

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission Budget Hearing

SB 2006

House Appropriations – Government Operations Division

March 6th, 2025

Kyle Wanner, Executive Director



NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.



Statutory Authority

North Dakota Century Code Chapters 2-05, 2-08, 57-40.5, 57-43.3

Major Statutory Responsibilities:

- Encourage the establishment & maintenance of public airport and navigational facilities.
- Cooperates with federal and local government in the promotion & development of aeronautical activities
- Represents the state and industry in all matters relating to aeronautical activities.
- Regulatory functions – aircraft registrations, aircraft excise & fuel tax, aerial application, aircraft dealers

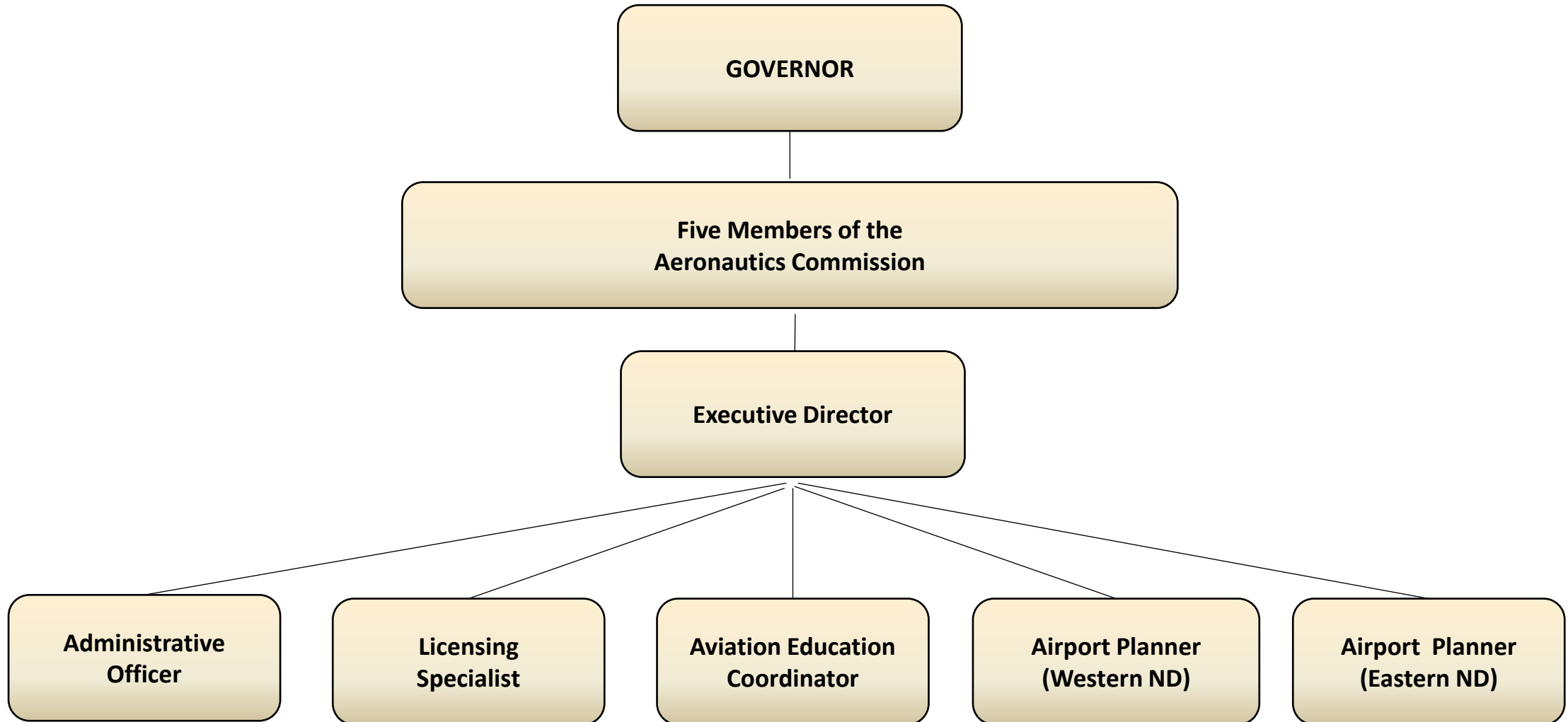
Audit for Biennium Ended June 30th, 2023:

- The audit did not identify any exceptions or defaults.





Current Organizational Chart





Aeronautics Commissioners



Dr. Kim Kenville, Grand Forks - Chair

- Appointed in 2011



Steve Blazek, Fargo

- Appointed in 2022



Warren Pietsch, Minot

- Appointed in 2012



Rodney Schaaf, Bowman

- Appointed in 2023



Kyle Humann, Mandan - Chair

- Appointed in 2019



Core Agency Functions

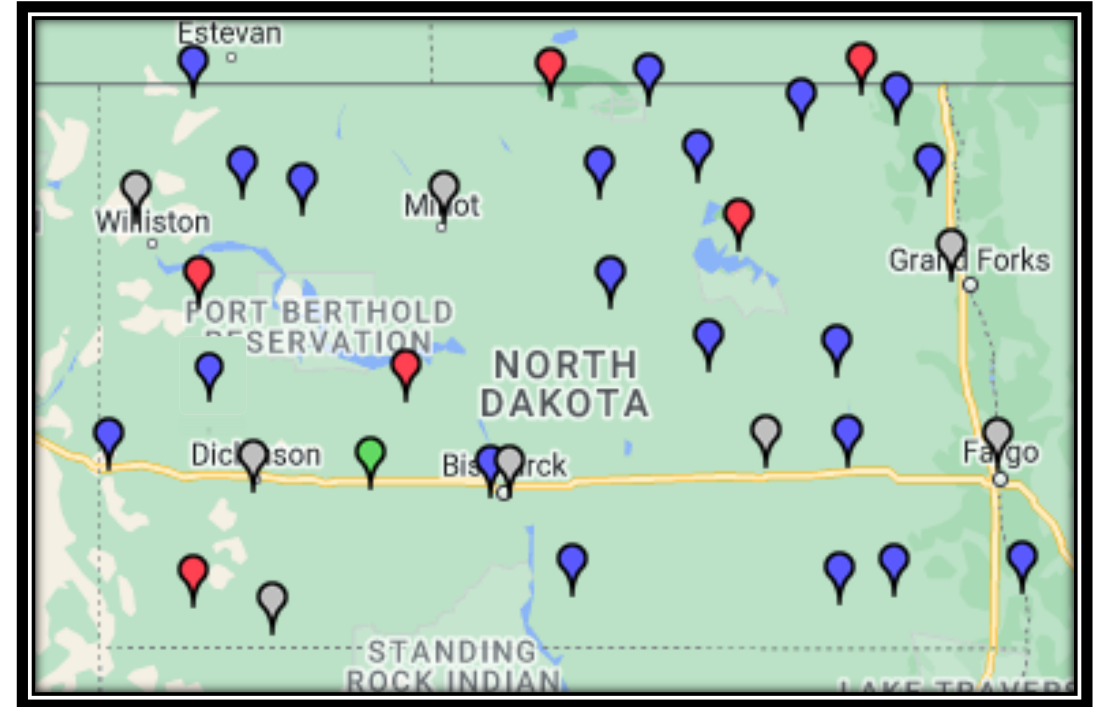
- Airport Infrastructure Grant Funding
- Airport Planning Support
 - Airport Layout Plan Development
 - Airport Inspections
 - Airspace Analysis
 - Airport Management Support and Resources
- Update Statewide Aviation Publications and Planning Documents
- Aviation Education Promotion and Grant Funding
- Own and Manage Two Public Airports: International Peace Garden Airport and Garrison Dam Recreational Airpark





Core Agency Programs

- Passport Program
- Aviation Museum Educational Support
- Flight Training Assistance Program
- Airport Internship Program
- Aviation Education Grants
- Aviation Career Day Involvement
- Youth Aviation Art Contest
- High School Curriculum Assistance
- Airport Windsock Program
- Aerial Applicator Met Tower Alert Map
- Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal and Accomplishment Assistance for airports
- Statewide Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) Maintenance Program



35 Certified Weather Observation Systems for Aviation

**National Weather Service Maintains 9 Stations*

**ND Aeronautics Assists in Maintenance of 26 stations*



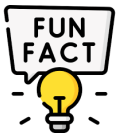
North Dakota's Airport System

89 Public-Use Airports in North Dakota

- 71 airports are paved
- 18 airports maintain turf only runways

54 are eligible to receive federal funding

35 are maintained utilizing state and local funding only



Over 200 private airstrips also exist throughout the state

2015 Economic Impact of Aviation Study



Employment

Jobs related to airport management, airport tenants, capital investment at airports, and visitor spending

