benchmarks**

The FAA issued an Airport Capacity Benchmark Report in April 2001, documenting the relationships between airfield capacity and airline schedules at the 30 busiest airports. The report included estimates of capacity increases expected through 2010 due to new runway construction and improvements in procedures and technology, and compared those increases to forecasted growth in demand. New runways were shown to be particularly effective in achieving a favorable balance between capacity and demand.
DEVELOPMENT CATEGORIES

The total $46.2 billion in the NPIAS is divided into categories on the basis of the principal purpose of development.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Safety and security projects include development that is required by Federal regulation, certification procedure, or design standard, and intended primarily for the protection of human life. This category, which accounts for almost 3 percent of the NPIAS, includes obstruction lighting and removal, fire and rescue equipment, fencing, and security devices. This type of development is given the highest priority by the FAA in order to ensure its speedy implementation and achieve the highest possible level of safety and security.

RECONSTRUCTION

Reconstruction includes development to replace or rehabilitate airport facilities, primarily pavement and lighting systems that have deteriorated due to weather or use and reached the end of their useful lives. This category, which accounts for about 13 percent of NPIAS costs, includes the rehabilitation of pavement on a 15- to 20-year cycle. Failure to replace deteriorating pavement increases airport maintenance costs and can result in damage to propellers and engines, pooling of water and ice deposits, and eventually potholes that can damage landing gear. Airfield lighting cables and fixtures deteriorate with age, resulting in dim and unreliable lighting if they are not replaced.

Reconstruction is included in the NPIAS when normal maintenance procedures are no longer economical and effective.

STANDARDS

Standards projects include development to bring existing airports up to design criteria recommended by the FAA. This is the largest development category, accounting for almost 30 percent of the NPIAS (a decrease from 37 percent in the previous edition). This is due largely to a change in how the FAA classifies certain types of development. FAA has reverted to its previous definition of standards.

Many commercial service airports were designed up to 50 years ago to serve relatively small and slow aircraft, but are now being used by larger and faster turboprop and jet aircraft. As a result, runways and taxiways must be relocated to provide greater clearance for aircraft with long wing spans, and aircraft parking areas must be adapted to accommodate larger aircraft. Standards development at general aviation and reliever airports is generally justified to accommodate a substantial number of operations by “critical” aircraft with sizes and operating characteristics that were not foreseen at the
time of original construction. If it is not undertaken, aircraft may be required to limit fuel or passenger loads because of inadequate runway length. The FAA usually requires an indication that an aircraft type will account for at least 500 annual itinerant operations at an airport before development is included in the NPIAS to accommodate it.

**Environment**

Environment includes development to achieve an acceptable balance between airport operational requirements and the expectations of residents of the surrounding area for a quiet and wholesome environment. This development supplements the large noise reductions that are being achieved by quieter aircraft and the use of noise abatement procedures. It accounts for 4 percent of NPIAS costs and includes the relocation of households and soundproofing of residences and public buildings in areas underlying aircraft approach and departure paths. Most of the cost is for land acquisition in fee simple (complete ownership) or easements (partial ownership) to compensate property owners for overflights. Environmental costs are concentrated at airports with frequent flights by jet aircraft (39 percent large hubs, 35 percent medium hubs, 14 percent small hubs, 5 percent nonhubs, and 5 percent reliever airports). This development is part of an extensive Federal and industry program, involving land use planning, quieter aircraft, and noise abatement procedures, that has reduced the estimated number of people exposed to significant noise by approximately 75 percent since 1975 (see figure 7 on page 18).

**Terminal Building**

Terminal building costs are incurred for development to accommodate more passengers and more or larger aircraft. This category has increased in recent years and now accounts for 20 percent of the NPIAS. The NPIAS only includes the portion of terminals at large airports that is eligible for Federal aid (about 50 to 60 percent) and excludes revenue generating areas used exclusively by a single tenant or concessions, such as gift shops and restaurants. The development is concentrated at the busiest commercial service airports (92 percent large hubs, 6 percent medium hubs, and 2 percent small hubs).

**Access**

Access includes the portion of airport ground access (highways and transit) that is within the airport property line and eligible for grants under the Airport Improvement Program. It currently accounts for 10 percent of the NPIAS.

**Airfield Capacity**

Airfield capacity is the development that will improve an airport for the primary purpose of reducing delay and/or accommodating more passengers, cargo, aircraft operations, or based aircraft. This accounts for 18 percent of the NPIAS, up from 13 percent in the
1998 NPIAS. This increase is due to a change in how the FAA classifies certain types of development. In 2000 the category was broadened from the 1998 definition that classified capacity development as development necessary to accommodate more and larger aircraft operations on runways and taxiway systems at airports experiencing or expecting to experience 20,000 hours or more of annual delay.

Runway development that is warranted to relieve congestion but precluded because of political and environmental considerations is not included. The airfield capacity development included in this 5-year plan will help to control congestion at many busy airports. However, severe problems will remain in certain large metropolitan areas such as New York, and the FAA will continue to focus on the need for additional capacity at those locations.

