

# THE RUNWAY



Kentucky Department of Aviation



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### CVG named Best Regional Airport in North America

During the 2020 World Airport Awards, Skytrax named Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) as the Best Regional Airport in North America. CVG has received this award in the category for airports serving primarily regional traffic seven out of the past nine years.

CVG placed in other notable award categories:

#2 Best World Airport Serving 5-10 Million Passengers

#5 Best Airport Staff in North America

#6 Overall Best Regional Airport in the World (#1 Rank in North America)

# LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER

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## Hello to all of our friends in aviation!

Welcome to this first edition of The Runway newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to let you know what is going on in Kentucky's aviation industry.

What we are going through in safeguarding our friends, families, coworkers, customers, and ourselves is truly unprecedented. The pandemic has fundamentally changed the way we do business and interact with our neighbors. I would assert that this is particularly hard on those of us with a passion for aviation because it has restricted how much we can fly and hampered our social activities with our friends within the aviation community.

While we have no control over a pandemic, we do have control of how we conduct our operations as we keep our airports open and functional. I am happy to report that without exception, we are doing a great job in Kentucky. Our airports have been defined as a critical infrastructure of our state. We are creating effective ways to keep airplanes flying while following CDC guidance and Best Practices. We are finding efficiencies despite a loss of revenue and maintain a focus on the future. You have found ways to move forward with your airport improvement and community engagement projects.

The Department of Aviation is continuing to fund projects across the state. When COVID-19 restrictions were put in place, we were in the process of funding projects with the remainder of FY funds from the jet fuel tax (JFT) and the legislative pavement maintenance funding. FY21 JFT funds are budgeted at approximately \$18 million for airport projects.

While \$18 million in JFT funds is at a record high, this number is based on a projection that predated the COVID-19 pandemic response. We plan to be very cautious and judicious with funding for next year. We still have a significant pavement maintenance deficit that will require a large portion of our budget. Beyond pavement, we will address needs based primarily on safety.

Lighting, obstruction clearance, and security fencing are among the high priorities. As we progress through the year and see how much actual revenue we receive, spending will be adjusted to address broader needs.

The bottom line is that we are committed to doing the best we can with the funding that we have available. You can help by being good stewards of this vital infrastructure, keeping us informed of your airport needs, keeping your appointing authority and other elected officials informed and involved, helping your community understand the importance of your airport, and working hard to make it serve the region as much as it can. Airports are the front door to our communities for business. As we get through this pandemic and restart our economy, our airports will be more important than ever.

Lastly, I want to let you know that we are here for you. Please contact us with any concerns, ideas, or issues. As Governor Beshear says, "We will get through this together," and together, we can make our airports the best that they can be!

Best wishes to you and yours,

**Todd X. Bloch**  
Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Aviation



# CURRENT PROJECTS

## UPGRADING KENTUCKY GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORTS SELF-SERVE AIRPORT FUEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AFMS)

The AFMS is the front-end to an existing fuel delivery system that allows for the collection of payment via a credit card when the attendants are unavailable. The existing AFMS system in the state is either manufactured by QT-Pod or Fuel Master. Currently, neither system can accept non-proprietary chipped credit cards. These cards feature magnetic strips that are used by most credit card companies.

The consortium of EuroCard, VISA, and MasterCard, known as EVMCo, have established a liability acceptance standard where any point-of-sale credit card transactions will require a reader capable of accepting the chipped cards. The deadline for this capability acceptance is October 1, 2020, unless it is delayed by COVID-19. Magnetic stripe readers will still be operable, but those transactions will not carry the liability protection that is offered by EVMCo. The biggest hurdle in getting the chipped card readers activated is the development of an agreement between EVMCo, suppliers (the fuel vendors), and the AFMS manufacturer. Fuel Master has the chip reader function on their newer units, but those are only functional for their proprietary Fuel Master credit card.

KDA will reimburse the general aviation airports with their AFMS upgrades, up to \$19,750, with supporting receipts. KDA sent out pre-applications and grant applications to qualified airports. Grant execution starts on July 1, 2020. All grants will close on May 3, 2021.

## GRANT PROCESS UPDATES

The Engineering Branch of KDA is excited to announce new grant administration forms for projects starting in fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 or after). The new forms have been uploaded on the Transportation Cabinet's website and are available for use at [KYTC Forms Library](#).

The new forms, [TC 56-57](#) through [TC 56-64](#), distinguish between state-funded projects and federally funded projects. They have been published in a PDF format with auto-fill and auto-calculate for a more user-friendly process. If you are having trouble using the new forms or see an error in the form's automation, please reach out to [jake.dahl@ky.gov](mailto:jake.dahl@ky.gov) for assistance.

As a special reminder to airport boards and consultants, the Engineering Branch at KDA is now accepting grant pre-applications for both state-funded and federally funded projects. The pre-application form for state-funded projects is [TC 56-57](#), and the federally funded form is [TC 56-61](#). Both forms can be submitted at any time during the year and will be kept on record for discussion at all KDA prioritized project meetings. The [TC 56-61 form](#) for federally funded projects must be submitted in conjunction with the project's FAA grant application. There is an extensive amount of items that are eligible and we encourage you to submit everything that can be funded. For guidance on what is eligible to submit in a pre-application, please ask Jake.

## MEET JAKE

Meet Jake Dahl. He is the new KDA Engineering Branch Manager. Jake joined the team in November and hit the ground running. He is managing current projects as well as working on new ones including writing grants and implementing process improvements. He has several years of airport project experience with Stantec and Garver and earned a civil engineering degree from the University of Kentucky. Jake is eager to help you get your project from concept to construction. You can reach him at 502-564-0248 or email him at [jake.dahl@ky.gov](mailto:jake.dahl@ky.gov).



# AIRPORT INSPECTIONS

The KDA airport safety inspection team resumed the 2020 airport safety inspections on June 1, 2020. After the delays caused by the COVID-19 virus, the team is looking forward to visiting the airports and seeing all of the great things the airports are doing for Kentucky's aviation industry.

The team will begin with the inspections that were scheduled for April and May. Airports are grouped into eight zones for the inspection year. The inspections are aligned with the federal fiscal year (FY21) beginning in October with the Zone 1 inspection. Inspections of Zones 2 and 3 will be conducted until December. Office activities, planning, legislative issues, and other special projects will be the focus from January to March. Inspections will resume in April with Zone 4 and all eight zones completed by August 2021.

KDA conducts both federal and state inspections. KRS 183.090 and 602 KAR 20:020 require annual inspections and the FAA requires a 5010 safety inspection on a three-year cycle.

Both state and federal inspections include but are not limited to:

1. Pavement – all pavement areas (runway, taxiway, aprons, vehicle parking, etc.)
2. Airfield Pavement Markings
3. Runway/Taxiway Edge Lighting Systems
4. Fuel Systems – fire extinguishers, spill kits, filter change dates, grounding cables/clamps, after hours/emergency phone numbers, overall condition and cleanliness
5. Runway and Taxiway Safety Areas
6. FAA Title 14 CFR Part 77 Approach Slopes
7. Navigational Aids; Segmented Circle, Wind Cone, Beacon, PAPIs, REILSs, etc.
8. Overall aesthetics of the airport to include the condition of the U.S. and Commonwealth flags and installation of the Governor's signage.

Joe Carter and Terry Hancock are responsible for the KDA Airport Inspection Branch. Contact them if you have any questions at 504-564-4480.

Picture of Joe and Terry???

Based on the chart below, airports can have an estimate on when our inspectors will show up each year.

2020-2021 INSPECTIONS			
Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
October	November	December	April
Cadiz	Dawson Springs	Elizabethtown	Bardstown
Fulton	Greenville	Falls of Rough	Campbellsville
Gilbertsville	Henderson	Hardinsburg	Columbia
Marion	Hopkinsville	Hartford	Glasgow
Mayfield	Madisonville	Leitchfield	Jamestown
Murray	Russellville	Lewisport	Springfield
Princeton	Sturgis		Tompkinsville

Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8
May	June	July	August
Danville	Cynthiana	Ashland	Harlan
Monticello	Falmouth	Hazard	London
Pine Knot	Flemingsburg	Jackson	Middlesboro
Richmond	Frankfort	Morehead	
Somerset	Georgetown	Pikeville	
Williamsburg	LOU - Bowman	Prestonsburg	
	Mt. Sterling	West Liberty	
	Stanton		

# SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (sUAS)



Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) or “drones” are the fastest-growing sector of aviation. Drone toys hit the market in 2013 and have matured into essential tools that are used in many industries. The autopilot and autonomous flight software developed for drones are helping build the advanced aviation systems of the future.

The KDA’s UAS section was formed in 2016 to assist agencies, the public, and lawmakers with UAS issues. KDA helped develop

Kentucky’s UAS laws, answered countless questions from the public, and assisted state agencies in their missions. KDA established a multi-agency user group in 2016 that has grown from 5 to 50 regular attendees from several different state agencies.

## KENTUCKY GOVERNMENT USE OF DRONES

Drones are increasingly used as tools in government and industry. Kentucky’s Energy and Environment Cabinet uses drones to inspect and manage coal mines, water infrastructure, and landfills.

The Transportation Cabinet uses drones to inspect bridges and manage road projects. Surveying tasks that previously required workers to traverse difficult terrain on foot can now be performed with a drone. Bridge inspections that would have previously required lane closures for “snooper trucks” can now be performed in a way that reduces risk for both drivers and inspectors. Like their ground-based counterparts, these flying robots are well suited to dull, dirty, and dangerous work.