12,217 jobs



Payroll

Annual payroll associated with these jobs

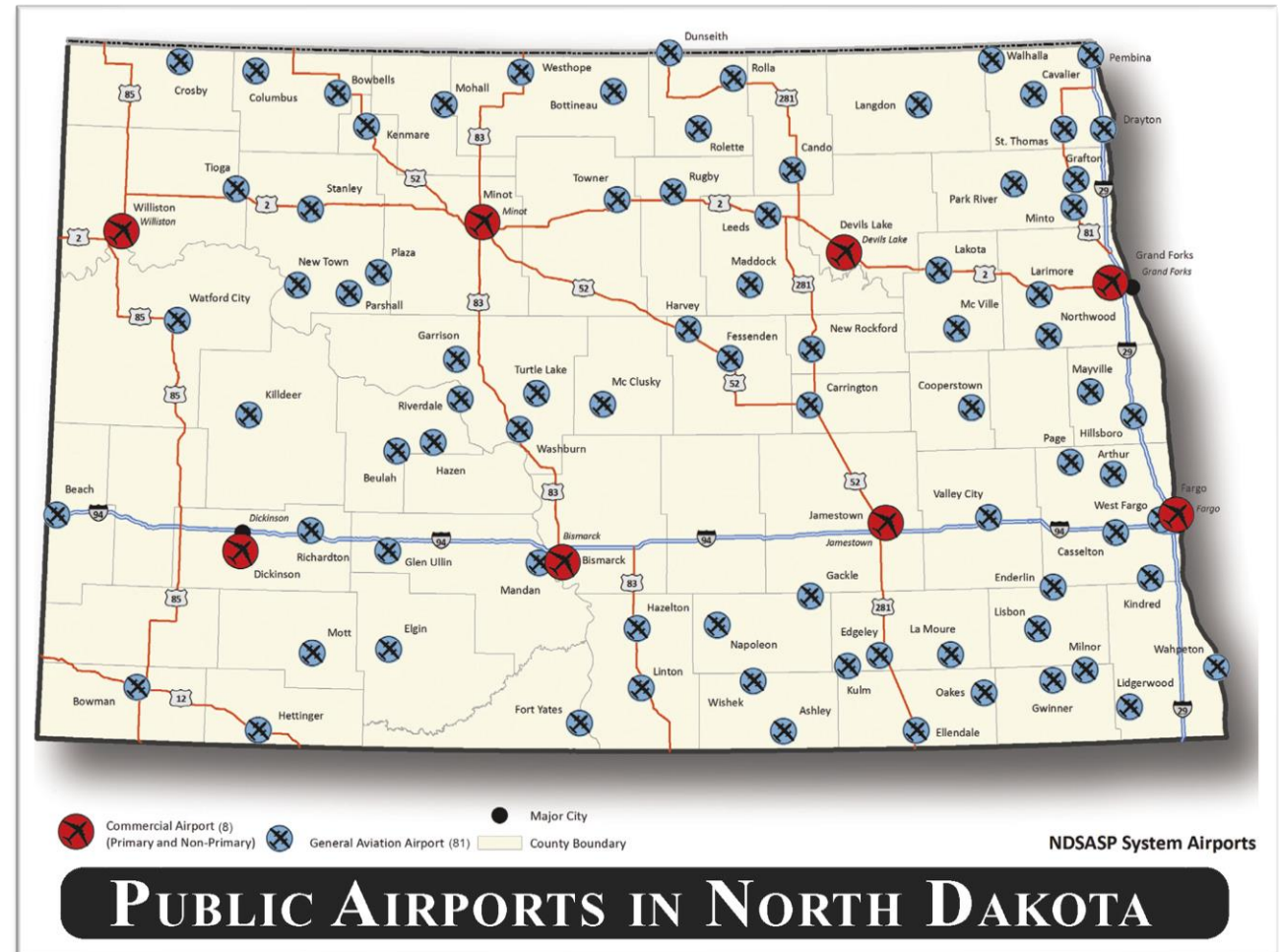
\$505.2 million



Output

Annual economic output for five activity centers

\$1.56 billion





Major Biennial Accomplishments

Leveraging Federal Funding Opportunities for Airport Infrastructure

- Successfully maximized federal funding and utilized state funding to fill in funding gaps and provide additional assistance to airports
- \$177 million in federal aid was received through federal programs such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) & Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

State Airport Grant Funding

- Provided approximately \$36 million in State Airport Infrastructure Grants to 370 different airport projects throughout North Dakota
 - \$20 million was made available for the first time through the Airport Infrastructure Fund/Operation Prairie Dog



Over the last biennium- for every \$1 dollar that the state has invested in airports, we have been able to leverage/receive approximately \$5 dollars from the Federal Aviation Administration.



*Dickinson's new runway and taxiway
opened in November, 2022*



Major Biennial Accomplishments

Aviation Education Initiatives

- Approximately \$350,000 in aviation education assistance/grant funding has been provided within the current biennium
- FAA Workforce Development Grant received by Wahpeton State College of Science
 - Aviation maintenance technology to be offered in North Dakota beginning in Fall of 2025
- Assisting in the development and growth of aviation programming at high schools
 - Seven cities in North Dakota now have aviation related courses
 - Distance Education is available to all high school students
- Annual Career Expo's were developed to occur every Fall and rotates between the Minot Air Museum and Fargo Air Museum
 - The Fall 2024 event drew over 250 students interested in aviation careers
 - Over \$17,500 in Scholarship funds are provided through ND Aviation Association

Online Payment System became available in 2023

- NDAC is worked with BND, NDITD, and Paymentus to develop an updated online payment system
 - Credit card & E-check payment methods are now accepted for all transactions

Statewide Studies Kicked Off

- 2024 Pavement Condition Index Study
- 2025 Statewide Aviation System Plan/Economic Impact of Aviation Study



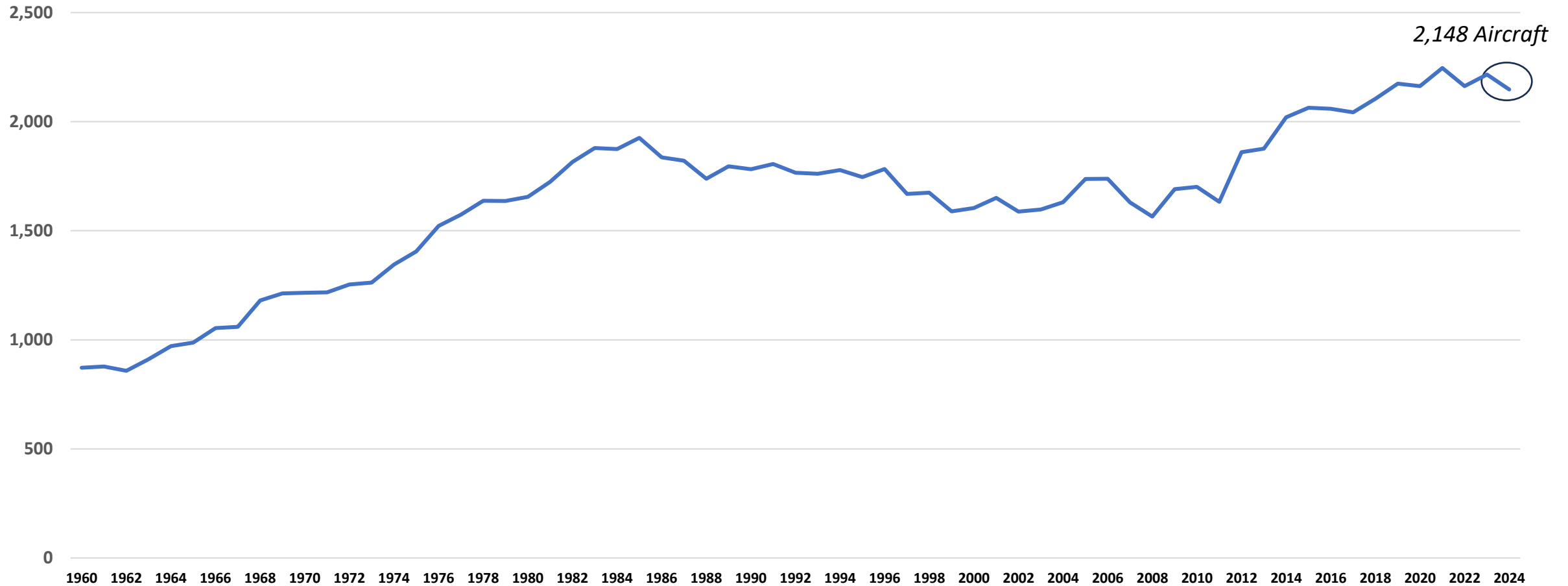
Aviation Career Expo – Fargo Air Museum, Fall 2024