NEW AIRPORTS

New airports are recommended in the NPIAS for communities that generate a substantial demand for air transportation and either do not have an airport or have an airport that cannot be improved to meet minimum standards of safety and efficiency. In addition, new commercial service and reliever airports are recommended for communities where existing airports are congested and cannot be expanded to meet the forecast demand for air transportation. Few major new airports are foreseen during the next 5 years but a number of new reliever and general aviation airports are proposed.

The new airport category includes most of the anticipated cost of converting surplus military airfields to civil use.

ANTICIPATED SOURCES OF FUNDING

There are generally five resources used to finance airport development: airport cash flow, revenue and general obligation bonds, Airport Improvement Program grants, passenger facility charges, and state and local grants. Access to these sources of financing varies widely among airports, with some large airports maintaining substantial cash reserves while the small commercial service and general aviation airports often require subsidies from local and state governments to fund operating expenses and finance modest improvements.

Historically the combined resources have been adequate to achieve needed development. Funding varies from year to year, but it has been in the range of $5.5 billion to $7.3 billion since 1990. This represents total public spending, including projects eligible for AIP grants (NPIAS) and projects ineligible for AIP grants like automobile parking garages and hangars. Discussions with representatives of airports, airlines, and the investment community lead the FAA to believe that this combination of resources should continue to be adequate for the foreseeable future.
Smaller airports are expected to continue to be very dependent on Federal, state, and local grants to achieve capital improvements. The largest airports are less dependent on grants and exhibit an increasing ability to operate as freestanding financial entities.
## 2001-2005 NPIAS Cost
### by Airport and Development Category

($ Thousand)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airport Type</th>
<th>Safety/Security</th>
<th>Reconstruction</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Terminal</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>New Airports</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>282,353</td>
<td>1,254,598</td>
<td>2,723,550</td>
<td>716,919</td>
<td>6,861,028</td>
<td>8,625,684</td>
<td>3,808,992</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24,273,124</td>
<td>52.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>205,110</td>
<td>905,926</td>
<td>1,748,579</td>
<td>636,206</td>
<td>752,741</td>
<td>520,088</td>
<td>584,961</td>
<td>10,534</td>
<td>5,364,145</td>
<td>11.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>160,950</td>
<td>657,023</td>
<td>1,599,672</td>
<td>258,308</td>
<td>444,024</td>
<td>153,239</td>
<td>102,724</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,375,940</td>
<td>7.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non hub</td>
<td>489,666</td>
<td>1,007,991</td>
<td>2,090,015</td>
<td>86,698</td>
<td>117,228</td>
<td>39,794</td>
<td>99,496</td>
<td>104,351</td>
<td>4,035,239</td>
<td>8.73%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>42,753</td>
<td>261,341</td>
<td>325,001</td>
<td>8,167</td>
<td>8,014</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>5,299</td>
<td>57,067</td>
<td>708,540</td>
<td>1.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliever</td>
<td>50,814</td>
<td>564,460</td>
<td>1,564,643</td>
<td>85,398</td>
<td>174,447</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>85,638</td>
<td>103,937</td>
<td>2,629,622</td>
<td>5.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.A.</td>
<td>147,206</td>
<td>1,300,791</td>
<td>3,751,859</td>
<td>8,813</td>
<td>82,478</td>
<td>1,619</td>
<td>92,890</td>
<td>450,030</td>
<td>5,835,686</td>
<td>12.63%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,378,852</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,952,130</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,803,319</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,800,509</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,439,960</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,341,607</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,780,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>725,919</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,222,296</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>2.98%</td>
<td>12.88%</td>
<td>29.86%</td>
<td>3.90%</td>
<td>18.26%</td>
<td>20.21%</td>
<td>10.34%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 8  NPIAS Cost by Airport and Development Category (2001-2005)
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### 1998-2002 NPIAS Cost by Airport and Development Category ($ Thousand)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Safety/Security</th>
<th>Reconstruction</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Terminal</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>New Airports</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large Hub</td>
<td>204,840</td>
<td>727,715</td>
<td>4,419,654</td>
<td>803,124</td>
<td>2,866,631</td>
<td>5,333,324</td>
<td>3,367,722</td>
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<td>Medium Hub</td>
<td>131,892</td>
<td>749,214</td>
<td>1,455,106</td>
<td>535,513</td>
<td>986,567</td>
<td>162,221</td>
<td>695,312</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,715,823</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Hub</td>
<td>119,478</td>
<td>423,430</td>
<td>1,515,108</td>
<td>298,943</td>
<td>379,225</td>
<td>105,681</td>
<td>111,008</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,952,873</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonhub</td>
<td>294,053</td>
<td>675,995</td>
<td>1,448,900</td>
<td>73,968</td>
<td>167,911</td>
<td>53,020</td>
<td>85,504</td>
<td>36,667</td>
<td>2,836,019</td>
<td>8.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial Service</td>
<td>42,130</td>
<td>170,224</td>
<td>191,670</td>
<td>11,081</td>
<td>45,723</td>
<td>3,124</td>
<td>7,179</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>471,111</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliever</td>
<td>98,677</td>
<td>459,402</td>
<td>1,327,415</td>
<td>120,701</td>
<td>81,025</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>53,808</td>
<td>214,433</td>
<td>2,356,862</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>196,634</td>
<td>871,020</td>
<td>2,497,997</td>
<td>18,184</td>
<td>167,375</td>
<td>8,303</td>
<td>62,847</td>
<td>215,104</td>
<td>4,037,464</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,087,702</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,077,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,855,850</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,861,494</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,694,456</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,667,073</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,383,380</strong></td>
<td><strong>466,204</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,093,160</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>16.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9  NPIAS Cost by Airport and Development Category (1998-2002)
Appendix A

