



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

NCDOT Division of Aviation FY 2022 Annual Report
October 1, 2022

General Statute 63-74.5 requires the Division of Aviation to report annually to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the following information from the prior fiscal year:

- A list of all public use airports within the state, their municipality and county, status as commercial services or general aviation, airport code and the following corresponding information:
 - Total amount of funds allocated to each airport, subtotalling federal, Commercial Services, State Aid to Airports, Special Projects, Economic Development and the State Transportation Improvement Program dollars and total number of projects receiving allocations.
 - Total amount of funds disbursed to each airport, subtotalling federal, Commercial Services, State Aid to Airport, Special Projects, Economic Development and the State Transportation Improvement program dollars and total number of projects receiving disbursements.
 - Total amount of unallocated state appropriations for Commercial Services, State Aid to Airports, Special Projects and Economic Development.
- A summary of activities related to unmanned aircraft systems, including total number of drones owned, subtotaled by units of the Department of Transportation and by other state agencies, purpose and uses of drones in each unit and agency, a list describing each private-sector partnership to which the Division of Aviation is a party, and any other activities of this unit.
- Total number of trips and flight hours by each manned aircraft owned by the Department of Transportation, subtotaled by agency, fees charged to each agency and total cost of providing services to each agency.
- Summary of activities related to Safety and Education, including total expenditures, number and description of programs and the number of participants.

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N.C. PUBLIC AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Aviation administers state and federal grant programs for the state's 72 public airports for infrastructure improvements and provides extensive engineering and planning assistance, professional development programs, business development support and a statewide program of maintenance and federally mandated services to help airports meet safety and other goals set forth in the [North Carolina Airport System Plan](#). The system plan is the guiding document for N.C. public airport development, funded and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for airports that are eligible for federal grant funding as part of the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems.

Ninety-seven percent of the Division of Aviation's annual budget is spent on programs that support the state's public airports. Below is the requested information on grant funding, as well as highlights of our airport assistance programs.

Grant Programs

The attached Excel spreadsheet entitled, "FY 2022 Aviation Finance Report for NCGA items 1a-1c," provides details of state and federal grant funds allocated to each airport, amounts disbursed and the amounts unallocated, as requested.

Note: Grant programs reimburse airports for eligible expenditures on projects that often span multiple years. Thus, funds allocated in one fiscal year may be reimbursing airports for expenditures on multi-year projects awarded in previous fiscal years.

Here is a summary of our airport development grant program results in FY 2022.

New Airport Grant Programs

Division Grants and Development staff in SFY 2022 developed systems, processes, guidance and training for two new grant programs launched with new state and federal funding allocations, each of which carries their own criteria for award, disbursement and reporting. They were:

- State Capital and Infrastructure Fund grants, totaling \$115.1 million, appropriated by the N.C. General Assembly for 18 airports. Aviation manages these funds under a memorandum of agreement with the Office State Budget and Management.
- American Rescue Plan Act grants totaling \$2.5 million from the Federal Aviation Administration for 61 general aviation airports. This act provided the third round of federal COVID relief grant funds for public airports to cover operational costs and keep employees on the payroll. Airports have four years to expend the funds.

State and Federal Airport Grant Project Management

As of this report, Aviation staff are managing 358 state and federally funded airport development projects valued at nearly \$642 million. Development engineers prioritize eligible funds, review engineering documents, track budgets and schedules, respond to compliance inquiries and provide engineering and planning assistance to grantee airports. Grants staff disburse grant funds, review expenses for compliance, track expenditures, manage audits and report on all funding types.

Airport Engineering and Planning Assistance

The Division of Aviation provides extensive engineering and planning assistance for airports, conducting annual planning meetings and providing guidance and responses to inquiries throughout the year to help airports identify infrastructure development projects that meet community and state needs, develop long-term airport development plans, determine how to leverage, secure and optimize funding they may be eligible to

receive from multiple sources, and attract business investment that expands their impact.

We provide subject matter and technical expertise to assist airports in defining project requirements, determining funding and eligibility, reviewing land acquisition plans and helping airports resolve a wide and growing range of compliance issues. This work helps ensure publicly funded projects enhance airport safety, infrastructure health and mobility, employ best practices and comply with state and federal requirements.