Aviation Statistics





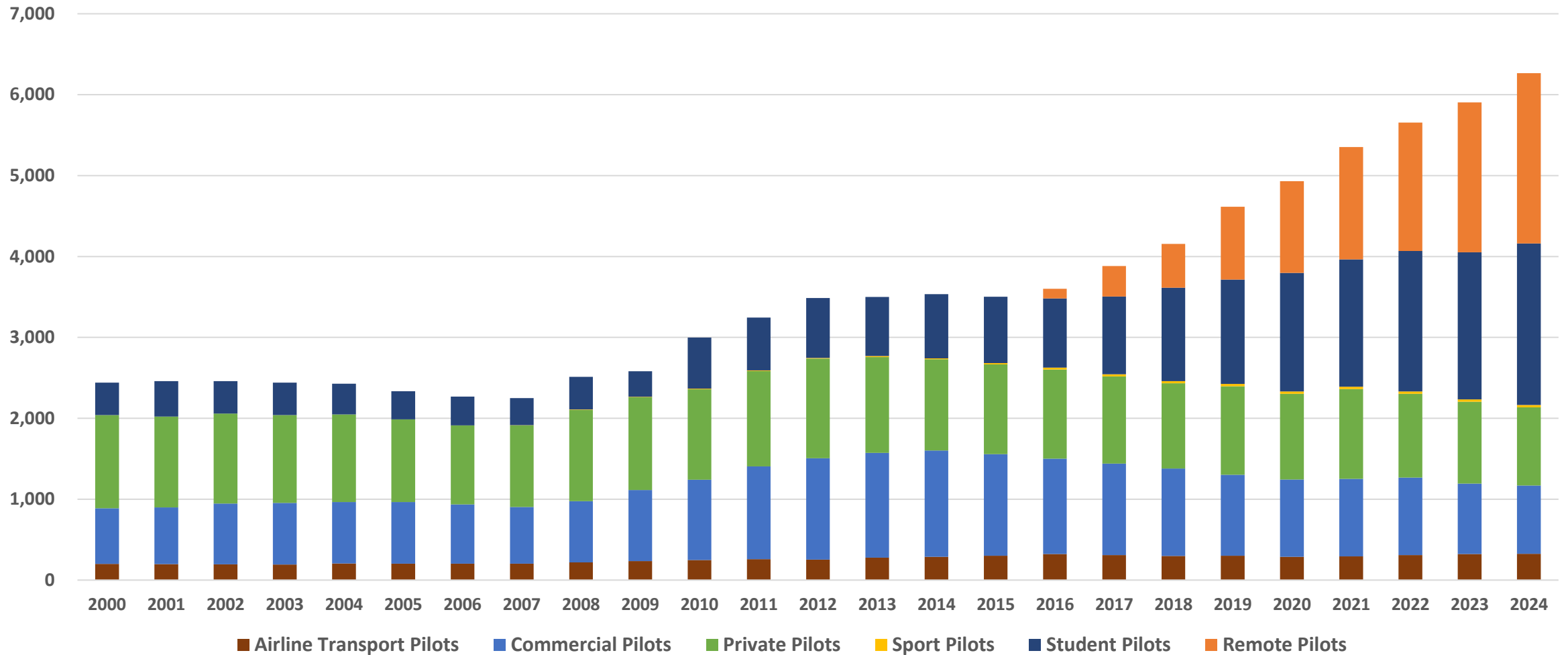
Aviation Statistics – Based Aircraft



Aircraft Based in North Dakota are near Record Levels (2,148 Aircraft)



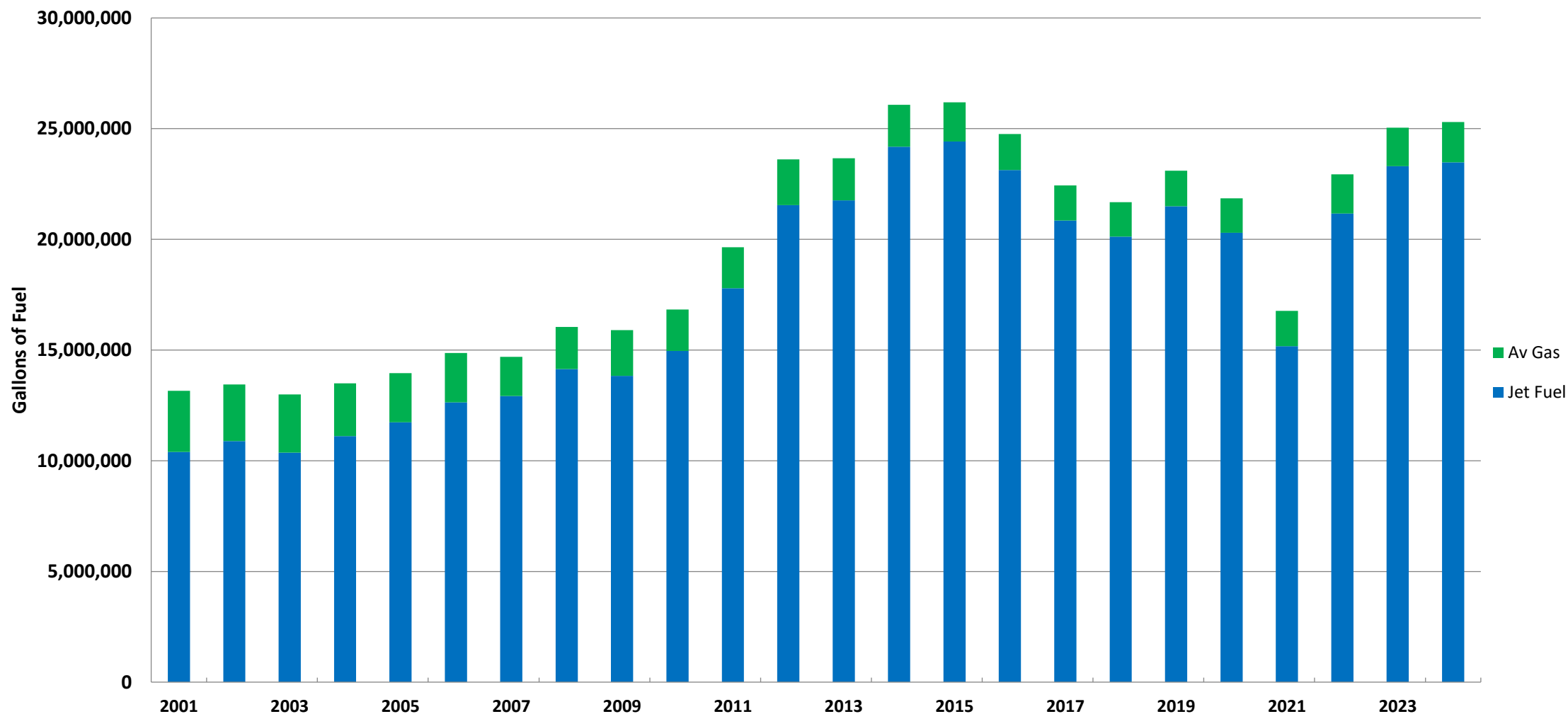
Aviation Statistics – Active Pilots in ND



“Active” Pilots in North Dakota are at record levels (Data from FAA.gov)



Aviation Statistics – Taxable Aviation Fuel Purchases in ND

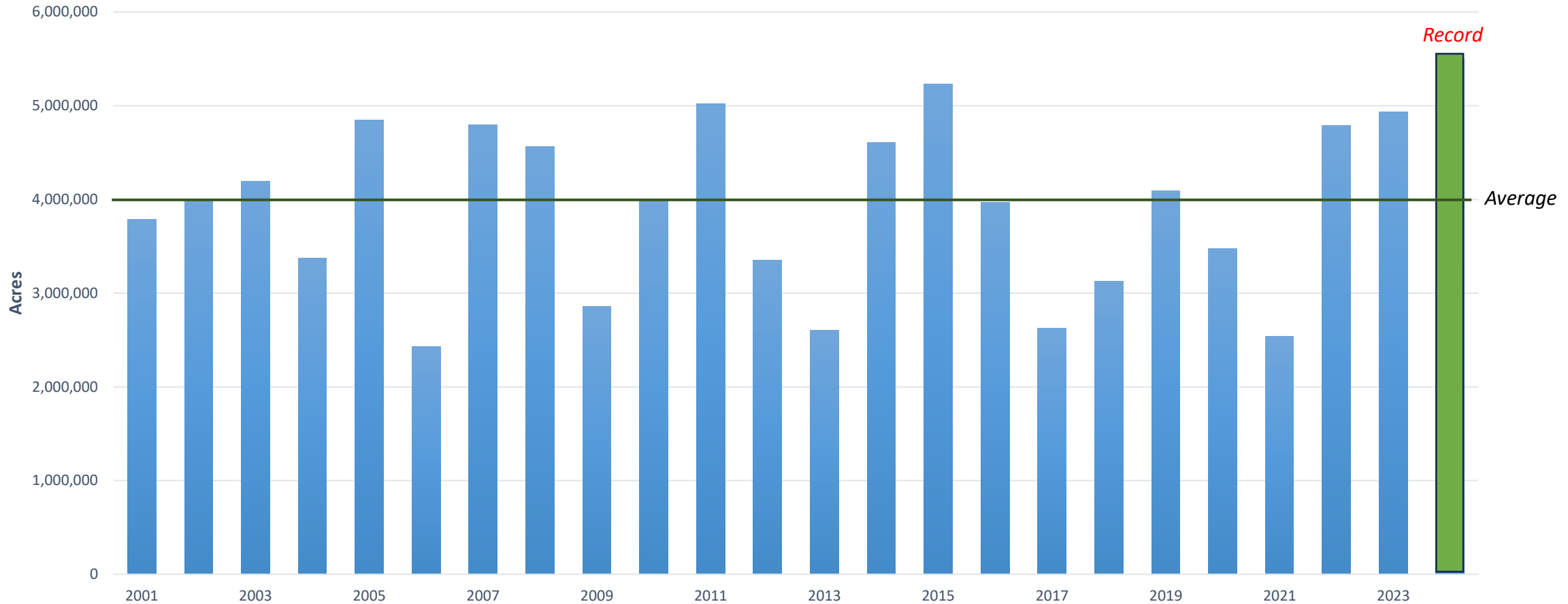


Aviation Fuel Purchases in FY 2024 Near Record Levels (25.3 million gallons)



