

# APPENDIX C: AIRPORT CRITERIA – STATUTORY AND POLICY DEFINITIONS

## STATUTORY DEFINITIONS

| Statutory Definition and Airports Meeting Definition | Criteria                                                                                                                                                                             | Also referred to as:                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Commercial Service</b>                            | Public-owned airports with more than 2,500 annual enplanements and scheduled air carrier service.                                                                                    | Primary                              |
| — Large Hub                                          | Receives 1.0% or more of the annual U.S. commercial enplanements.                                                                                                                    | Primary                              |
| — Medium Hub                                         | Receives 0.25 to 1.0% of the annual U.S. commercial enplanements.                                                                                                                    | Primary                              |
| — Small Hub                                          | Receives 0.05 to 0.25% of the annual U.S. commercial enplanements.                                                                                                                   | Primary                              |
| — Nonhub                                             | Receives less than 0.05% but more than 10,000 of the annual U.S. commercial enplanements.                                                                                            | Primary                              |
|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>395 Primary</b>                   |
| — Nonprimary Commercial Service, Nonhub              | Also referred to as nonhub nonprimary; these airports have scheduled passenger service and between 2,500 and 10,000 annual enplanements.                                             | Nonprimary                           |
| <b>Reliever</b>                                      | An airport designated by the Secretary of Transportation to relieve congestion at a commercial service airport and to provide more general aviation access to the overall community. | Nonprimary                           |
| <b>General Aviation</b>                              | A public airport that does not have scheduled service or has scheduled service with less than 2,500 passenger boardings each year.                                                   | Nonprimary                           |
|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>2,937<br/>Nonprimary Airports</b> |
| <b>Total NPIAS Airports</b>                          | Airports that FAA has determined are important to the national air transportation system and, as a result, eligible for AIP funding.                                                 | <b>3,332<br/>NPIAS Airports</b>      |

## POLICY DEFINITIONS

| If a nonprimary airport is classified as: | It fulfills this role in the system:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | And meets one of the following minimum criteria for <i>annual</i> activity:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>National</i></b>                    | Supports the national airport system by providing communities access to national and international markets in multiple states and throughout the United States. National airports have very high levels of aviation activity with many jets and multiengine propeller aircraft.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5,000 or more instrument operations, 11 or more based jets, and 20 or more international flights or 500 or more interstate departures.</li> <li>• 10,000 or more enplanements and at least 1 enplanement by a large certificated air carrier.</li> <li>• 500 million pounds or more of landed cargo weight.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b><i>Regional</i></b>                    | Supports regional economies by connecting communities to regional and national markets. Generally located in metropolitan areas and serve relatively large populations. Regional airports have high levels of activity with some jets and multiengine propeller aircraft. The metropolitan areas in which regional airports are located can be metropolitan statistical areas with an urban core population of at least 50,000 or micropolitan statistical areas with a core urban population between 10,000 and 50,000. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a metropolitan statistical area, 10 or more domestic flights over 500 miles, 1,000 or more instrument operations, <b>and</b> 1 or more based jet or 100 or more based aircraft.</li> <li>• Reliever with 90 or more based aircraft.</li> <li>• Nonprimary commercial service airport (requiring scheduled service) within a metropolitan statistical area.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b><i>Local</i></b>                       | Supplements local communities by providing access to markets within a State or immediate region. Local airports are most often located near larger population centers, but not necessarily in metropolitan or micropolitan areas. Most of the flying at local airports is by piston aircraft in support of business and personal needs. These airports typically accommodate flight training, emergency services, and charter passenger service.                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public owned and 10 or more instrument operations and 15 or more based aircraft.</li> <li>• Public owned and 2,500 or more annual enplanements.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b><i>Basic</i></b>                       | Provides a means for general aviation flying and link the community to the national airport system. These airports support general aviation activities, such as emergency response, air ambulance service, flight training, and personal flying. Most of the flying at basic airports is self-piloted for business and personal reasons using propeller-driven aircraft. They often fulfill their role with a single runway or helipad and minimal infrastructure.                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public owned with 10 or more based aircraft or 4 or more based helicopters if a heliport.</li> <li>• Public owned located 30 or more miles from the nearest NPIAS airport.</li> <li>• Owned or serving a Native American community.</li> <li>• Identified and used by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (designated, international or landing rights), U.S. Postal Service (air stops), or has Essential Air Service.</li> <li>• A new or replacement (public owned) airport that has opened within the last 10 years.</li> <li>• Unique circumstances related to special aeronautical use.</li> </ul> |
| <b><i>Unclassified</i></b>                | Currently in the NPIAS but with limited activity. If the next review of an unclassified airport's activity shows levels that meet the criteria for one of the classifications, that airport will be reclassified in the next published NPIAS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |