

Aeronautics Division - ADOT



Senior Aero management and Airport Manager make a visual runway inspection

Company Information:

Highest Ranking Official:
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Director

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Type of work:
The Aeronautics Division provides funding to public airports for planning, land acquisition and construction projects; assembles and distributes aviation information to the public; license aircraft dealers; register non-airline aircraft within the state; and ensure's the Grand Canyon National Park Airport is operated and maintained.

Workforce: 33 Employees

Testimonial of Value of Arizona State Quality Awards Program

“We knew we had an excellent program. Yet, we were surprised at the additional value we found by going through the AQA process. As we examined the program in preparation for completing the AQA application, the team identified additional ways to enhance the program, and bring additional services to our customers. We found ourselves applying other products and services to this model.”

As word of the award continues to circulate amongst the industry, the Aeronautics Division is responding to inquiries from other states and organizations about the Arizona Pavement Management Program.

“We credit the AQA and it's process for not only helping us build on a good program but for having a greater appreciation for the overall value this program and others like it, bring to the State of Arizona and potentially others within our industry.”

- Kim Stevens, Program Administrator, Aeronautics Division

Highlights of Organizational Process:

Process:

In 2000, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Aeronautics Division initiated a program designed to promote and improve the aviation pavement infrastructure throughout the State of Arizona. Applied Pavement Technology, Inc. (APTech) conducted this study, which resulted in the creation of the Arizona Airport Pavement Management System (APMS) and the establishment of ADOT's on-going Arizona Pavement Preservation Program (APPP). The overall objective of the project was to provide sound pavement repair recommendations based upon an objective, repeatable, and accepted assessment of pavement condition.

Within the Arizona airport system there are 74 publicly owned airports, 12 Native American airports and 5 privately owned airports. The project included 49 of these airports, involving approximately 16,294,345 square yards of airside pavements.

The first program set of 19 airports in the APPP resulted in approximately \$6 million in work. The second round of the APPP included 14 airports and an investment of an additional \$6 million. The third round and each year thereafter are expected to result in \$3 - \$4 million preventive maintenance projects per year. The funding is obtained by dedicating a portion of the funds previously allocated for development to maintenance projects even though the responsibility for maintenance remains with the airport sponsors.

The APMS program provides ADOT with a consistent objective and systematic procedure for setting priorities and schedules, allocating resources, and budgeting for airport pavement maintenance. It, also, quantifies information and provides specific recommendations for actions required to maintain an airport pavement network at an acceptable level of service while minimizing the cost of maintenance to the airport and ADOT.

Every year the Aeronautics Division, utilizing the APMS, identifies airport pavement maintenance projects eligible for funding for the upcoming five years. Once a project has been identified and approved for funding by the State Transportation Board, the airport sponsor may enter into an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with the Aeronautics Division to participate in the APPP.

Quality and Performance:

ADOT, through this project, has provided each airport with an excellent basis for meeting the legal requirements. The airports now have a complete pavement inventory and a detailed inspection. To remain in compliance, the airports will need to undertake monthly inspections of pavement conditions and track pavement-related maintenance activities. The individual project reports for each airport contain a spreadsheet that is used by the airport to perform monthly inspections and track pavement-related maintenance activities and needs.

The implementation of the APMS program database, resolves problems for airport sponsors concerning the preservation of the taxiways, runways and aprons at their airports. By implementing this program the problem areas are identified before they become critical.

Since using the central design team for all projects, Aeronautics is experiencing cost benefits in the design, bid and administrative costs for this program as opposed to the individual airports conducting their own design and administration.

The APMS program has created a greater bond and trust between Airport Sponsors and the Aeronautics Division by completing the pavement maintenance in a timely and cost-effective manner with minimal costs to the sponsor. Under the APMS program the expenditures by the airport sponsors are reduced and the value of their runways, taxiways and aprons improves.

The publishing of this program through Applied Pavement Technology, Inc. (APTech) on behalf of the Aeronautics Division has created interest for this program nationwide. The FAA is planning to present this program to the multiple regions within the State of California with possible planned presentations to the other states in the FAA's Western Region, which include Hawaii and Nevada. Presentation of this program was made at the International Slurry Seal Association and the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), which produced interest from various entities. As a result of these presentations, interest from other states in the Aeronautics APMS program is growing.

It is anticipated that the initial recognition of this program, developed by Aeronautics, by the FAA and others on both a state and national level, will result in its being used as a benchmark by similar programs nationwide. This is a good indication that the Arizona Pavement Management System is the best the market has to offer at this time.