Aviation Statistics – Aerial Applicators

Total Acres Sprayed by Aerial Applicators in North Dakota



5.5 million acres of cropland was provided services by Aerial Applicators in 2024 (Record)



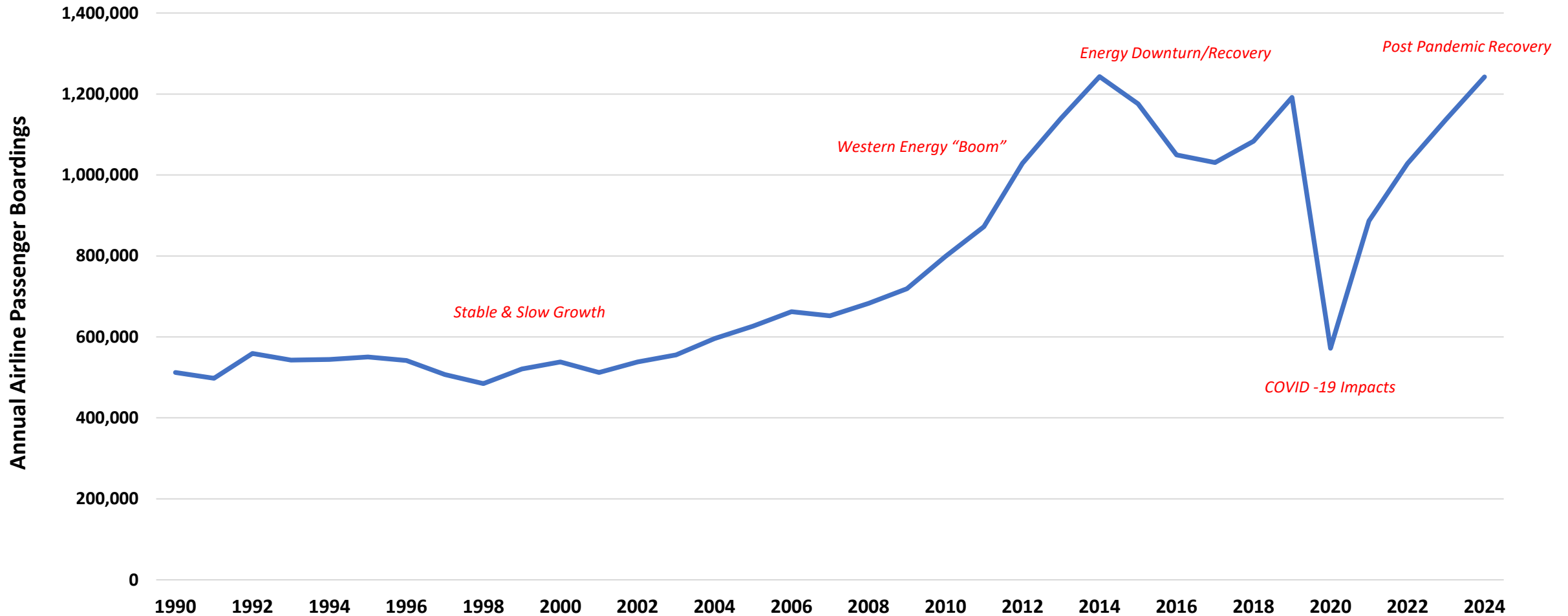
Aviation Statistics – Aerial Applicators (Unmanned)

	2022	2023	2024
Licensed Unmanned Operators	2	5	21
Registered Aerial Unmanned Aircraft	7	13	37
Unmanned Aerial Applicator Pilots	2	6	46
Acres Sprayed	6,000	12,000	69,000