## DRONE REGULATION

The rapid evolution of this technology is posing significant challenges for regulators attempting to integrate drones into manned aircraft airspace. A significant milestone occurred in 2016 with the release of regulations for civil and public operation of small unmanned aircraft weighing between .55 lbs. and 55 lbs.

These rules can be found in [14CFR, Part 107](#). In addition to Part 107, a new pilot certificate, the “remote pilot” and the associated testing requirement was established

as well as a registration process for drones. To fly commercially, pilots must pass the written FAA exam and register their aircraft. Commercial operation includes work performed for compensation as well as work performed without compensation in the furtherance of a business or for research. To date, over 441,000 commercial drones have been registered and over 171,000 remote pilots have been certified.

## PART 107 RULES

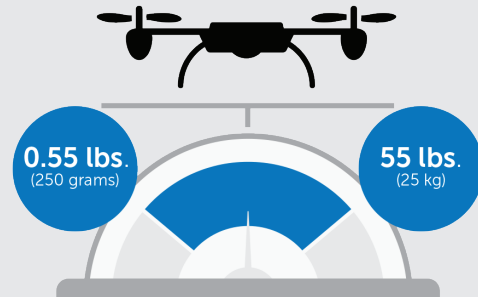
Part 107 rules allow small unmanned aircraft to operate with the following summarized restrictions:

- Less than 55 lbs.
- Visual line-of-sight (VLOS) only
- No operations over unprotected non-participants or moving traffic
- Daylight only, civil twilight with lighting visible for 3 miles
- UAS must yield right of way to other aircraft
- First-person view (video from UAS) requires a visual observer with VLOS
- Maximum ground speed of 100 mph
- Maximum altitude of 400' above ground level (AGL) or 400' above a structure
- Weather visibility of at least 3 miles
- Class G airspace only without air traffic control (ATC) permission.
- One aircraft per pilot
- No operations from a moving aircraft
- No operations from a moving vehicle unless over a sparsely populated area.
- No careless or reckless operations
- No carriage of hazardous materials.

The FAA's website is the official source of UAS Information and registration. UAS regulations are continually evolving at it is important for pilots to stay up to date with the current regulations:



[www.FAA.gov/uas/](http://www.FAA.gov/uas/)



[FAADronezone.faa.gov](http://FAADronezone.faa.gov)

Register your aircraft using this website if it weighs more than 0.55 lbs. (250 grams) and less than 55 lbs. (25 kg).



## FUTURE OF DRONES

Lessons learned from integrating small drones into our airspace are paving the way for larger autonomous aircraft for both cargo and people. Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) is the latest term for the vision of electrically powered Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft transporting people and goods without the need for airports. Just like small drones, these aircraft are just a technology evolution away from practical use. Battery technology is key and is getting closer to the energy density needed for practical eVTOLs. Someday soon, many small aircraft may be flying on simple and reliable electric power.

Aviation is changing and will become an increasingly important mode of transportation in the future. It is critical that our nation lead the way in eVTOL technology. China owns the sUAS industry, and the U.S. cannot afford to lose the AAM market as well. Fortunately, there is a vibrant network of large and small domestic companies working in this area. The U.S. Air Force is helping by funding defense projects that can be spun off into commercial applications. It is certainly an exciting and important time to be working in Aviation!

# CALENDAR & EVENTS

Typically this is this season where there are many aviation events being held across the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, like most everything else in our lives, plans have been put on hold for the summer due to COVID-19.

We are aware of the many events that have been canceled or postponed. This includes aviation camp closings, weekend fly-ins, the AOPA Rusty Pilot Seminar, and EAA Flying Start Seminars.

## Known cancellations:

- Lebanon/Springfield's annual "Jets over KY"
- EAA AirVenture - Oshkosh 2020
- Kentucky Aviation Conference

## Postponements or virtual adaptations:

- [National Association of State Aviation Officials \(NASAO\) Convention](#) in September will be virtual.
- [More????](#)

## Tentively scheduled or TBD events:

- [Bowman Field Heritage Festival](#)
- [Girls in Aviation Day](#) Bowman Field in September

Please let KDA know about your event and its status. KDA wants to publicize your events through our website, events calendar, newsletters, and mass emails. When the event happens, KDA wants to support your aviation events across our great state.

## EVENT NEWS

- On a very positive note, many of our state's flight schools are back providing flight instruction safely through following CDC guidelines.
- Many pilots are taking this opportunity to add additional endorsements to their certificate.

KDA wishes you the very best as you transition back to flying this summer season. It is a beautiful time to be in the skies over Kentucky.





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### GOT ANY AIRPORT NEWS OR EVENTS?

Please let us know. Send  
submissions to:

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