



SOUTH CAROLINA AVIATION ASSOCIATION

PROPOSED AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND

Funding is needed to assist Airports in South Carolina stay competitive with neighboring states. Both Commercial Service and General Aviation Airports are critical to the state's economic development activities.

The 2018 Economic Impact Study conducted by the SC Aeronautics Commission concluded that South Carolina Airports support annual economic activity estimated at **\$16.3 billion and \$656 million in annual tax revenue**. Commercial Service Airports have more than \$15.3 billion in annual economic impact and \$617 million in annual tax revenue. General Aviation (GA) Airports have more than \$1 billion in annual economic impact and \$39 million in annual tax revenue.

Airports that transport people and cargo do not receive significant funding like other transportation modalities such as ports and rail. SC Aeronautics Commission leans heavily on FAA matching fund programs for airport planning, construction, and maintenance, and works to ensure that federal matching requirements are met to keep current and multi-year projects on track. However, critical updates and new construction needs outweigh federal funding levels. The Commission was allocated \$40 million for development at the state's six commercial service airports in 2023, yet **commercial service airport requests totaled \$210.6 million for projects—such as terminal expansion and cargo apron expansion—that attract new business and jobs to each region.**

Increased State funding for airports is essential for South Carolina to remain competitive in economic development over the next 10 years.

WHAT?

Airports are economic development drivers, playing vital roles in retaining business, recruiting new businesses, and growing the tourism sector. Strong support of South Carolina's Airports plays a key role in the future economic vitality of our state. Increasing state dollars would allow South Carolina to compete for increased federal dollars.

WHAT?

The proposed \$100 million would be used toward projects awaiting funding such as:

- Taxiway Rehabilitation at Myrtle Beach International Airport
- Runway Reconstruction at GA airports across the state
- Terminal Ramp Reconstruction Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport
- Terminal Expansion at Hilton Head Island Airport
- Multimodal Facility at Charleston International Airport
- Terminal Entrance Road Improvements at Columbia Metropolitan Airport

WHERE?

The funds would be used for specific on-airport projects that enhance an airport's ability to meet current and future demand of passenger and air cargo service. For Commercial Service Airports, state funding could be supported by local and federal matching funding.

WHO?

The proposed Airport Infrastructure Investment Fund would apply to all 58 publicly owned, public use airports in South Carolina.