List Of NPIAS Airports With 5-Year Forecast Activity And Development Cost

Explanation of Terms and Abbreviations Used in the Appendix A

City - The city generally associated with the airport.

Airport - The official name of the airport or designated abbreviation.

LOCID – The unique airport location identifier for an airport.

Role - One of four basic airport service levels which describe the type of service that the airport currently provides to the community and is anticipated to provide the community at the end of the 5-year planning period. The service levels also represent funding categories for the distribution of Federal aid. New airports opening beyond the 5-year period are not shown in Appendix A; however, 5-year costs associated with the development are included in Table 8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PR</th>
<th>Commercial Service - Primary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Commercial Service - Nonprimary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RL</td>
<td>Reliever Airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>General Aviation Airport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enpl - The number of revenue passengers expected to be boarded at the airport during the fifth year of the 5-year planning period.

Based Acft - The number of locally owned aircraft expected to be hangared or based at the airport at the end of the 5-year planning period.

Cost - The estimated 5-year costs for airport improvements that are eligible for Federal development grants under the Airport Improvement Program. The costs identified are for development only; approximately $149 million in planning costs are excluded from the development estimates.

NOTE: The data presented in these tables were compiled as of January 2001. Current data for specific airports can be obtained from the appropriate regional office, as listed in Appendix C.
To view the listing of NPIAS Airports, please download NPIAS01A.pdf from the following location:

Explanation of Maps in Appendix B

The maps contained in Appendix B show the location of existing airports contained in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems. Airports are identified by the airport name. Icons are used to identify the airports as commercial service non primary, primary, reliever, or general aviation.
To view the State and Territories Maps of NPIAS Airports,
please see the html version
at the following location:

### APPENDIX C

#### REGIONAL OFFICES' ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

For the most current information, see: [http://www.faa.gov/arp/regions.cfm](http://www.faa.gov/arp/regions.cfm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL OFFICE</th>
<th>Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Airports Division, ANE-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal Aviation Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 New England Executive Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burlington, Massachusetts 01803-5299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Telephone No.: (781) 238-7600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: (781) 238-7608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE</th>
<th>New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and District of Columbia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Airports District, AEA-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal Aviation Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One Aviation Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>159039 Rockaway Boulevard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Springfield Gardens, New York 11434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Telephone No.: (718) 553-3330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: (718) 995-9219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE</th>
<th>Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Airports Division, ASO-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal Aviation Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1701 Columbia Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College Park, Georgia 30337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Telephone No.: (404) 305-6700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: (404) 305-6730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MAIL ADDRESS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Airports Division, ASO-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal Aviation Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P. O. Box 20636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia 30320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX C
REGIONAL OFFICES' ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, North Dakota, and South Dakota
Airports Division, AGL-600
Federal Aviation Administration
2300 East Devon Avenue, Suite 201
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
Telephone No.: (847) 294-7272
FAX: (847) 294-7036

CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE
Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska
Airports Division, ACE-600
Federal Aviation Administration
901 Locust
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2641
Telephone No.: (816) 329-2600
FAX: (816) 329-2610

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Louisiana
Airports Division, ASW-600
Federal Aviation Administration
2601 Meacham Boulevard
Fort Worth, Texas 76137-4298
Telephone No.: (817) 222-5600
FAX: (817) 222-5984
MAIL ADDRESS:
Department of Transportation, ASW-600
Federal Aviation Administration
Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0600
APPENDIX C
REGIONAL OFFICES' ADDRESSES
AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

WESTERN-PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE
California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands
Airports Division, AWP-600
Federal Aviation Administration
15000 Aviation Boulevard
Lawndale, California 90261
Telephone No.: (310) 725-3600
FAX: (310) 725-6847

NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE
Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana
Airports Division, ANM-600
Federal Aviation Administration
1601 Lind Avenue, S.W.
Renton, Washington 98055-4056
Telephone No.: (425) 227-2600
FAX: (425) 227-1600

ALASKAN REGIONAL OFFICE
Alaska
Airports Division, AAL-600
Federal Aviation Administration
Anchorage Federal Office Building
222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
Telephone No.: (907) 271-5438
FAX: (907) 271-2851