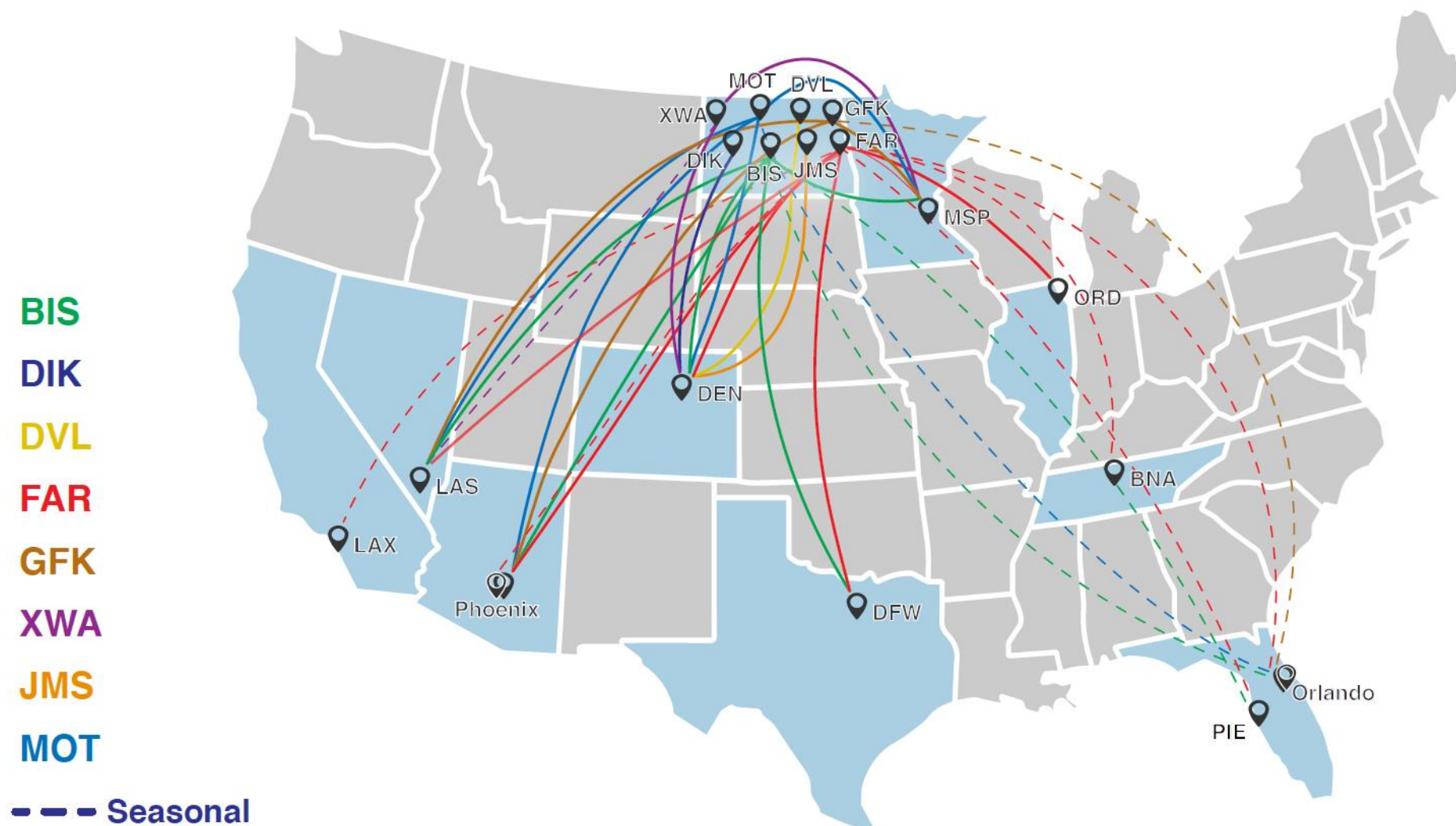
Aviation Statistics – Airline Boardings



2024 Airline Boardings are at record levels above 1.2 million passengers



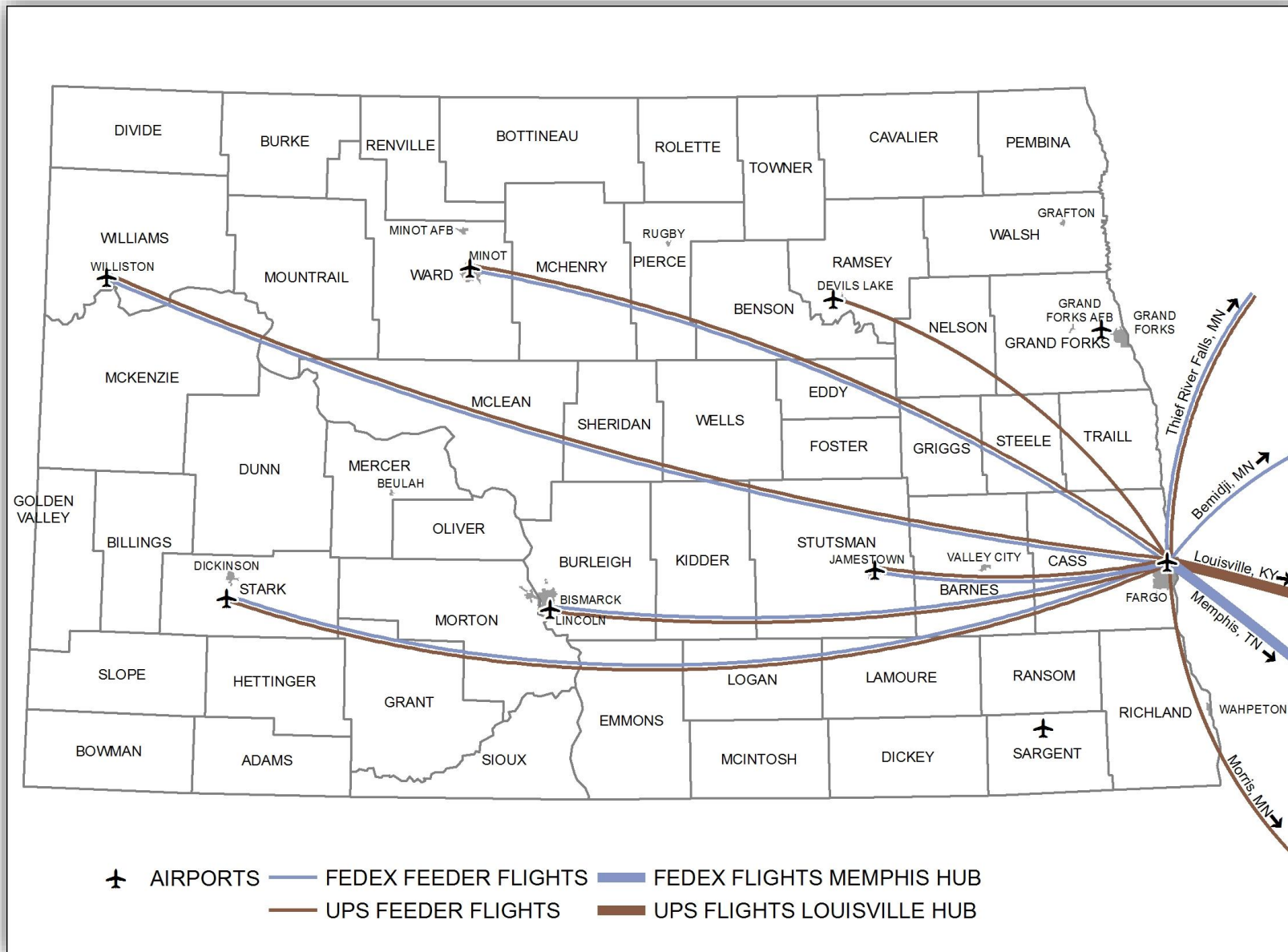
ND Airline Destinations - 2024



Six continual non-stop destination options and an additional four seasonal non-stop options.



ND Air Cargo Route Map



Airport Projects



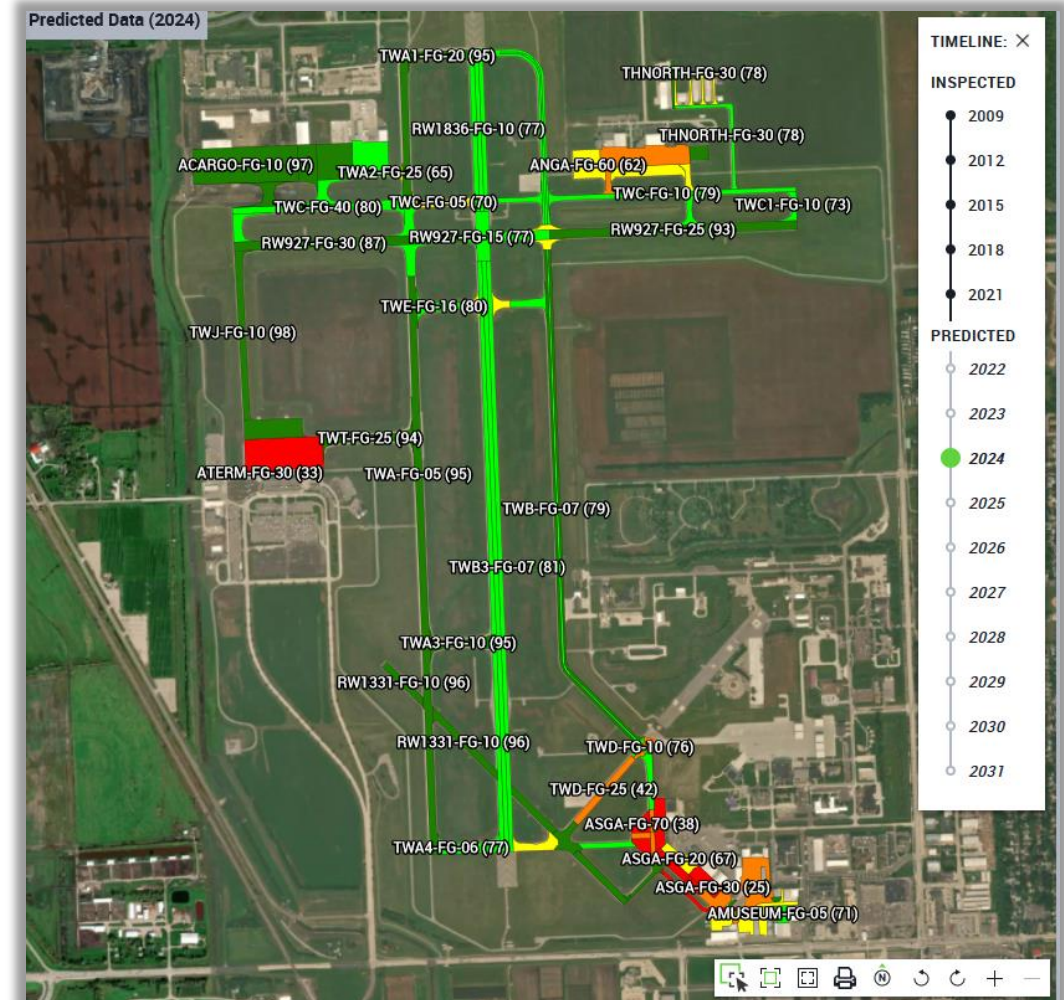


2024 Pavement Condition Study

- Approximately 60 million square feet of concrete and asphalt pavement are inventoried, and condition is tracked every three years.
- Every three years updated results are provided an interactive online Airport Pavement Management System Tool
- Fulfills Federal Grant Assurance requirements for North Dakota's federally funded airports

