Plan to join us for the 2022 conference in Rochester!

Conference highlights:
• Experts in aviation and aerospace fields sharing their experiences in general assembly presentations, workshops, and open forums
• Technical and safety presentations
• New attendee welcome session
• Awards and recognition program
• Networking opportunities
• The Minnesota Council of Airports annual meeting

The Minnesota Airports Conference focuses on airport management, operations, and maintenance but is open to anyone interested in aviation. The conference is sponsored by the MnDOT Office of Aeronautics and Minnesota Council of Airports and facilitated by the Airport Technical Assistance Program (AirTAP).

To create a comfortable and inviting atmosphere, casual attire is encouraged.

More details are available on the conference web page (see link and QR code below).

**Registration**

Registration for this year’s conference is available online at [airtap.umn.edu/events/airportsconference/2022](airtap.umn.edu/events/airportsconference/2022).

If you are unable to register online or would like to use a PO to register, please contact AirTAP program associate Samantha Redmond at 612-626-4965 or redmo062@umn.edu.

The fee for the full conference is $225 if registration is received on or before March 22, 2022.* This price includes the sessions, breakfasts, lunches, breaks, awards luncheon, and prize drawings. The one-day registration fee (Wednesday or Thursday only) is $125.* The guest awards luncheon fee is $35.

*Fees after March 22 will increase to $255 (full conference) and $155 (one day).

Costs for this event are reimbursable through the MnDOT Aeronautics maintenance and operations funds policy.

**Room Reservations**

Rooms are available at the DoubleTree by Hilton (1-866-568-0996) for the rate of $159 plus tax per night, the Hilton Garden Inn (1-888-728-3027) for $129 plus tax per night, and the Holiday Inn (507-252-8200) for $129 plus tax per night. Mention that you are an attendee of the Minnesota Airports Conference when calling to make your reservation or visit your preferred hotel’s website (see airtap.umn.edu/events/airportsconference/2022 for direct links).

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Additional training opportunity:

**PFAS Forum**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022**

**12:30–4:30 p.m. Central**

**Mayo Civic Center**

**Rochester, MN**

In conjunction with the 2022 Minnesota Airports Conference, MnDOT Aeronautics and AirTAP are holding a special forum on PFAS cleanup and upcoming regulations. The event is free to attend either in person or virtually, but separate registration is required.

In recent years, federal, state, and international authorities have established various health-based regulatory values and evaluation criteria for a number of specific per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are key components in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), which is used to fight petroleum-based fires at aviation facilities. This forum will give attendees the chance to help educate Minnesota policymakers about the state’s airport community and the potential impacts of any new federal standards and regulations. Airports and others affected by PFAS will have an opportunity to learn from policymakers about new requirements coming down the pipeline and hear case studies from organizations that have experience with cleanup. Staff from all airports are welcome to attend.

Please visit the AirTAP website for more details and registration information: [airtap.umn.edu/events/workshops/2022/pfas](airtap.umn.edu/events/workshops/2022/pfas).
Wednesday, April 6
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Registration, exhibitor check-in, and booth setup

11:30 a.m.—noon Attendee Welcome
Join the Conference Planning Committee in welcoming new attendees to the annual conference. If this is your first time attending or if you are new to your airport role, this event is a great way to kick off your conference experience. You’ll have the opportunity to network with airport representatives from your area of the state, talk about your airport, ask questions, and brainstorm ways to get help with any airport task or project you are working towards. This welcome session will allow you to begin networking in an environment conducive to new members.

11:30–1:00 p.m. Opening Luncheon with Dr. Mark Warner: “Rochester, Minnesota: Mayo Clinic, a Corn Cob Water Tower, and a Remarkable Impact on Medical and Military Aviation”

Minnesota’s aeronautical entrepreneurs are legendary for their role in developing general and commercial aviation in the state. The role played by the Mayo Clinic in developing the unique subsets of aviation—namely aeromedical transportation and fighter/bomber military capabilities—is often less understood and appreciated. Join Dr. Mark Warner as he discusses the remarkable aviation innovations occurring in Rochester since 1928—innovations that have advanced medical transportation and contributed to the U.S. military’s ability to win World War II and reduce deaths from combat injuries fourfold between 1941 and 2021.

1:30–2:00 p.m. Exhibit hall opening kickoff!
Enjoy networking and learn about innovative services and products.

