

SOUTH DAKOTA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. CT

Becker-Hansen Building/ Commission Room – 700 E. Broadway Ave., Pierre, SD 57501

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bob Huggins, Chairman
Rolf Johnson, Vice-chairman
Dustin Coleman
David Howard
Ivan Venner

COMMISSIONER PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Court Ecklund

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Karla Engle, Kellie Beck, Jon Becker, Nancy Hiller, Tom Kock, Brock Antijunti, and Kari Kroll

OTHER PRESENT: Dan Letellier – Sioux Falls Region Airport and Patrick Dame – Rapid City Regional Airport

OTHERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Ian Meriwether – Watertown Regional Airport; Brooke Edgar – Helms and Associates; Jake Braunagel – KLJ; and Mike Schmidt – Helms and Associates

Chairman Bob Huggins called the meeting of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission (the “Commission”) to order at 2:00 p.m. CDT. Roll call was taken. A quorum was determined.

Huggins opened the floor to the Commission to disclose potential conflicts of interest and to present requests for waiver pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) Chapter 3 – 23.

No members of the Commission disclosed a conflict or requested a waiver.

Huggins asked for a motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes from July 16, 2026.

Commissioner Dustin Coleman noted a typo on the top of page 4 of the minutes. It read “*All present voted aye by roll **all** vote*” and it should read “*.... by roll **call** vote.*”

No other commissioners had comments or corrections.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Venner to approve the meeting minutes from July 16, 2026 with the correction. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Huggins opened the floor to public comment.

Commissioner David Howard shared that he learned more about the BUILD Dakota scholarship program. He shared that there are 21 programs associated with the scholarship program and aviation mechanic is not one of them. Howard said that the scholarship requires that there are 80 positions to be filled in the state and that would be hard to do because there are currently just over 150 total positions in the state. Howard then questioned whether this was a law or a policy for the program.

Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, agreed to research the program requirements for discussion at a future meeting.

Secretary Joel Jundt presented his Secretary's Report. He shared with the Commission that the current surface transportation bill expires September 30, 2026. The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee has passed a bill but the Senate has yet to act on legislation for the necessary reauthorization. Knowing that both houses were not going to pass a long-term surface transportation bill before the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) expires on September 30, 2026, the Senate passed an extension of IIJA on August 8, 2026 that will run through December 11. As part of this action, the Senate also passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) for appropriations to fund the federal government. When the House comes back from recess, it is expected that the House will also pass the extension for IIJA and the CR for appropriations. Beyond December 11, it is still unclear what direction Congress may take but if history over the past few years is any indication, there may be another CR prior to a full year's appropriation package being passed.

Jon Becker from the Office of Air, Rail and Transit presented to the Commission the following Airport Improvement Program (AIP), Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA), and Voluntary Airport Low Emissions Program (VALE) grant projects:

Watertown 3-46-0058-050-2026

AIP/VALE: Construct solar panel array to power airport infrastructure

Federal Share	\$ 3,467,500
State Share	\$ 91,250
Local Share	\$ 91,250
Total	\$ 3,650,000

A MOTION WAS MADE by Coleman and seconded by Howard to approve the Watertown VALE project. Coleman, Ecklund, Howard, Johnson, and Venner voted nay and Huggins voted aye by roll call vote. The motion failed.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Venner to rescind the previous motion. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Howard to disapprove state funding and authorize the Department of Transportation (the "Department") to move forward with the processing of federal funding. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Brookings 3-46-0005-041-2026

AIP: Design/construction 300 SF for SRE building.

Federal Share	\$ 266,000
State Share	\$ 7,000
Local Share	\$ 7,000
Total	\$ 280,000

Brookings 3-46-0005-042-2026

IIJA: Engineering admin, exhibit A update, construction of 1,740 SF of SRE building

Federal Share	\$ 791,350
State Share	\$ 20,825
Local Share	\$ 20,825
Total	\$ 833,000

Canton 3-46-0007-020-2026

IIJA: Design fuel system expansion

Federal Share	\$ 56,050
State Share	\$ 1,475
Local Share	\$ 1,475
Total	\$ 59,000

Faulkton 3-46-0016-018-2026

AIP: Land acquisition for runway Widening.

