



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT**

AVIATION
NEWSLETTER
ISSUE III

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Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Aviation Section

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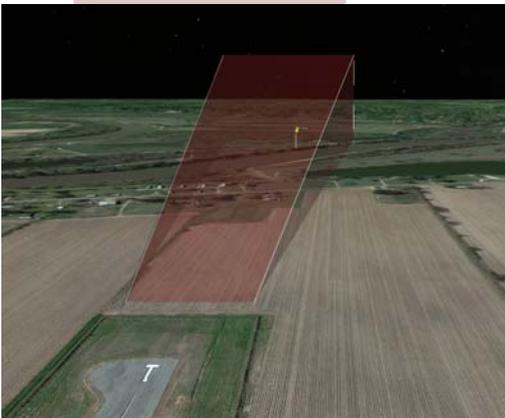


WELCOME TINA!



We are proud to introduce Tina Wilson as a Program Manager for the DOTD Aviation Section. As some of you know, She is a Purdue University (just like Drew Brees, Who Dat!) graduate of Civil Engineering and has spent the last several years performing airport related tasks including civil engineering design, project management at airports, capital improvement planning at airports, and coordinating with regulatory & local agencies. Tina will be travelling to her newly assigned airports to gain information to ultimately help with your funding and other issues. Please help us welcome her to her new role in our Aviation community. She can be contacted by phone 225-379-3048 or email at tina.wilson@la.gov

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL TRACKING UPDATE



One of the primary responsibilities of both the airport sponsors and the DOTD Aviation section is the protection of Louisiana's airspace in and around its airports. This is accomplished through the passage and enforcement of appropriate zoning ordinances by airport sponsors and funding assistance from DOTD Aviation Section in the removal of obstructions and hazards to air navigation.

It is also the responsibility of the DOTD Aviation Section to ensure that the funding assistance provided is done so in the most effective manner. In an effort to make the process of funding obstruction removal projects more efficient, the Aviation Section has identified several areas

where improvement is needed as it relates to obstruction removal:

Height Zoning and Land Use Ordinances: while the majority of airport sponsors do have ordinances in place to limit potential obstructions, there seems to be a lack of enforcement of these ordinances statewide. Since the purpose of these ordinances is to allow sponsors to meet their responsibilities as an airport owner to keep its users safe, airport sponsors will now be held accountable for enforcing these ordinances. In addition, the Aviation Section will provide assistance in the development of land-use ordinances, which are not clearly addressed in the FAA's ordinance template.

Tracking of Funded Projects: DOTD Aviation Section will begin to specifically document when projects are funded for the purpose of obstruction removal. These projects will involve the removal of obstructions in order to clear the impacted part 77 surface, as well as any improvements necessary to allow for maintenance of the subject area so that recurring issues can be prevented.

Airport Maintenance: to implement and integrate items #1 and #2, and to better reflect the direction given to the Aviation Section by L.A.C. Title 70, the maintenance of part 77 surfaces will now be considered in an airport's evaluation and will have an impact on how an airport's requested projects are prioritized. Failure to prevent recurring impacts to previously cleared part 77 surfaces will negatively impact all project funding requests from an airport and could potentially result in the loss of funding.

The DOTD Aviation Section will work with airports who have requested or have already received funding for obstruction removal projects to ensure that projects are properly structured to allow for these objectives to be met, as well as help clarify zoning ordinance issues for airport sponsors looking to implement or begin enforcing the zoning ordinances that are authorized by LA R.S. Title 2.



AVIATION CAREER EDUCATION



We were pleased with our third annual Louisiana ACE Camp Summer Program, which had a very successful 2013 season this past summer. As a reminder, ACE stands for Aviation Career Education and it is a week-long camp that is aimed at high school students between the ages of 15 and 18 who are considering a career or hobby in aviation.

We appreciate and would like to thank everyone who donated their time and effort making the three camps a great success. A special thanks to the airports that volunteered their facilities to hold the camps:

- Louisiana Regional Airport
- Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport
- Natchitoches Regional Airport

The campers had a great time and they learned a tremendous amount of information. During the course of the week, participants focused on the knowledge needed to pass a Private Pilot written exam, while at the same time they were introduced to a wide variety of aviation career opportunities from commercial pilot to airport management. They were given plenty of hands-on experience such as:

- Creating a Flight Plan
- Pre-Flighting an Airplane
- Making Radio Communications
- Decoding Weather Information
- Designing an Airport

The schedule is open for airports to schedule their 2014 Summer LA ACE Camp. Please contact Danielle Gaylor at 225-379-3046 or danielle.gaylor@la.gov for more information or visit www.LAAviator.com.

AVIATION PRIORITY PROGRAM UPDATE

The Aviation Section's program management team is busy processing project applications from airport owners for the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program. The process includes determining if the application submitted includes sufficient information for the projects to prioritize on the program, scoring of the projects, and competing the projects based on score for available funding. The Aviation Section's Program Managers will contact the airport owner/management over the next several weeks if additional information is needed to prioritize a project. The Legislative Session begins March 10, 2014 which means the program will be sent out to the airports for comments in mid-January and to the Joint-Transportation Committee Members by late January. Please contact our program management team if you have any questions regarding the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program.

2014 LOUISIANA AVIATION ART CONTEST

The DOTD is pleased to announce the 2014 Louisiana Aviation Art Contest sponsored by the Aviation Section. The theme for this year's contest is **"Flying Saves Lives!"**

Students, ages 6-17, are encouraged to create artwork using this year's theme in relation to the aviation world. Participants are encouraged to visit and learn more about their local airports by visiting our website and locating the nearest airport. The intent of the contest is to encourage young people throughout Louisiana to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering, and science.