In FY 2022, we continued our successful virtual quarterly convenings of managers and consultants working for the state's 72 public use airports. The 1.5-hour, interactive format helps strengthen collaboration among the partners in building N.C.'s air transportation system. The meetings, typically attended by 80-100 people highlight people and projects across the state, provide updates about the division's grants processes and airport development guidance, and encourage questions and suggestions for innovations and improvement.

The division worked with two airport authorities (Mount Airy/Surry County Airport Authority and Southeast Regional Airport Authority, owner of Laurinburg-Maxton Airport) to help them develop five-year strategic plans to grow, meet community needs and expand their impact. The new program expands a rural planning service offered by the N.C. Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Office, with research support provided by the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University.

Guy McCook, chairman of the Southeast Regional Airport Authority, said the process produced an invaluable asset for the authority and airport and a key learning that many stakeholders exist who can add value through their engagement with the airport. "The governing body, airport owner(s), surrounding county, local community, pilots and political representatives are just a few examples of individuals with a vested interest in an airport. Each of these stakeholders brings a unique perspective that can be vital to the planning process," McCook said.

George Crater, manager of Mount Airy/Surry County Airport, said the planning project and data analysis helped him better understand the connectivity of the airport and the potential that provides for growth and development. "I had no idea we had so much potential. It widened my vision of what is possible here. Going through the process has opened my eyes to measurables that really make a difference."

Airport Statewide Program

The division's Statewide Program provides an array of infrastructure maintenance and federally mandated services for general aviation airports that supplements the grant funding they receive and cost-effectively extends the life of airport infrastructure, allowing grant funds to go further.

The program includes the:

- Airport Pavement Management System (APMS) that monitors and reports on pavement conditions at the airports, required by the FAA to inform decision-making and prioritization of maintenance and repairs.
- Safety, Preservation, and Maintenance Program (SPAM) that provides repair and maintenance support for runways, taxiways, parking aprons and other airport pavement to extend their useful life at a significantly lower cost.
- Airport Safety Inspections/5010 Program, which conducts inspections that are required and funded by the FAA for the 99 N.C. airports that are open to the public. (That number includes 37 airports not eligible for our state and federal grant programs.)
- Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Program, operated through a cooperative service agreement with U.S. Department of Agriculture, to provide FAA-required wildlife mitigation training for airport staff, conduct airport site visits and wildlife hazard assessments, and produce wildlife hazard management plans – all designed to improve safety and prevent aircraft from striking wildlife, causing damage and

loss of life.

- Automated Weather Observation Systems (AWOS) Program, which provides tri-annual FAA-required inspections at the state's 43 non-federal AWOS, makes all necessary upgrades and repairs to the systems and installs new systems, as justified. AWOS collect and disseminate local/real-time weather data pilots rely on for approaching and departing airports.

In FY 2022, the Statewide Program completed 25 airport 5010 inspections, 11 pavement maintenance projects valued at \$1.8 million, three automated weather observation systems installations (at Henderson Field in Wallace, Martin County Airport and Mt. Olive Airport) and additional maintenance and repairs of systems at other airports for a total \$1.2 million.

Aviation also resumed its wildlife hazard management program, paused in FY 2021 due to budget constraints. That included hosting five regional wildlife hazard training classes attended by 48 airport staff members and completing nine wildlife hazard assessment site visits to advise airports on hazard mitigation, all during the federal fiscal year that extends from Oct. 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2022. The wildlife hazard training, assessment and mitigation services are provided under an annual contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service Wildlife Services.

Airport Financial Risk Mitigation

The Division of Aviation completed the third annual financial risk assessment of the state's 72 public use airports in FY 2022, yielding continuous improvement in risk scores over the first two years of the program. As of FY 2022, 64 of 72 airports are rated at low financial risk, compared to 42 the first year of the program. The assessment program provides a financial risk score based on airports' ability to manage grant funds in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Division grants staff work with airports to shore up processes that mitigate financial risk. With risk scores improved, the division will shift to a biennial assessment schedule.