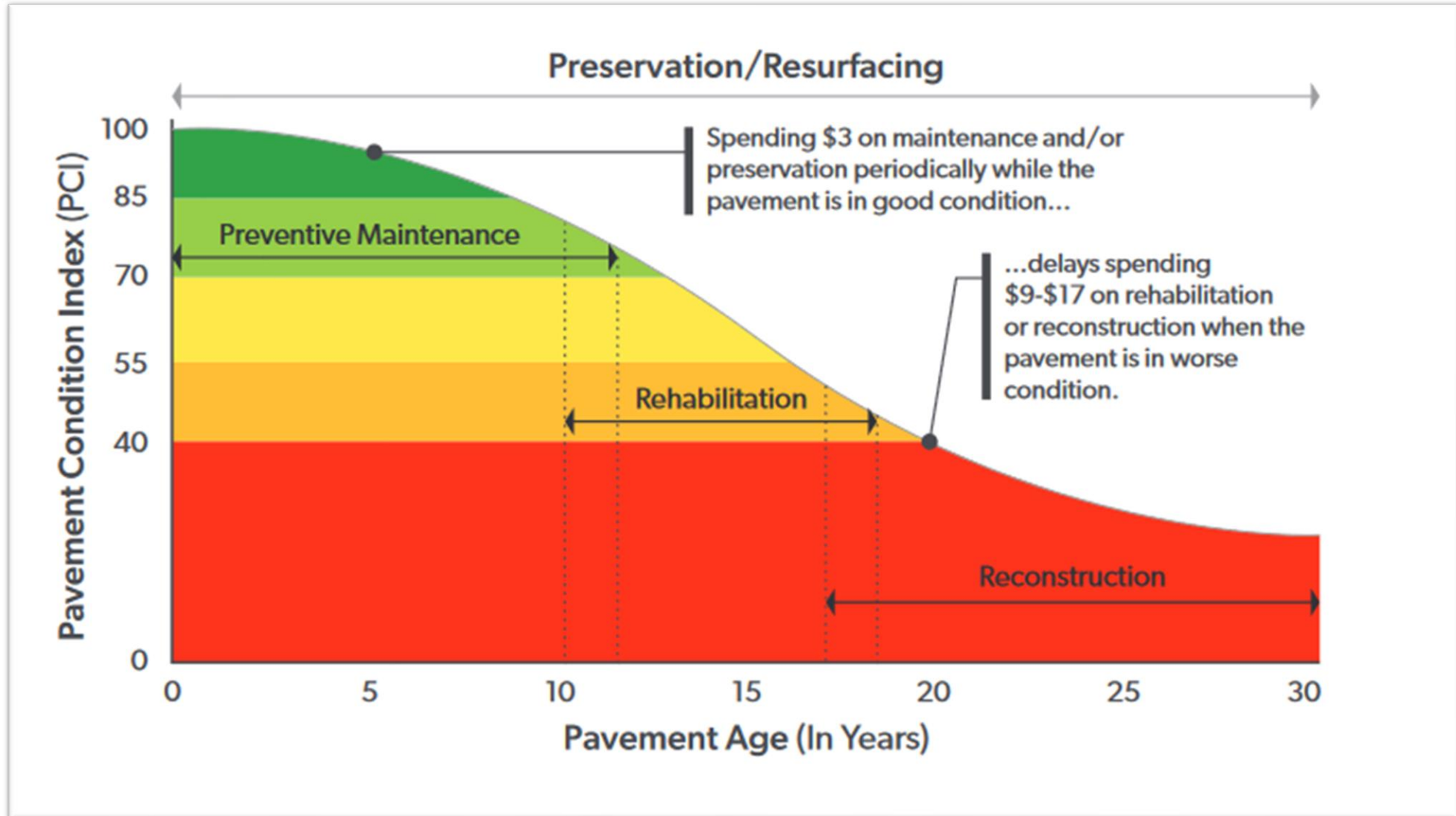
Interactive Tool Includes:

Statewide Summarized Results
Individual Airport Results, including:
Pavement Inventory and Work History
PCI Results
Photographs
Condition Analysis
Needs Analysis
Report Documents





2024 Pavement Condition Study





2024 Pavement Condition Study Results

Branch Use	Area -Weighted Average Condition (PCI)					
	2009	2012	2015	2018	2021	2024
Entire System	76	77	76	79	77	77
Runways	78	81	79	82	79	81
Taxiways	76	77	73	79	78	77
Aprons	72	69	72	73	71	71
Hangar Taxiways	64	64	72	76	75	76
Total Pavement (millions sq ft)	52.1	51.9	55.3	56.9	59.5	60.7

North Dakota has been able to successfully maintain our airport pavements over time while also increasing the amount of pavement in the system, even as our communities and airports have grown.

Additional Funding Resources & Targeted Investment has been key to this success.



Recent Major Project Highlights – Commercial Service

Fargo

- Begin Commercial Terminal Expansion
 - 2024 site work began / 2027 planned completion

Grand Forks

- Reconstruct & Extend Crosswind Runway 9L/27R
 - Completed Fall 2024

Devils Lake

- Commercial Terminal Expansion
 - Completed Spring 2024

Jamestown

- Primary Runway & Lighting Rehabilitation
 - Completed Spring 2024



Grand Forks crosswind runway re-opening dedication, Fall 2024



Recent Major Project Highlights – Commercial Service

Minot

- Wildlife Hazard Removal/Drainage Upgrades
 - Completed Fall 2024

Bismarck

- Construct New Snow Removal Equipment Building
 - Completed Winter 2024

Dickinson

- Apron & Taxiway Rehabilitation Work
 - Completed Summer 2024

Williston

- Deicing Containment Improvements
 - Completed Summer 2024



Bismarck Airport's New Snow Removal Equipment Building



Recent Major Project Highlights – General Aviation

Runway Rehabilitations

- Beach
- Carrington
- Crosby
- Glen Ullin
- Lakota
- Leeds
- Westhope

New Automated Weather (AWOS) Installations

- Bottineau
- Killdeer



Beach Airport's Completed Runway Rehabilitation



Airport Infrastructure Funding

Federal Airport Funding Opportunities

- FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 extended the FAA's authorization through 2028
- FAA Funding Appropriation is Currently Available Through March 14th of 2025
- Opportunities Exist to Leverage Federal Funds:
 - FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (ATP) – Airport Terminals Program
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (AIG) – Airport Infrastructure Grant Program

State Airport Infrastructure Solutions

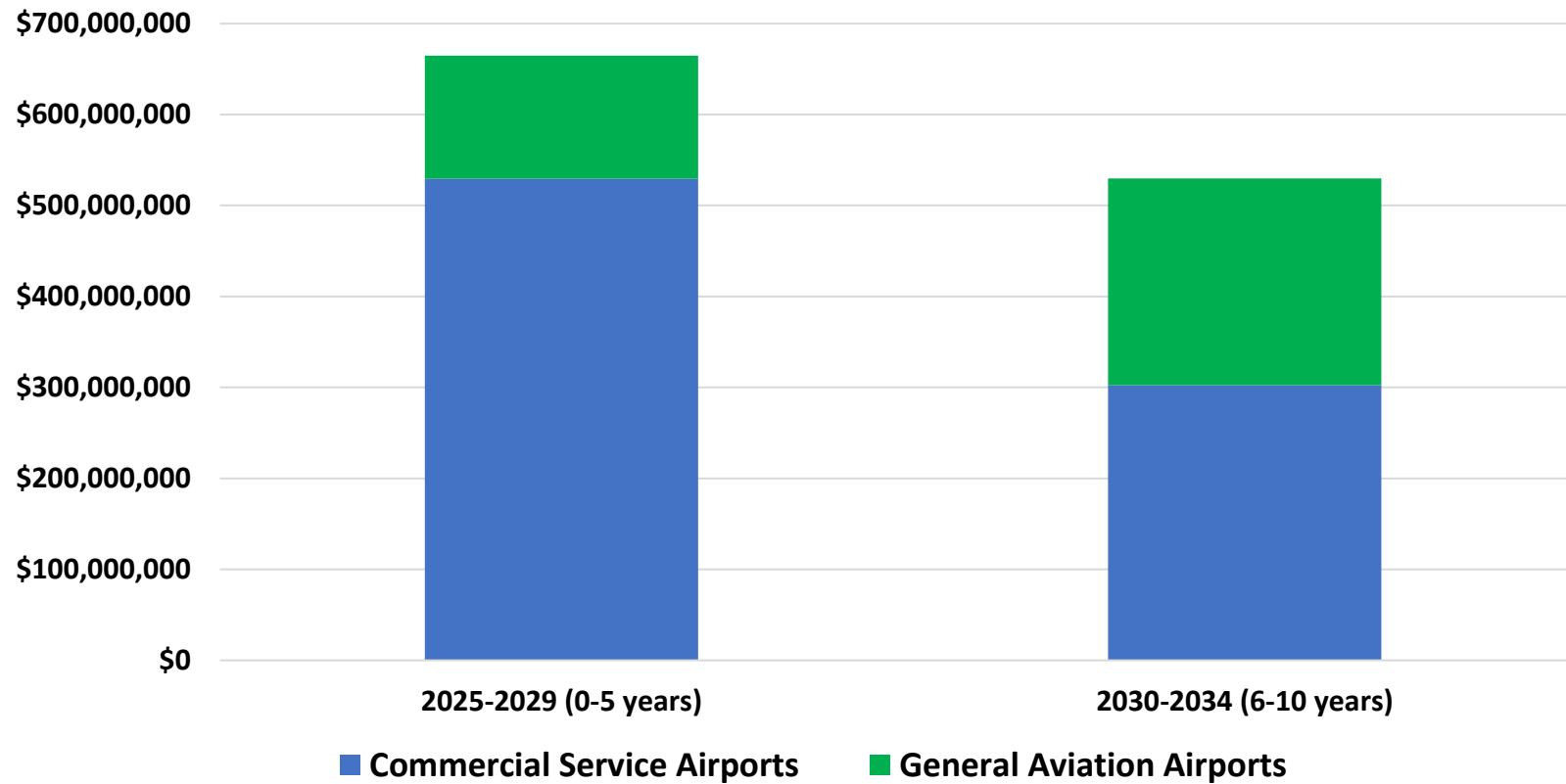
- Operation Prairie Dog Funding Potential
- One-time funding for justified and critical airport projects
- Bank of North Dakota Infrastructure Loan Program





