

SOUTH DAKOTA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. CT

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Bob Huggins, Chairman
Dustin Coleman
David Howard
Rolf Johnson
Kassidy Nelson

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Karla Engle, Kellie Beck, Jack Dokken, Jon Becker, Tom Koch, Nancy Hiller, and Kari Kroll

OTHERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Dan Letellier – Sioux Falls Regional Airport; Patrick Dame – Rapid City Regional Airport; Brooke Edgar – Helms & Associates; Jake Braunagel – KLJ; and Mark Breukink – Mead & Hunt

Chairman Huggins called the meeting of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission (the “Commission”) to order at 2:01 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 July 17, 2025 Commission meeting minutes.

Two edits were noted in the minutes.

- Under the motion for the approval of the Airport Improvement Program (AIP)/ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grants, the 2nd on the motion should read Huggins. Currently, it reads Johnon.
- Under the section to approve the May 15, 2025 minutes, it reads that Rieber asked for the motion and it should read Huggins.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Coleman and seconded by Johnson to approve the July 17, 2025 Commission meeting minutes with the two edits as described above. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Huggins led a discussion about tall structures exceeding Part 77 requirements, in particular wind turbines. He asked the Commission members if they have been providing comments in their personal capacity when comments are requested by the Federal Aviation Administration. Commissioner Rolf Johnson said only when the proposed tall structures are within 5 miles of an airport and no other commissioners shared a comment.

Huggins asked the Commission to consider making comments and asked the topic to be put on the September agenda for discussion and possible consideration/action.

Huggins opened the floor to public comment.

No members of the public addressed the Commission or offered input.

Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, addressed the Commission. She explained that a new law requires the Commission to annually acknowledge review of materials provided by the Attorney General concerning open meetings laws. Engle pointed out that the updated 2025 Open Meeting brochure authored by the Attorney General had been provided to the Commission as an updated Attachment #2 for the Commission's review.

All present acknowledged reviewing these open meeting materials by roll call.

Secretary Joel Jundt presented the Secretary's Report.

- **Federal:** Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committee passed their respective Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bills out of committee, but there are still a number of other appropriations bills that need to be passed in both bodies to finalize the overall appropriations package. Congress is on recess until September 2, 2025 and it is very unlikely Congress will be able to pass the remaining bills or work out the differences between the different versions by September 30, 2025, since there are significant differences in spending levels and priorities. Therefore, a Continuing Resolution (CR) is likely into the December 2025 timeframe.
- With the Senate's THUD bill, Congressional Directed Spending projects were also initially approved. For South Dakota, Senator Rounds and Senator Thune submitted two projects for airports: \$20 million for Rapid City Regional Airport and \$30 million for Sioux Falls Regional Airport terminal projects. It is hoped Congress will pass the overall appropriation package so that these projects can obtain this funding.
- **State:** The Department of Transportation (the "Department") continues to formulate a budget request which will be considered by Governor Rhoden. Overall, state highway revenues (which don't impact airport funding), were down from FY2024 by about 1% (\$4.2 million) so the Department will need to consider this and how it may impact the recommendation to the governor.

Becker presented for Commission consideration the following Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant applications:

Aberdeen 3-46-0001-053-2025

AIP: Reconstruct 5200' terminal access road.

Federal Share	\$ 1,258,750.00
State Share	\$ 33,125.00
Local Share	\$ 33,125.00
Total	\$ 1,325,000.00

Aberdeen 3-46-0001-054-2025

IIJA: Reconstruct 164,200 sq ft. terminal parking lot.

Federal Share	\$ 1,491,500.00
State Share	\$ 39,250.00
Local Share	\$ 39,250.00
Total	\$ 1,570,000.00

Aberdeen 3-46-0001-055-2025

IIJA/ATP: Terminal expansion and remodel.

Federal Share	\$ 800,000.00
State ATP	\$ 891,584.00
Local Share	\$ 10,900.00
Total	\$ 1,702,484.00

Aberdeen 3-46-0001-056-2025

IIJA/ATP: Terminal expansion and remodel).

Federal Share	\$ 64,600.00
State Share	\$ 0
Local Share	\$ 3,400.00
Total	\$ 68,000.00

A MOTION WAS MADE by Howard and seconded by Nelson to approve all Aberdeen Regional Airport grants as presented. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Johnson who abstained. The motion carried.

Becker presented for Commission consideration the following Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant applications:

Clark County 3-46-0011-018-2025

IIJA: Construct new 100LL fuel farm.

Federal Share	\$ 137,000.00
State Share	\$ 0
Local Share	\$ 7,211.00
Total	\$ 144,211.00

Gettysburg 3-46-0017-017-2025**IIJA:** Rehab SRE building.

Federal Share	\$ 44,000.00
State Share	\$ 1,158.00
Local Share	\$ 1,158.00
Total	\$ 46,316.00

Lincoln County 3-46-0078-024-2025**AIP:** Design reconstruction of taxilane.

Federal Share	\$ 150,000.00
State Share	\$ 3,947.00
Local Share	\$ 3,947.00
Total	\$ 157,895.00

Madison 3-46-0029-027-2025**IIJA:** Reconstruct apron and taxilane.

