

# I Want To... Know More About TxDOT Aviation

## Aviation Division

### TxDOT Has an Aviation Division?

Yes it does! Employees in the Aviation Division are often asked this very question by consultants, other TxDOT employees, the general public, and many others. The truth is that TxDOT has a very robust aviation group that continues to grow and tackle new areas of the aviation industry. The purpose of this document is to provide a brief history of the division, an overview of its functionalities, and highlights of its continuing growth and innovation.

### TxDOT Aviation Overview

**How Did the Aviation Division Get Started?** In 1945, the Texas Aeronautics Act created the Texas Aeronautics Commission to serve as a liaison between the federal government and state airport interests. It had no regulatory or licensing authority, rather it provided financial support for the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of airports in Texas. In 1989, this commission was replaced by the Texas Department of Aviation and in addition to the functions of the commission, this department was also tasked with administering federal funds for non-reliever general aviation (GA) airports. Two years later, in 1991, the Department of Aviation was placed under TxDOT's umbrella and renamed the Aviation Division (AVN).

**What is the Primary Purpose of TxDOT Aviation?** TxDOT Aviation's primary purpose, as with all of our partners, is safety. Aside from that, AVN assists airports to apply for, receive, and disburse federal and state funds for reliever and GA airports. Currently, AVN participates in the State Block Grant Program (SBGP) and handles the responsibilities for the federal improvement program for GA airports.

**How is AVN Organized?** There are currently four groups in the division that work together to provide aviation services to Texas:

- **Planning:** Assists airports with project planning and develops statewide programs
- **Engineering:** Oversees design and construction of projects as well as inspections
- **Grants:** Oversees contract management, grants, and the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP)
- **Flight Services:** Maintains the state's fleet of aircraft and provides pilot support for flights for state officials, employees, or sponsored contractors traveling on official state business. Additionally, flight services currently manages TxDOT's unmanned aircraft programs



#### Contacts

Your Designated TxDOT Aviation Planner

TxDOT Aviation: 512-416-4500

FSDO: There are four offices in Texas serving different areas of the state

- Houston
- North Texas
- Lubbock
- San Antonio

Contact information for each office can be found at

[https://www.faa.gov/about/office\\_or\\_g/field\\_offices/fsdo/?state=TX](https://www.faa.gov/about/office_or_g/field_offices/fsdo/?state=TX)

FAA Airports Division and District Office (ADO), Southwest Region:

<https://www.faa.gov/airports/southwest>



### Did You Know?

Each active airport in the Texas system has a designated assigned planner. The planner acts as a first point of contact for all things airport related.

Are you an airport sponsor or staff member and need to speak with someone regarding funding, projects, conflicts, or just have a question in general? Reach out to the assigned planner.

Are you a consultant and you have questions regarding contracts, bids, etc.? Reach out to the assigned planner.

Ideally, planners have made their airports aware that they are their main point of contact. If, however, you are unaware of an airport's assigned planner, feel free to reach out to any other planner or call the AVN main line at 512-416-4500 and someone will forward your call.

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## TxDOT Aviation Roles and Programs

In addition to directly interfacing with Texas' GA airports and the FAA, AVN has a lot going on behind the scenes that many people are unaware of. Airport planning, programming, design and construct projects, maintenance, and grant management is only part of what the division works to manage. Below is a sample of the various projects and initiatives that AVN is involved with.

### Regular and Ongoing Services to Texas GA Airports

- As a member of the SBGP, AVN acts as a liaison between airports and the FAA
- Assists airports to program, fund, plan, bid, design, and construct projects
- Works with airports on an annual basis to disburse funds for RAMP
- Regularly visits airports to provide personalized service
- Oversees and assists with safety inspections
- Works closely with the state legislature and other elected officials to advocate for additional funding for Texas airports
- Maintains a statewide airport directory
- Hosts an annual statewide Aviation conference to bring together staff, sponsors, consultants, and others in a collaborative setting

### Programs and Initiatives

- Works with contractors and universities to launch and maintain programs related to pavement inspections, statewide maintenance, AWOS replacements, obstructions, environmental issues and impacts, and many others
- Actively seeks to continuously maintain and improve AVN/sponsor relationships by creating and organizing outreach programs
- Seeks to improve and innovate the Texas airport system by regularly evaluating and evolving the Texas Aviation System Plan
- Works internally and externally to find solutions for innovating scoping, estimating, and bidding
- Leads a rapidly growing UAS/AAM program in an effort to provide more technologically advanced inspections, site visits, and data collection
- And much more is being developed. Stay tuned!



## Helpful Links

Texas Department of Transportation: <https://www.txdot.gov/>

TxDOT Aviation Division: <https://www.txdot.gov/business/aviation.html>

FAA State Block Grant Program:

[https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/state\\_block#:~:text=States%20that%20participate%20in%20the%20reliever%2C%20and%20general%20aviation%20airports.](https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/state_block#:~:text=States%20that%20participate%20in%20the%20reliever%2C%20and%20general%20aviation%20airports.)

National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO): <https://nasao.org/>

## Aviation Website

TxDOT's public website has many links to helpful information related to AVN. Some information that can be found on this site includes:

- Meteorological towers
- Flight Services overview
- UAS guidance
- Airport directory

Also available is information regarding professional services, such as notices to consultants and addenda.

Consultants can find helpful links on the website such as:

- Bid form
- Qualification requirements
- RFQ forms
- Criteria for evaluating projects

Finally, there are links for a variety of forms and publications, such as:

- Compatibility guidelines
- Economic impacts
- Information for pilots
- Hangar policies
- Contract provisions
- Emission inventory
- Environmental checklist

A link to the main AVN page is provided in the "Helpful Links" section of this document. Additionally, TxDOT has recently revamped its public-facing website to allow for simple searches, so if you simply type in "Aviation" in the search bar, it will provide you with a list of all AVN related links available from the site.