

# AIRPORT APPROACH



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## From Program Manager Steve Brian CHANGING TIMES AT THE GEORGIA AVIATION PROGRAM



Over the last two years, the Georgia Department of Transportation Aviation Program has worked to establish a new platform to manage the Program in a changing aviation environment.

The previous program manager, Carol Comer, was promoted to the Director of the Intermodal Division of GDOT in 2012. Since then, the Program has been seeking long term management that helps create stability and consistency for the Program. There was a search for management that reflects the new Director's philosophy of working with local communities to improve their aviation assets within a statewide system resulting in Georgia remaining a transportation leader.

Enter Steve Brian and Colette Williams (formerly Edmisten) as the program manager and assistant manager. Colette and I are dedicated to bringing the best service possible to the airports in Georgia. With a combined total of over 45 years of experience in the airport industry, we are truly passionate about what needs to be accomplished.

One of the first things to accomplish is regular communications with our customers (Airport Sponsors and their Consultants). Therefore this "Airport Approach" newsletter will be used to provide program changes, alerts and important information. The Program expects to produce four newsletters per year. We ask that you provide feedback through [aviationprograms@dot.ga.gov](mailto:aviationprograms@dot.ga.gov). Your ideas or questions could be beneficial for everyone in the Georgia Airport industry.



## NEW SUBMITTAL DEADLINE FOR THE 5 YEAR CIP: NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup>

The Aviation Program has moved up the deadline for all Georgia Airports to submit their 5 year (2017-2021) Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The new deadline is November 30, 2015. All airport sponsors should contact their consultant and Aviation Program Project Manager to discuss their airport's CIP. Sponsors will soon receive official notification regarding the 5 year CIP submittal process and the details for project submissions.

In addition, Alan Hood from our office is putting the finishing touches on the long awaited new Aviation System Manager (ASM), which will link from the GDOT Aviation Program website. ASM is anticipated to be up and running by the end of September, and Alan will email sponsors and consultants with directions about how to setup their accounts. So be on the lookout!

The Aviation Program office will host two (2) webinars on how to use ASM. The webinar dates will be October 22 and November 4 at 9:00 am each date and will last approximately one hour. It is important that sponsors and their consultants attend a webinar since the 2017-2021 CIP will be submitted electronically using ASM (paper copies are also requested as back up for the first year transition). More information about those webinars will be distributed in early October.

As we upgrade technology to serve you better, the Department appreciates the patience and understanding of sponsors and consultants. If you have questions regarding ASM or the CIP submission, please contact Alan at 404.631.1343 or [achood@dot.ga.gov](mailto:achood@dot.ga.gov).

## FAA REVENUE USE POLICY GUIDANCE FOR AVIATION FUEL TAXES AND THE IMPACT OF HB 170

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on December 8, 2014 clarified its policy on Use of Airport Revenue as it pertains to Aviation Fuel Taxes (FR 7696 on February 16, 1999, "Revenue Use Policy"). The amendment clarifies federal requirements for the use of proceeds from taxes on aviation fuel. Under federal law, airport operators and states that have accepted federal assistance may only use airport revenues for airport capital and operating costs and state aviation programs. The revenue use requirements apply to state and local government taxes enacted after December 30, 1987 on aviation fuel. The FAA requires states and local governments who accept federal funds to develop a plan for compliance with up to three years to transition into full compliance with the Policy. State and Local governments must submit their plan by December 8, 2015.

During the 2015 Georgia Legislative Session, HB 170 was passed which created additional funding for transportation projects by changing from a sales tax on motor fuel to an excise tax. The Bill also addressed following federal requirements related to taxes collected by the state on the sale of aviation fuel ensuring the use of these taxes for lawful purposes.

With this initiative, the Aviation Program is working to develop a plan for the state to be in compliance and will also provide guidance for local communities to consider in their compliance efforts. Over the next several months there will be communication from the Aviation Program in preparation for submitting plans by the December deadline. For further information, please review <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/11/07/2014-26408/policy-and-procedures-concerning-the-use-of-airport-revenue-proceeds-from-taxes-on-aviation-fuel>

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCESS

Georgia's participation in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) State Block Grant Program shifts responsibility for administering Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants from the FAA to the

Aviation Program office. Under AIP, "a Sponsor may not extend a task order contract for consultant services beyond a total overall contract duration (without re-advertising the contract) of more than five years." The Sponsor must follow the consultant selection process according to FAA Advisory Circular 150/5100-14. Here is the important part – the Aviation Program of GDOT, like the Sponsors, is subject to federal audits. If the auditing process discovers a Sponsor has not gone through the selection process within the five years and the Sponsor has continued to issue task orders to their consultant, the Sponsor is at risk of not being reimbursed or may be required to pay back AIP grant funds for that work completed. This also puts the consultant at risk as the Sponsor may not be able to receive funding (unless the Sponsor wants to pay for the work using their own local funds). During the next six months the Aviation Program office will work with the Sponsors to ensure they meet the five year requirement. For additional information about the consultant selection process, please visit the FAA website: [http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory\\_Circular/150-5100-14E.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/150-5100-14E.pdf)

## QUESTIONS REGARDING RECENT SELECTION PROCESSES HAVE ARISEN:

*When does the five years start for a valid consultant selection process?*

The start of the five year period begins on the day the "master agreement" is executed between the Sponsor and the Consultant.

*How should a selection process be advertised?*

The federal Advisory Circular leaves some room for interpretation; the Aviation Program has determined that, at a minimum, fair advertisement/ notification of the selection process should be provided to consultants who are Prequalified by the Department. This list of prequalified engineering consultants for Area Classes 1.08 Airport Master Planning and 2.09 Airport Design can be found on the GDOT website at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Business/Prequalification/PrequalConsultants>.



## BRIEFS

- Georgia Airports Association Annual Conference is October 14-16 at the Savannah Westin. [www.georgiaairports.org](http://www.georgiaairports.org). Please register and we look forward to updating the attendees on the Program during the Conference.
- Wildlife Hazard Management - Wildlife activity is on the rise and airports need to be diligent in their actions to control these hazards to aircraft. Here is a useful FAA bulletin that outlines airport responsibility in managing wildlife: [http://www.faa.gov/airports/great\\_lakes/airports\\_resources/certification\\_bulletins/media/15-02.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/airports/great_lakes/airports_resources/certification_bulletins/media/15-02.pdf).

## AVIATION PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES

Staff changes are inevitable and we are nearing the completion of adding new staff to fill all positions provided to the Aviation Program. By the GAA Conference and in our next Airport Approach newsletter we will provide the changes and breakdown of the project manager assigned to each airport. Please bear with us as we strive to improve the Program.

## GEORGIA AVIATION PROGRAM STAFF CONTACTS

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