Entries will be judged in six classes as determined by the age of the participant on December 31. The contest classes will contain the following age groups: Class I-Ages 6 to 7, Class II-Ages 8-9, Class III-Ages 10-11, Class IV-Ages 12-13, Class V-Ages 14-15, Class VI-Ages 16-17.

Completed artwork must be received by the Aviation Section no later than Friday, January 10, 2014. Entries must be sent to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Aviation Section, Attention: Ms. Tonjia Summerell, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245. Local and state aviation officials will select three winners per age category, resulting in a total of eighteen winners. Winners receive aviation-related prizes appropriate to the age group and those winners will compete in the National Aviation Art Contest in Washington D.C. Please visit our website to view the official contest brochure or contact the Aviation Section for additional information at 225-379-3053.

STATE SYSTEM PLAN

The update of Louisiana Aviation System Plan (LASP) is entering its final stages. The consultant team has completed many of the technical memos that make up the system plan document. The Aviation Advisory Council, which discusses and assists the consultants in prioritizing the recommendations the department should focus on over the next thirty years, has met twice this past year. During these meetings, there have been some difficult issues considered and deliberated. In the end, I believe we will have a strong plan which will provide the department with much needed input from the aviation community on moving forward in how we protect, preserve and promote the airports in Louisiana. The council will meet again in January 2014 to finalize plan recommendations, concepts and new initiatives.



The system plan update will establish a viable, balanced, and integrated system of airports in Louisiana. When the plan is complete, we should have an effective vision and strategy to identify how we can preserve and enhance our airport system throughout the state to meet current and future aviation demands. Further, the plan will help the department maximize the effectiveness and efficiency in the use of federal, state and local funding for investment in airport infrastructure.

5010 INSPECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Recently, we have significantly revamped our inspection program's reporting format in the hopes of obtaining a better end product for the airport owners and managers. In an effort to continue to provide that product, we have begun to address our maintenance and inspection scoring criteria. Previously a total of 30 priority points could be awarded based on maintenance and discrepancies at airports. Specifically, Title 70 states, "the sponsor compliance" category evaluates how effectively the airport owners are operating the airport with respect to established standards and good management practices. Several areas are critical to providing safe and effective public services." In an effort to clarify this paragraph, our office has established a new policy to address the awarding of points in this category. For now, the 30-point category has been divided into three areas worth ten points each. Those areas are: Inspection Response, Maintenance, and Deficiency Correction. Each is an all or none subcategory, meaning that airports are awarded ten points in each area for sufficiency. Conversely, airports are not awarded the ten points for insufficiency. Moving forward, we will be partnering with the airports to fine tune these criteria in order to affect a Title 70 policy change.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR AIRPORTS



We were in attendance of the American Association of Airport Executive's (AAAE) Essentials of Airport Business Management Workshop, which addressed key topics on leasing, airport business plans, rules and regulations, through the fence operations and minimum standards at airports. All these topics are important, but minimum standards is a good tool for airport management. They set forth the minimum requirements that an entity wishing to provide aeronautical services to the public at a public-use airport must meet in order to provide those services.

These requirements may include: minimum leasehold size, required equipment, hours of operation, and fees. Minimum standards should be imposed to ensure that an adequate level of safe and efficient service is available to the public. We recommend this workshop for any airport that has not recently updated their minimum standards or need to publish minimum standards at their airport.

AIRPORT SAFETY DATA PROGRAM UNDERWAY

The FY 2014 Airport Safety Data Program is underway with all contracts sent to the states. New this year, is the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) agreement to participate with GCR, Inc., to help administer the program, specifically contract renewal and monitoring. "We're pleased to enter into this agreement with GCR," said Henry Ogrodzinski, NASAO President and CEO. "We think this is a good partnership and will benefit both NASAO and the States".

To date, 23 contracts have been signed with notices-to-proceed given. "We're pleased with the response so far," said Kim Stevens, NASAO Director of Communication. "State directors and their staff have been very helpful. We look forward to securing the rest of the agreements as soon as possible."

AOPA'S REPORT

MORE REGIONAL AND GRASSROOTS INTERACTION IN 2014

For those who I have not met, my name is Yasmina Platt and I am AOPA's Central Southwest Regional Manager, which includes New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa. In this role, my mission is to build strong local GA communities and strengthen AOPA's relationships with state and local governments. In addition to representing AOPA member interests with state and local government officials, I also try to stimulate and encourage greater involvement among pilots and aviation enthusiasts.

It was great seeing some of you at the AOPA Aviation Summit in Fort Worth in early October. Thank you for making it a *great* event! While it is our last AOPA Summit for now, I am excited that AOPA is going to hold six Regional Fly-ins around the U.S. in 2014 in addition to interacting more at other grassroots events. It means I will get to see more of you more often.

The goal of an AOPA Regional Fly-In is to create a positive, grassroots relational experience for our members and the local aviation community, to promote the value of general aviation, and to draw positive attention to the local airport and its value to the local community. The events will be free to all attendees and the public. They will be held on Saturdays and we hope most of you will fly-in and bring friends and family. Exact locations and dates are expected to be announced in January. Watch for our announcement in January, which will also appear in your February issue of AOPA Pilot Magazine to learn the details of the regional events.

While all seven Regional Managers have been involved since the program started in 2012, this new direction is going to give us an even better opportunity to help fulfill President Baker's vision. To learn more about the Regional Manager program, read Bob Minter's (Southern Regional Manager) blog here: <http://blog.aopa.org/advocacy/meet-the-aopa-regional-managers/>.

You can stay current on developments in our region and specifically in Louisiana by visiting <http://www.aopa.org/Advocacy/Airports-and-State-Advocacy.aspx> or following me on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/AOPACentralSW> or @AOPACentralSW).