Airport Business Development Services

A business development initiative launched by the Division in June 2019 works to expand the economic impact of airports by attracting aviation-related business investment that creates new jobs. The program formalizes the division's long-standing but unofficial role of supporting aviation business development efforts of the N.C. Department of Commerce and Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. The goal: extend the economic benefits and opportunities aviation enables to every corner of the state.

In FY 2022, the division supported 44 business recruitment projects with major aircraft manufacturers, research and testing facilities, maintenance and repair operations, and corporate hangars. That included providing aviation-specific regulatory and airport information to support recruiting the Boom Supersonic aircraft manufacturing plant and Toyota electric battery plant. Seven of those companies announced investments totaling \$1.8 billion, expected to create 3,800 jobs in North Carolina.

As of this report date, 32 business development projects the Division supports are still active, two have been put on hold due to a transition in client leadership and four closed due to locating in another state or choosing not to expand current operations. The division participated in two aviation-related business recruiting events and generated 18 leads from companies interested in expanding their footprint in North Carolina. In pursuit of those results, the aviation business development manager completed 382 consultations with staff at 38 of 72 N.C. public airports and 631 engagements with partner agencies that support business development.

Among the business development events during the fiscal year was the 2021 Southeastern Opportunities in Aerospace Regional Summit, co-hosted in December 2021 with the North Carolina Military Business Center, offices of U.S. Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. More than 100 people representing military, industry, government, commercial, public-private

partnerships and other organizations learned about aerospace challenges and demands, explored business opportunities and cultivated relationships that can fuel industry growth.

Division staff also marketed North Carolina for business investment at AUVSI XPONENTIAL, the leading global conference and trade show for uncrewed and autonomous vehicles. An Incident Management Assistance Patrol truck flying a tethered drone above the truck functioned as the state's pavilion, drawing in significant booth traffic and publicizing North Carolina's first-in-nation use of drones for this public safety purpose.

The division managed the North Carolina General Aviation Airport Economic Development Fund to provide state funding for time-sensitive economic development projects that create jobs. During FY 2022, the division awarded \$6.3 million in grant funding to develop infrastructure at five airports to recruit new business investments valued at \$44.3 million and expected to create 288 jobs.

One example of such an investment is Jetstream Aviation, an aircraft painting and refurbishing company that opened its new \$10.5 million facility at Kinston Regional Jetport in September. It is expected to create 145 jobs averaging nearly \$60,000 a year – well above Lenoir County's average wage of \$39,839. After cutting the ribbon, Jetstream and its sister company, FlyExclusive, which operates a charter service at Kinston Regional Jetport, immediately announced it was expanding operations by constructing a new \$10 million hangar facility, adding an additional 200 jobs. NCDOT contributed \$6.5 million in state funds to both (\$4.5 million in grants and a \$2 million loan), leveraging investments made by the local community, state and federal agencies, and the company. In return, the newly announced facility expansion is expected to contribute \$128 million a year to the economy, pay more than \$1 million a year in state tax revenues from construction and operations and create hundreds of new jobs.

The division's biennial airport economic impact study kicked off in March with a briefing for airport officials on plans for the new study and their role in data collection. The impact figures are used to prioritize funding for some state grant programs, as legislatively mandated. Study results are combined with information on the state's aviation industry to produce the *North Carolina: The State of Aviation* report, which will be released in January 2023. Additionally, the report is used to educate and engage stakeholders of the state's 72 public airports and support business recruitment.

A new North Carolina Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academies Grant Program relaunched in FY 2022. The week-long ACE summer camps expose youth to a variety of high-demand aviation careers and give them a solid foundation of aerospace knowledge. The division awarded \$3,000 grants to five airports for six academies for middle and high school students held in the summer of 2022. One camp was held in June 2022 (within FY 2022). The others were held in July and August.

In another talent development initiative, the division's annual North Carolina Art Contest was funded for the third year in a row by the North Carolina Airports Association. It is part of the division's effort to expose young people to aviation and inspire the next generation of aviation talent. Despite school disruptions caused by the pandemic, we received 1,322 entries from 55 counties, 165 towns and 133 schools.