Airport Infrastructure Funding

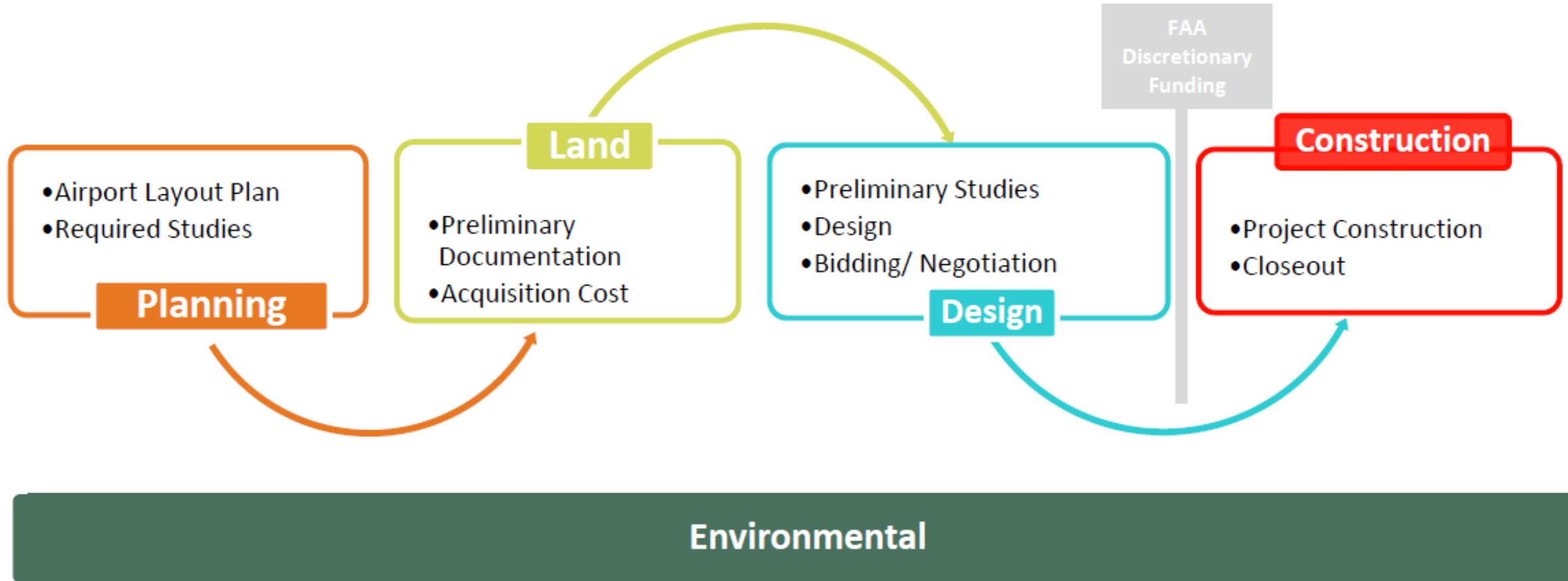
**ND Airport Infrastructure Identified Projects
2025-2034**



Airport Projects Identified: **\$1.2 Billion over next 10 years**



Importance of Good Planning & Reliable Funding Sources





Major Generational Airport Projects

Key Attributes of One-Time Airport Generational Project Funding Recommendations:

Strong Justification & Federal Support: These projects are well-justified and align with federal objectives and grant funding programs.

Comprehensive Planning and Environmental Clearances: Planning and environmental assessments have been thoroughly conducted, with necessary clearances already received or expected in the near future, eliminating potential delays.

Critical Need for State Funding: Without additional state funding, these projects face the risk of not moving forward or placing substantial financial burdens on local communities. Such commitments at the local level are often unattainable, jeopardizing the success of these initiatives.





Major Generational Airport Projects (Upcoming Biennium)

Fargo – Commercial Terminal Expansion

The terminal expansion will nearly double the number of boarding gates at the airport, going from five to nine. The project will add 75,000 square feet to the existing 115,000-square-foot terminal.

Anticipated Project Cost: \$156 million

Proposed Funding: Federal: \$60 million | State: \$60 million | Local: \$36 million

Grand Forks – Primary Runway Reconstruction

Runway 17R/35L (7,351' x 150') is currently 61 years old and has outlived its useful life. The proper engineering solution is a full reconstruction of the pavement.

Anticipated Project Cost: \$75 million

Proposed Funding: Federal: \$37 million | State: \$30 million | Local: \$8 million

Dickinson – New Terminal Construction

The Dickinson airport terminal has limitations and constraints at the existing site and a master planning process recommended a new greenfield site to accommodate passenger demand, TSA & ADA requirements, and airline upgauging from 50 seat to 76 seat aircraft.

Anticipated Project Cost: \$48 million

Proposed Funding: Federal: \$13 million | State: \$30 million | Local: \$5 million



Fargo Commercial Terminal Expansion Concept Looking Southwest



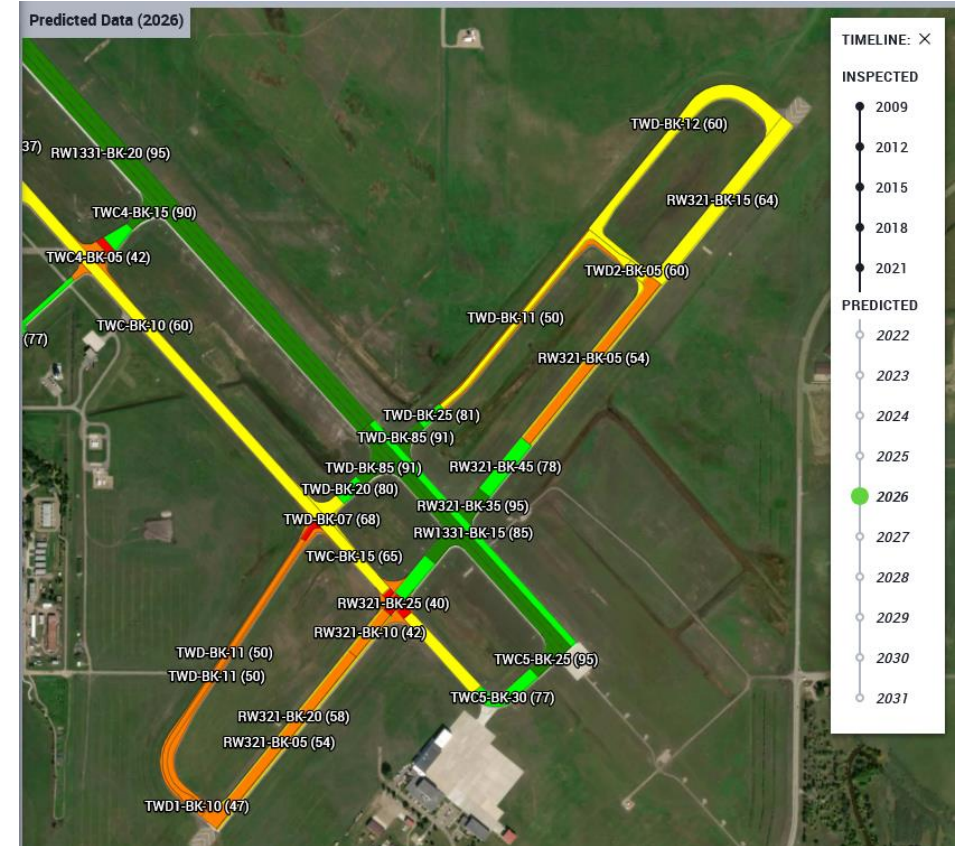
Major Airport Projects (Upcoming Biennium)

Commercial Service Airport Major Projects

- **Bismarck:** Crosswind Runway Rehabilitation
- **Minot:** Crosswind Runway Rehabilitation
- **Devils Lake:** Airfield Pavement Maintenance
- **Jamestown:** Snow Removal Equipment Building Expansion
- **Williston:** Snow Removal Equipment Acquisition

General Aviation Runway Rehabilitations

- Cavalier
- Cooperstown
- Fort Yates
- International Peace Gardens
- Lisbon
- New Rockford
- New Town (Runway Extension)
- Parshall (Runway Extension)
- Rugby
- Wishek



Bismarck's crosswind runway projected pavement conditions in 2026

Looking Forward





Upcoming Biennium Strategic Initiatives

Continue to support and enhance North Dakota Airport Infrastructure

- Leverage & Maximize available Federal Funding

Support Aviation Education and Workforce Development Initiatives

Finalize Statewide Aviation System Studies

- Aviation System Plan and Economic Impact of Aviation Studies
 - Project Website: <https://2025ndsasp.com>
 - Anticipated release in Spring of 2026
- Updated Pavement Condition Index Study
 - Anticipated release in Spring/Summer of 2025

Support the Northern Plains UAS Test Site and VANTIS

- Safe integration of UAS into National Airspace System
- Work with Industry to develop “roadmap” for AAM/UAS Industry in ND

Host the 2026 NASAO Conference in Grand Forks





International Peace Garden Airport – Major Rehabilitation

Airport is owned and operated by ND Aeronautics

Airport is utilized for tourism and access to U.S. and Canadian Customs at the border.

