



DIVISION OF AVIATION

Summary of NCDOT Division of Aviation Statewide Programs

The North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Aviation (NCDOT Aviation) offers a variety of programs to support aviation in N.C. Below is a summary of our programs to help you easily identify the resources that best meet your needs. Categories include safety, maintenance and improvement, and professional development and workforce enhancement.

SAFETY

5010 Inspections

- ➔ The FAA requires safety inspections for all general aviation (GA) airports open to the public (both publicly and privately owned) to be completed every three years
- ➔ NCDOT Aviation contracts 5010 Inspections, which include runway conditions, airport markings and lighting, runway approach angles and controlling obstructions on the runway

Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) Program

- ➔ NCDOT Aviation installs and maintains weather observation systems at airports, enabling real-time weather data, which is crucial for pilots
- ➔ NCDOT Aviation funding covers installation, maintenance, and upgrades
- ➔ Airports/sponsors are responsible for costs associated with equipment insurance coverage

Helipad Installations

- ➔ Responsibilities align with NCDOT specs on the installation of new helipads throughout N.C., not just at airports, but for hospitals and other uses
- ➔ Requires completion of FAA Form 7480-1 Notice of Landing Area Proposal and a Landing Area Permit Application (Aircraft / Seaplane / Helicopter)

N.C. State University's Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) Obstacle Visualization with ArcGIS

- ➔ Partnership program that provides analyses to airports on potential aviation obstructions around and relative to the airspace surrounding the airport.

No Trespassing Sign Program

- ➔ Each fiscal year, GA airports are eligible for up to ten free signs of each type
- ➔ Includes: No Trespassing, No Trespassing: Violators Will be Prosecuted and Restricted Area

State Airport Guide and Aeronautical Charts

- ➔ New editions will be available via the NCDOT Aviation Publication webpage in early 2026
- ➔ This guide serves as a planning tool for pilots when preparing for a flight

Tracking Airport Logistics, Operations and Navigation System (TALONS)

- ➔ Tracks and stores real-time aircraft operations data
- ➔ Improves data tracking, security, communications, and record-keeping
- ➔ Benefits all 72 publicly owned airports, especially the 58 non-towered ones
- ➔ Reimburses 50% of the cost for a pre-qualified counting service, up to \$3,000 annually

Turf Runway Marking Program

- ➔ Public-use airports can request free yellow plastic cones to mark turf runways
- ➔ Private-use airports can purchase cones for \$20 each
- ➔ Increases airport safety and enables maintenance of runway dimensions during mowing
- ➔ Aviation provides guidance on the placement and spacing of the cones

Please contact your [airport project manager](#) if you have questions about these items.



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Wildlife Hazard Management Program

- U.S. Department of Agriculture and NCDOT Aviation host this program three times annually
- Provides free training and assessments to manage wildlife hazards at airports

Windsock Program

- Free windsocks to any public-use airports in N.C., subject to available funding
- Reduces weather-related landing accidents caused by wind direction and magnitude

MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT

Airport Pavement Management Program

- Central dashboard for pavement condition data, inspection results, and PCI scores
- Enables informed decision-making for construction and maintenance project planning

Independent Fee Estimates (IFE) and Independent Fee Analyses (IFA)

- Requirement for most engineering contracts per AC 150/5100-14E
- NCDOT Aviation can perform IFE or IFA on behalf of airport sponsors at no cost
- Directed funds do not require IFE; airports must ensure reasonable rates and fees

Safety, Preservation, and Maintenance (SPAM) Program

- Assistance for minor airfield maintenance and safety correction projects
- Includes crack sealing, pavement patching, markings, and erosion control

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT

Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy Program

- In alignment with the FAA to inspire the next generation of aviation talent
- Grants up to \$5,000 are available to all 72 public-use airports
- Enables airports to host aviation career-focused summer camps for students

ITRE Workforce Development Partnership

NCDOT Aviation partners with ITRE's Aviation Research Team to offer specialized and practical



workforce development training for the modern aviation community. Visit itre.ncsu.edu/focus/aviation/ for a comprehensive list of services.

North Carolina Airport Technical Assistance Program (NC AirTAP)

- Enables airport staff to build a community network for exchanging best practices
- Provides educational offerings, information resources and related assistance to the state's airport professionals and boards, including:
 - Airport Board Member Training
 - Online, self-paced training modules
 - NC Airport Leadership and Management Program (ALMP)
 - Twelve training and continuing education courses designed for new and experienced N.C. airport officials, managers and staff

The N.C. Airports Economic Development Fund

- Performance-based economic development grant program for GA airports
- Grants are intended for time-sensitive capital projects that will create jobs

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