Airport Training and Resources

The Division of Aviation offers the North Carolina Airport Technical Assistance Program (NC AirTAP), which provides professional development and resources that improve the financial and operational capabilities of staff at the state's 72 publicly funded airports and encourages sound stewardship of public funds. Our signature program is the 12-course series launched in 2018, called the Airport Leadership and Management Program (ALMP), which works to strengthen management of the state's public airports. ALMP covers every aspect of airport management, from infrastructure development to finance to operations.

In FY 2022, we completed the first 12-course series, as well as the first two courses in a second offering of the

series, serving 182 airport staff in all. We also awarded 24 North Carolina Airport Professional credentials to N.C. airport managers who completed the required nine of 12 courses.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS PROGRAM

Summary of Activities

Unmanned aircraft systems, (UAS, or drones) offer the potential to transform how we live and work but require a complex system of infrastructure and regulation to do so. North Carolina, at the forefront of developing such a system since 2014, continued to achieve significant advances in drone use for business and government purposes during FY 2022.

Advancing Commercial Use of Drones. NCDOT continued playing a leading national role in integrating drones into the National Airspace System in FY 2022 as one of eight U.S. teams selected for the Federal Aviation Administration's BEYOND program, which aims to enable commercially viable, repeatable and scalable beyond visual line of sight drone operations.

NCDOT works with companies on the leading edge of developing, making and using UAS technologies and with the FAA to test and prove safe new uses for drones (*See BEYOND partner table on page 8*). This allows North Carolina to lead the nation in many new commercial uses for drones and positions our state for business investment in this emerging industry. It also helps push and shape FAA regulation that will enable this new frontier of air transportation.

In FY 2022, North Carolina helped BEYOND partners continue achieving national firsts. Atrium Wake Forest Baptist Health and UPS Flight Forward launched the nation's first drone vaccine deliveries. Drone delivery company Zipline became the third U.S. company (and second N.C. partner) certified by FAA as a drone carrier, establishing a solid foundation for commercial medical package delivery. BEYOND partners Flytrex and Causey Aviation expanded nation-leading drone food and retail deliveries to a third N.C. community (Holly Springs). Advancing novel commercial drone missions like these helps attract other innovative companies to North Carolina.

Expand Drone Use Across Government. The division's UAS Program also leads the state's efforts to integrate drones for government use, particularly across NCDOT, with operations that are more efficient, safer and less costly than traditional methods.

NCDOT gained national attention in February 2022 for launching the nation's first tethered drones on state Incident Management Assistance Patrol (IMAP) trucks. Drones tethered on cables can be instantly deployed at incident scenes to assess incidents and live stream video feeds to NCDOT traffic management centers to provide situational awareness and assist with traffic management.

The UAS Program tested how drones can support Division of Aviation visual inspections of airport runways and other pavements that airports and the division need to plan for pavement maintenance that extends their usable life. Drones captured detailed, high-resolution images quickly and efficiently, providing a valuable tool for division and airport staff.

Also in FY 2022, the division completed 119 drone missions to support NCDOT units and 18 missions to support other government agencies. Missions ranged from conducting monitoring of infrastructure project sites and documenting beach erosion and landslide scenes to spraying herbicides on invasive species in environmentally sensitive wetlands.

The division provided 41 consultations and training sessions for more than 300 people in eight state and local agencies. That included platform-specific training for unit personnel to demonstrate drone capabilities with agencies interested in exploring how drones can be used to improve their operations. As of August 2022,

NCDOT has drones supporting operations in all 14 NCDOT highway divisions.

North Carolina's leadership in UAS integration is widely acknowledged and results in invitations to speak to and head national integration efforts. For instance, Division of Aviation Director Bobby Walston was asked to co-chair the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' UAS/AAM Working Group with Kansas Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz. The working group develops and provides guidance for state transportation leaders on emerging technologies.

The division was also asked to host the Federal Highway Administration Southeast Regional UAS Workshop in May. Thirteen state departments of transportation attended to learn about innovative ways to integrate drones into their operations.

NCDOT's drone operations was honored as a finalist in the Association for Uncrewed Vehicles Systems International 2022 XCELLENCE Award for innovative uses of drones in transportation, such as the nation's first FAA-approved drone bridge inspection by a state department of transportation that was beyond the visual line of sight of the operator.