Federal Share	\$ 646,000
State Share	\$ 17,000
Local Share	\$ 17,000
Total	\$ 680,000

Martin 3-46-0030-023-2026

IIJA: Reconstruct apron (1,848')

Federal Share	\$ 334,960
State Share	\$ 8,815
Local Share	\$ 8,815
Total	\$ 352,590

Mitchell 3-46-0037-036-2026

AIP: Reconstruct runway 18/36

Federal Share	\$ 7,746,300
State Share	\$ 203,850
Local Share	\$ 203,850
Total	\$ 8,154,000

Sioux Falls 3-46-0050-071-2026

AIP: Phase 6 expand terminal concourse – add gates (41,765 SF)

Federal Share	\$ 2,828,384
State Share	\$ 0
Local Share	\$ 609,587
Total	\$ 3,437,971

Sisseton 3-46-0051-025-2026

IIJA: Construct AWOS-III

Federal Share	\$ 223,250
State Share	\$ 5,875
Local Share	\$ 5,875
Total	\$ 235,000

Sisseton 3-46-0051-024-2026

AIP: Engineering services for AWOS-III construction

Federal Share	\$ 154,850
State Share	\$ 4,075
Local Share	\$ 4,075
Total	\$ 163,000

Spearfish 3-46-0065-039-2026

AIP: Phase 2 of 3 – construct apron terminal (14,500 SY) phase 1 of 2 to construct taxiway C (110' x 50')

Federal Share	\$ 4,403,000
State Share	\$ 115,868
Local Share	\$ 115,869
Total	\$ 4,634,737

Spearfish 3-46-0065-040-2026

IIJA: Phase 3 construct apron terminal (14,500 SY) for construction engineering, phase 2 taxi lane C

Federal Share	\$ 478,545
State Share	\$ 12,593
Local Share	\$ 12,594
Total	\$ 503,732

Sturgis 3-46-0054-026-2026

AIP: Acquire SRE 4-wheel loader with attachments

Federal Share	\$ 184,775
State Share	\$ 4,862
Local Share	\$ 4,863
Total	\$ 194,500

Sturgis 3-46-0054-027-2026

IIJA: Acquire SRE 4-wheel loader with attachments (56%)

Federal Share	\$ 234,650
State Share	\$ 6,175
Local Share	\$ 6,175
Total	\$ 247,000

A MOTION WAS MADE by Venner and seconded by Coleman to approve all the AIP/IIJA except Aberdeen projects as presented by the Department. All voted aye by roll call vote except Johnson who recused himself. The motion carried.

Aberdeen 3-46-0001-058-2026

AIP: SRE building expansion, electrical vault relocation, fire alarm system update, deicing tank pad

Federal Share	\$ 275,500
State Share	\$ 7,250
Local Share	\$ 7,250
Total	\$ 290,000

A MOTION WAS MADE by Coleman and seconded by Howard to approve the Aberdeen project as presented by the Department. All voted aye by roll call vote except Johnson who recused himself. The motion carried.

Becker then presented for the Commission's consideration a request from Rapid City Regional Airport to use its available aviation fuel tax funds in the amount of \$191,000 to support the local share of its Terminal Renovation and Expansion Project. The request aligns with the airport's eligible use of accumulated fuel tax revenue for capital development. As of August 5, 2026, the airport's fuel tax balance was \$199,456 which is sufficient to cover the requested amount.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Venner and seconded by Johnson to approve the fuel tax funds request by Rapid City Regional Airport for \$191,000. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Coleman who recused himself. The motion carried.

Becker next presented for Commission consideration a request for \$1000 by the 2026 Black Hills Fly-in annual event. The City of Spearfish requests \$1,000 in Commission funding to help offset event expenses. Funding left over will be used to create a scholarship opportunity for an aviation maintenance professional or pilot seeking a career in aviation.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Ecklund to approve the \$1000 funding request by the City of Spearfish. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Lastly, Becker presented for Commission consideration a request from the City of Faith for state participation in pavement repair costs associated with damage to the micro surface treatment on its runway. The airport is requesting 90% state participation, totaling \$3,564. However, under the Aeronautic Commission's Policies and Procedures, funding is limited to 75% state participation. Based on the verified repair cost of \$3,960, the maximum eligible state share is \$2,970.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Coleman to approve the state participation in the repair cost in the amount of \$2,970. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Patrick Dame, Executive Director of the Rapid City Regional Airport, presented information about current projects happening at that airport.

Dan Letellier, Executive Director of the Sioux Falls Regional Airport, presented information about current projects happening at that airport.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Huggins declared the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m. CT.