2:00–3:00 p.m. • General Session Agency Updates
Join us as MnDOT’s Office of Aeronautics and FAA leaders introduce new staff, provide organizational updates, highlight new initiatives, and share their perspectives on the future direction of aviation in Minnesota. Be sure to attend MnDOT and FAA general sessions sprinkled throughout the conference for an overview of operations and developments on a variety of topics including funding, the SASSP, lighting, and safety.

3:30–4:30 p.m. • General Session Minnesota State Aviation System Plan (MsSASP) Update
Phase 2 of the MsSASP is currently being updated. Come learn about all the new and proposed changes to the MsSASP in this session.

3:45–4:00 p.m. • Social mixer with colleagues and exhibitors
Enjoy hearty food, drinks, and networking with exhibitors and colleagues in the exhibit hall.

Thursday, April 7
8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Exhibit hall open
Exhibits will be open throughout the day to allow more time to visit vendors and network.

8:00–9:00 a.m. Breakfast and MCOA Annual Membership and Board Meeting

9:30–10:30 a.m. • General Session Airport Electrical Compliance: What Is Expected?
This session will give an overview of the FAA’s requirement for ongoing “maintenance” of airfield electrical systems and how to develop basic electrical safety and airfield lighting maintenance training, guidance, and tools for use by airport staff. The guidance should help airport staff recognize airfield lighting hazards, safely undertake simple maintenance tasks, complete and submit checklists, and determine when to call a qualified electrician or company to perform those repairs.

10:30–11:00 a.m. Networking with colleagues and exhibitors

11:05–11:15 a.m. • Concurrent Sessions

Get Don’t Blow Away—Strategies to Protect Airport Construction Sites from Jet Blast and Prop Wash
Come hear from experts from MSP International and Mankato Regional Airport about real-life best practices and lessons learned from airport construction in close proximity to aircraft operations.

Hangar Development
Learn how to plan for hangar development at your airport, including the different hangar types, preparing the justification for hangar development, and funding/business planning.

11:45 a.m.—12:45 p.m. Awards Luncheon
Join us as we recognize scholarship recipients and those receiving awards for excellence in aviation.

1:00–1:45 p.m. • Concurrent Sessions

Concrete and Asphalt Pavement Best Practices
Learn about current best pavement management practices for your concrete and bituminous pavement, including the process of “whitetopping.”

Existing Airport Geometry Justification
Get the information you need to determine justification and eligibility of federal funding for maintaining your airport’s existing runway pavement. The session will include definitions, case studies, steps, and keys to success.

1:45–2:00 p.m. Networking with colleagues and exhibitors

2:00–3:00 p.m. • General Session Attracting the Next Generation
The increasing shortage of pilots, technicians, and other aviation industry professionals makes it critical to attract new talent to the industry. Join us to learn why we must interest kids in aviation as a career path at a young age—and how airports, pilots, and airport managers can provide some of the first opportunities to engage them.

3:00–3:30 p.m. Social mixer with colleagues and exhibitor prize drawings
Enjoy food, drinks, and networking with exhibitors and colleagues in the exhibit hall.

3:45–4:30 p.m. • General Session So Much Money, So Little Time: AIP Funding, BIL Funding, and the State Grant Process
In this session, the FAA will provide guidance on Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding eligibility in addition to updating airport sponsors on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding. Learn how to maximize these funds on airport projects. In addition, MnDOT Aeronautics staff will provide an overview of the state grant process and obligations airport sponsors have for accepting state funding.

4:30–6:00 p.m. Reception
Enjoy hearty food, drinks, and networking with exhibitors and colleagues in the general session room.

Friday, April 8
6:00–9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00–9:30 a.m. • General Session Aviation in a Post-Pandemic World
COVID-19 completely disrupted and reset air travel. Most airports were completely unprepared to handle a global pandemic, revising protocols and retrofitting facilities with unsophisticated solutions like plexiglass dividers. Meanwhile, many GA airports saw operations increase as travelers moved away from commercial aircraft to flying on private planes. As a result, it’s just as important to integrate health care principles into the smaller airport environment as it is for large hub airports. In this session you’ll learn about principles of health care design and how they can be applied to smaller airports, on a variety of scales and circumstances. You’ll walk away with a range of practical ideas for rethinking older facilities as well as novel solutions for larger rededevopments.

9:30–10:30 a.m. • General Session Metropolitan Airports Commission Presentation with Brian Ryks
Join the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) executive director/CEO as he shares what’s happening at the MAC and in Minnesota’s aviation scene in this engaging session.

10:30 a.m. Conference wrap-up and prize drawing