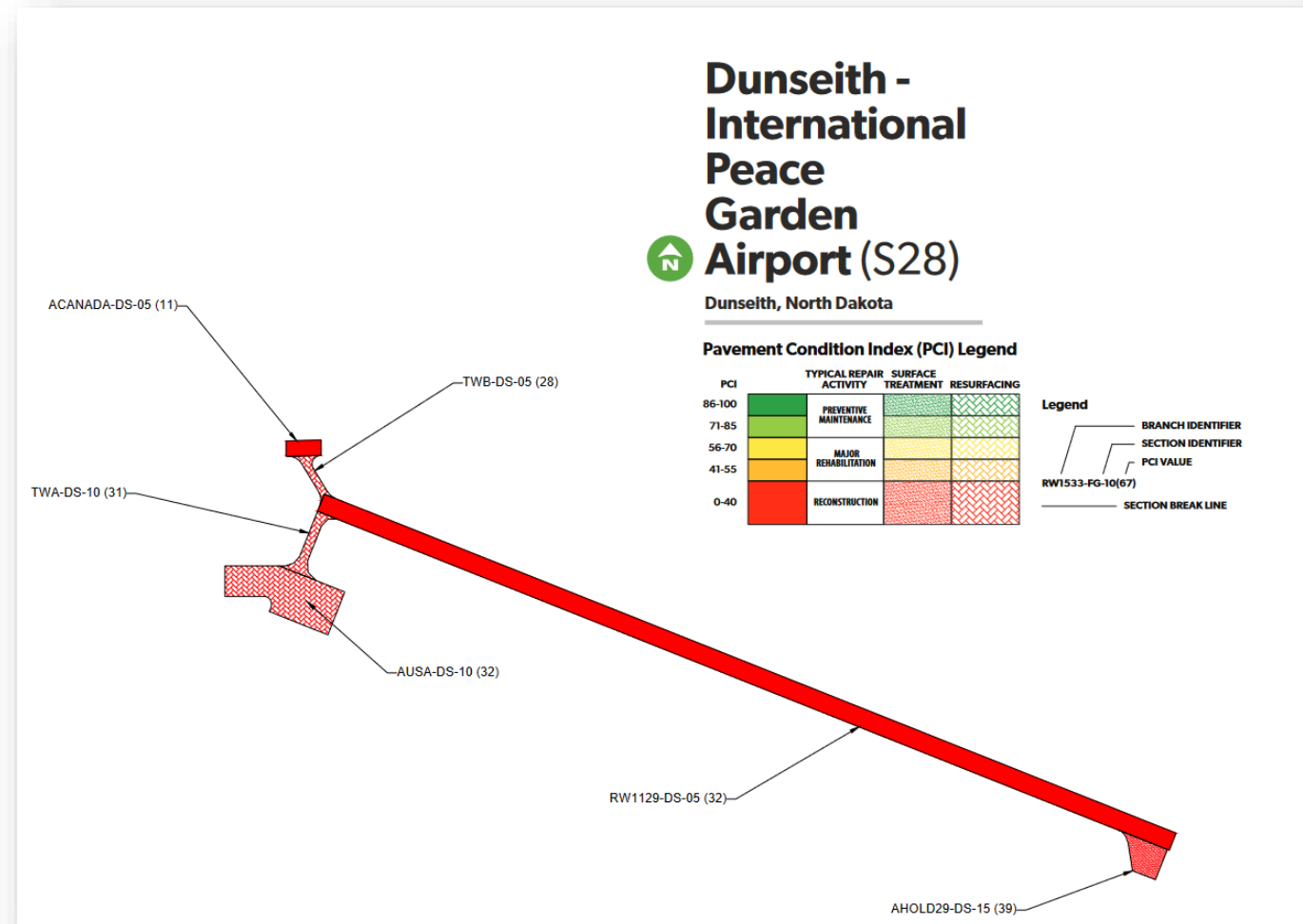
It is a NPIAS airport and eligible for federal funding and state has federal grant assurance to maintain the facility.

- \$2.6 million in federal funds have been secured to date for the project.
- Total project (Construction & Engineering) is estimated at \$3.5 million
- Carryover authority is requested in order to complete this project that was originally approved and planned with the current biennium

Airside pavements are in poor condition and aging pavements require a major rehabilitation.

- Construction was originally planned in 2024; however, it will now occur in 2025 due to delay in federal grants being received and contractor preference.

Carryover Language is Requested within the Budget Bill

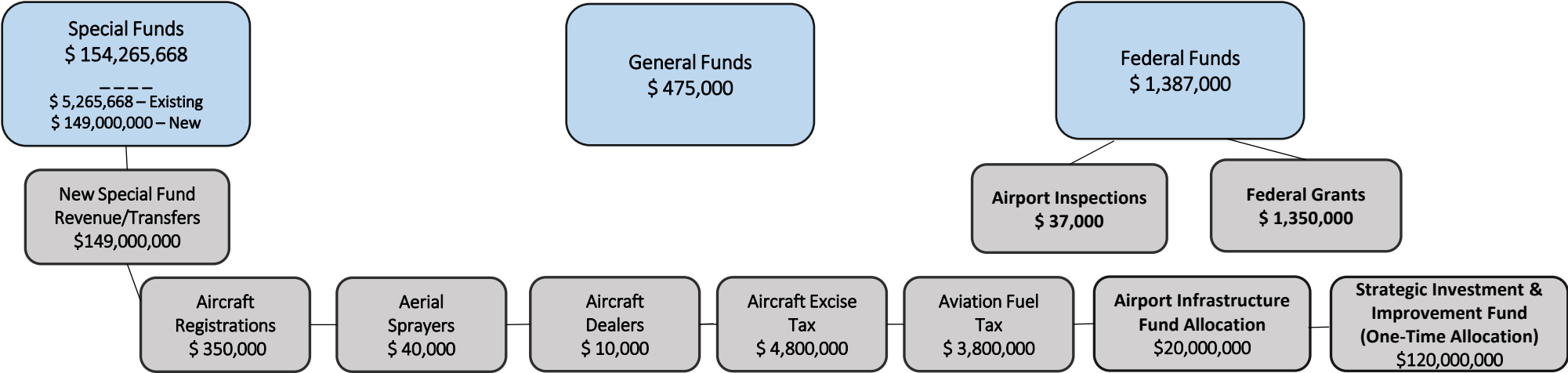


International Peace Garden Airport current pavement conditions

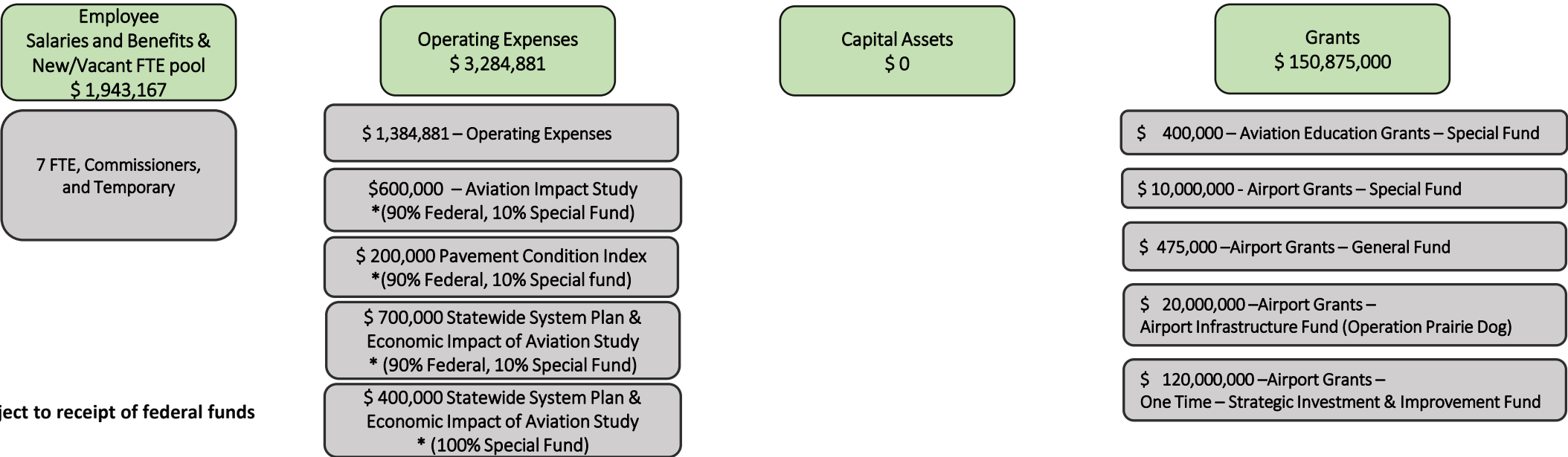


North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
2025 – 2027 Budget (as currently approved by the Senate)
\$ 156,103,048

REVENUES



EXPENDITURES



*Fed – subject to receipt of federal funds

Questions?



NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.