A BIT OF HISTORY

➢ 1935 – Alabama Aeronautics Commission Formed by State Law
➢ 1945 – Commission Enlarged and Changed to the Alabama Department of Aeronautics
  ➢ Governed by a 7-member Commission
➢ 1945 – Legislation adopted dedicating aviation fuel taxes to operate the Aeronautics Department
➢ 1946 – Constitutional Amendment Adopted Authorizing Airport Grants
➢ 2000 – Aeronautics Department Merged with ALDOT
STATE LAW GIVES ALDOT GENERAL SUPERVISION OVER ALL PHASES OF AERONAUTICS WITHIN ALABAMA

- Grant Program
- State Airport System Planning
- Landing Area Inspections and Licensing Program
- Alabama’s General Aviation Security Requirements
- Pavement Maintenance Plans
- Wildlife Hazard Assessments
The recommended airport system was developed to serve and support the State's population, airport users, industrial parks, economic centers, recreational attractions, and planned highway improvements. At the heart of the recommended airport system were the five functional roles that work together to provide a wide variety of aviation facilities and services across the State.

- International airports serve as Alabama's primary gateway to global passenger and air cargo markets.
- National airports serve a contributing role in providing the local, regional, and statewide concerns with access to and from the national and global economy.
- Regional airports support the local and regional economies and connect them to the State and national economies.
- GA Community airports serve a supplemental role for the local economy and focus on providing aviation access for small businesses, recreational, and personal flying.
- Local airports, while serving a limited contributing role for the local economy, are considered to have local importance in supporting aviation activity.
Alabama’s Airport System
By the Numbers

➢ 76 Publicly owned, public use airports (cities, counties, airport authorities)
➢ 6 Commercial Service Airports
➢ 70 General Aviation Airports
➢ 150 (+/-) Heliports
**Investment Needs**

$667 million over next 10 years to meet minimum standards of recommended system

- **International** $313.8 million
- **National** $200.9 million
- **GA-Regional** $94.6 million
- **GA-Community** $37.6 million
- **Local** $20.4 million

$493 million eligible for FAA Funding

Most significant cost items include hangar construction and pavement rehabilitation.
GRANT PROGRAM

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT FUND

- Fund generated by State taxes on aviation fuels
  - 3.5 cents/gallon for jet fuel
  - 9.5 cents/gallon for aviation fuels

  Revenue Projected to be $2.2 Million Annually

- Funds from this source may be used to match federal grants
- Not all airports are eligible for federal grants
Funding Alabama’s Airport System

- Federal Aviation Administration – 90%

- Local Airport Operators – 10% (5% with state match)

- Aeronautics Bureau – May provide one-half of the local matching obligation, or 5% of the total project cost, depending on the availability of state funds
LANDING AREA INSPECTIONS

- **CODE OF ALABAMA**
  - Section 23-1-372 – Authority to approve proposed landing areas (airfields, heliports, etc.) & issue annual licenses
  - Section 23-1-373 – Establishes criteria to evaluate proposed landing sites
  - Section 23-1-374 – Procedures for revoking or not renewing airport licenses
  - Section 23-1-375 – Operation of unlicensed airports prohibited
  - Section 23-1-376 – Provides for public hearings regarding airport site approvals
  - Section 23-1-377 – Exceptions to licensing requirements…
    - Personal Use – Property owner & immediate family
    - Facilities operated by the U.S. Government
### Approach and Departure Path Dimensions

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<th>Inner Width</th>
<th>Outer Width</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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<tr>
<td>250 Feet</td>
<td>450 Feet</td>
<td>1,000 Feet</td>
<td>8.04 Acres</td>
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**Plan View**

- Primary Surface
- Runway Safety Area
- Approach/Departure Path 20:1

**Profile View**

- Runway Primary Surface
- Runway
- Approach/Departure Path 20:1
The Aeronautics Bureau encourages airports to take appropriate steps to development and implement security procedures at Alabama airports.

To be eligible for state funding, the operator of an airport must prepare and implement a written airport security plan.

Plan must be consistent with Security Guidelines for General Aviation Airports published by the TSA.
STATEWIDE PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PLAN

➢ Completed in 2008

What did the Study Produce?

➢ STATEWIDE DATABASE OF PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE NEEDS, COSTS & SCHEDULES

➢ INDIVIDUAL REPORT FOR EACH AIRPORT WILL CONTAIN...
   ➢ Projected Maintenance Schedule (optimized for all pavements)
   ➢ Projected Cost
   ➢ Written Pavement Maintenance Plan
Wildlife hazards are a major safety issue for airports

ALDOT coordinating with FAA to conduct Wildlife Hazard Assessments

5-7 Assessments per year being conducted under contract with USDA
Governor’s Executive Order of January 23, 2015 – Designated ALDOT Aeronautics Bureau as the Lead Agency for all Unmanned Aerial Systems

Established an 8-member UAS Council composed of agency directors, legislative members, and an airport authority member

Initial Focus – Prepare state agencies to operate sUAS aircraft
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2000 - 2015

➢ Major Safety Discrepancies Have Been Resolved

➢ 2000 – 63% of Alabama’s Public Use Airports Did Not Meet Minimum Licensing Standards
➢ 2010-2015 – Approximately 10% Are Not Licensable in any Given Year – Due mainly to lack of routine maintenance
➢ Merging the Aeronautics Department with ALDOT has been a Major Success
➢ General Aviation Airports are Serving an Increasingly Important Role in Local Economic Development Efforts
ASCE Measured/Reported on Alabama’s Transportation Infrastructure

- Roads – D+
- Bridges – C-
- Transit – D

AIRPORTS – B-
Fund Aviation Initiatives that Help State Grow
  - Increase state funding for aviation in line with its economic benefit

Consolidate Resources (Airports) Where Practical
  - We’re doing that in West Alabama

Save funds by repairing/maintaining before Major Repair is Needed (Preventive maintenance via pavement maintenance plans)

Embrace Economic Recruiting