

DOING BUSINESS WITH KDOT

T-WORKS Aviation Program

What's new or different under T-WORKS:

Annual funding for aviation will be increased from \$3 million to \$5 million starting in 2013. But a more fundamental change is happening in the area of project selection. KDOT has adopted a strategic aviation plan that identifies the level of service, or what role, every airport should have in order to develop a statewide aviation network that covers every part of Kansas with air ambulance service. When a project is proposed for funding, one of the factors considered will be how it fits into the strategic plan. In the past, projects were selected simply on a community-need basis. That will still be a consideration, but it will only be one factor.

With the passage of T-WORKS, KDOT was able to launch a pilot program this summer. KDOT sent a letter to each airport detailing the specific recommendations for that airport. Airport managers and local officials were encouraged to apply for funding that would pay for the recommended improvements. Through this process, which expanded the list of eligible work, 25 projects totaling \$2.7 million were selected to receive safety and service enhancements. Overall, the pilot program was a great success and KDOT will continue this approach in the future.

Other changes to the program include revised guidelines:

- A 95/5 percent (state/local) match requirement for all planning projects .
- Additional items eligible in the equipment category, such as mowers, snow plows and other equipment critical to the operation of an airport.
- Funding for airport infrastructure that was previously ineligible, such as repair of restrooms.

Be watching for: The deadline for 2012 Kansas Airport Improvement Program grants is Dec. 15, 2010. The application is posted at <http://www.ksdot.org/divaviation/> . Stay tuned for additional calls for projects as we work toward meeting the goals of the system plan.



Critical Services - Improvements funded by KDOT's aviation program have made more than 30 airports accessible for air ambulance service. Changes to the program are designed to increase that number.

How it works: The program has a once-a-year call for projects and a new, ongoing application process (based on funds available) for emergency maintenance needs and defined -scope projects, such as automated weather systems. Under guidelines of the program, project sponsors are required to pay a minimum of 10 percent of the total project cost up to a maximum of 50 percent based on population. The funding guidelines are available at www.ktoc.net in the Aviation Group.

What they're saying:

"KDOT's Aviation Division did an excellent job of crafting a flexible program under T-WORKS that preserves the aviation system and responds to new opportunities."

- Martin Miller, Great Bend Airport Manager

"The Kansas Aviation System is in a much different place than it was in 1999. T-WORKS allows KDOT to fill gaps in the overall system and respond to sponsors' needs for sustainability and economic growth. "

-KDOT Aviation Director Ed Young



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