Federal Share	\$ 116,850.00
State Share	\$ 3,075.00
Local Share	\$ 3,075.00
Total	\$ 123,000.00

Madison 3-46-0029-028-2025**AIP:** Reconstruct apron and taxilane.

Federal Share	\$ 426,550.00
State Share	\$ 11,225.00
Local Share	\$ 11,225.00
Total	\$ 449,000.00

Milbank 3-46-0034-022-2025**AIP:** Reconstruct runway 13 turnaround.

Federal Share	\$ 593,750.00
State Share	\$ 15,625.00
Local Share	\$ 15,625.00
Total	\$ 625,000.00

Milbank 3-46-0034-023-2025**IIJA:** Reconstruct runway 13 turnaround; wetland credits, asphalt testing.

Federal Share	\$ 323,000.00
State Share	\$ 8,500.00
Local Share	\$ 8,500.00
Total	\$ 340,000.00

Sioux Falls 3-46-0050-068-2025**IIJA/ATP:** Phase 3 Expand terminal Building.

Federal Share	\$ 8,000,000.00
Other Share	\$ 8,852,980.00
Local Share	\$ 3,852,917.00
Total	\$ 20,705,897.00

Sisseton 3-46-0051-022-2025

AIP: Phase 2 Reconstruct taxilane.

Federal Share	\$ 594,700.00
State Share	\$ 15,650.00
Local Share	\$ 15,650.00
Total	\$ 626,000.00

Sisseton 3-46-0051-023-2025

IIJA: Hangar taxilane reconstruction.

Federal Share	\$ 323,000.00
State Share	\$ 8,500.00
Local Share	\$ 8,500.00
Total	\$ 340,000.00

Watertown 3-46-0058-047-2025

AIP: Construct taxiway improvements.

Federal Share	\$ 4,560,000.00
State Share	\$ 120,000.00
Local Share	\$ 120,000.00
Total	\$ 4,800,000.00

A MOTION WAS MADE by Coleman and seconded by Johnson to approve all the above AIP and IIJA grant applications with edit to Sioux Falls Regional Airport to say IIJA/ATP instead of AIP. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Jack Dokken, Program Manager for the Office of Air, Rail, and Transit, presented for Commission consideration the reallocation of the unused Airport Terminal Project funds granted to the Commission in 2024 by Senate Bill 144.

Dokken shared that recently, Tea and Hot Springs airports notified the Department that their proposed projects are no longer priorities and that they are unwilling to contribute the required local match, thus withdrawing their request for SB144 funds. The returned funds are as follows:

- Tea: \$735,000
- Hot Springs: \$27,000
- Total Returned Funds Available for Reallocation: \$762,000

He then proposed two options with for the Commission to consider as to reallocation of the funds. The options are as follows:

Option 1 – Equal Distribution

Split the funds evenly between the following two airports:

- Sioux Falls: \$381,000
- Rapid City: \$381,000

Option 2 – Proportional Distribution Based on the Total Project Funding Request by each Airport

Allocate the \$762,000 in proportion to each airport's total original funding request. Sioux Falls and Rapid City were each previously awarded 17.08% of their full requests:

- Sioux Falls was awarded \$2,561,801, which represents 17.08% of a total request of approximately \$14,995,244
- Rapid City was awarded \$3,047,126, which represents 17.08% of a total request of approximately \$17,830,429

Using these full request values, the share of SB144 funds apportioned to each airport based on the total funds requested is:

- Sioux Falls: 45.68%
- Rapid City: 54.32%

Applying those percentages to the \$762,000 returned funds results in:

- Sioux Falls: \$348,482
- Rapid City: \$413,518

Commissioner Dustin Coleman recused himself from the discussion and vote due to a previously disclosed conflict of interest.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Nelson and seconded by Johnson to proportionally distribute the funds based on option #2 as presented by Dokken. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Coleman who abstained. The motion carried.

Jon Becker addressed the Commission to share an update on the airport weather camera installations. The following airports were identified by the Department's survey of airport operators' preferred locations:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Aberdeen | • Huron | • Spearfish |
| • Chamberlain | • Parkston | • Vermillion |
| • Custer | • Pine Ridge | • Wagner |
| • Eagle Butte | • Rosebud | • Watertown |
| • Gregory | • Sisseton | • Winner |

Each of these airports were contacted and informed of the Commission's decision. Of the 15 airports contacted, five responded that they would like to have the cameras installed and are agreeable to pay the upfront cost to the contractor and then be reimbursed 75% after the project is complete. These airports were Aberdeen Regional Airport, Gregory Municipal Airport/Flynn Field, Sisseton Municipal Airport, Watertown Regional Airport, and Hefner-Easley Airport in Wagner.

Agenda requests for September included Commission consideration of submitting comments on tall structure requests near airports, a summary of aeronautics funding, including the cash balance, anticipated grant expenditures, and Commission member attendance at the 2026 Airport Conference in Pierre.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Huggins adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m. CT.