Managing UAS Permitting System. North Carolina since 2016 has operated the nation's first and still only permitting system for government and commercial drone operators, mandated by the N.C. General Assembly. The online system provides an easily accessible way for commercial and government operators to gain the knowledge of state and federal regulations required to operate drones safely and legally in North Carolina and apply for a N.C. drone operator permit. A total of 3,053 N.C. drone operator permits were issued in FY 2022.

NCDOT and State Agency Drones

The following table shows the total numbers of drones owned, subtotaled by units, of the Department of Transportation and by other state agencies with the purpose and uses of drones in each unit and agency.

North Carolina State Agency Drone Ownership and Usage

Agency	No. of Drones	Uses
Department of Administration	1	Photograph state-owned buildings
Department of Commerce	0	
Department of Environmental Quality	22	Emergency response, surveying and mapping
Department of Health and Human Services	4	Surveying, including areas that are radioactive
Department of Information Technology	0	
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	0	
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	3	Marketing, historic site photography
Department of Public Safety	49	Emergency response, search and rescue operations, collision reconstruction
Department of Revenue	0	
Department of Transportation	68	<i>See drones owned by NCDOT units below</i>
• Aviation	38	Loaner drones provided to NCDOT units; complex missions for units such as inspections, surveys, mapping, volumetric measuring
• Communications	2	Marketing, video, pictures

• Environmental Analysis	2	Invasive plant species control
• Highway Division 1	2	Inspections, surveys, mapping, photos, video, monitoring, disaster response
• Highway Division 3	1	Inspections, surveys, mapping, photos, video, monitoring, disaster response
• Highway Division 8	1	Inspections, surveys, mapping, photos, video, monitoring, disaster response
• Locations and Surveys	15	Inspection, surveys, mapping, photos, video, monitoring, disaster response. A drone is stationed in each district.
• Photogrammetry	2	Photogrammetry work
• Roadside Environmental	2	Photos, video, environmental assessments
• Safety & Risk Management	3	Inspections, surveys, mapping, photos, video, monitoring, disaster response

** The Division of Aviation manages drone usage for NCDOT units and supports other state agencies, upon request, but has no authority to manage drones for other state agencies. The data in the table for non-NCDOT state agencies were compiled from information provided by the N.C. Department of Insurance, which insures state-owned drones, and phone calls to the agencies.*

Private-sector Partnerships

The UAS Program enters into teaming agreements with private-sector partners who are interested in and capable of advancing the routine commercial operation of drones in North Carolina as part of our participation in the FAA's BEYOND program.

BEYOND partners are UAS service providers and users who collaborate with NCDOT, FAA and each other to test and demonstrate how to safely operate aircraft in low-altitude air space and fly safely beyond the operator's visual line of sight.

Here is a list of NCDOT's BEYOND partners and the innovations they are advancing as of this report date.

NCDOT BEYOND Partner	Headquarters	North Carolina Focus
Aerial Vantage	Washington, D.C.	Targeting beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) UAS remote sensing for scaled long-range precision agriculture, forestry and infrastructure inspections.
AeroX	Winston-Salem, NC	Funded by the North Carolina General Assembly to develop an urban advanced air mobility system, which includes low-altitude airspace surveillance to enable BVLOS for drone operators.
ANRA Technologies Inc.	Reston, VA	Providing UAS traffic management and workflow orchestration software state and local governments can use to post warnings of activities within their jurisdictions.
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist	Winston-Salem, NC	Conducting UAS medical drone delivery operations across North Carolina in partnership with UPS Flight Forward.

NCDOT BEYOND Partner	Headquarters	North Carolina Focus
Causey Aviation Unmanned Inc.	Liberty, NC	Developing BVLOS drone deliveries of food and retail items from Walmart, Brinker International, Papa Johns and others in partnership with Flytrex, operating in three N.C. communities seven days a week.
Climavision	Louisville, KY	Providing proprietary weather radar infrastructure and low-altitude micro-weather forecasting services for UAS and AAM operations across the state.
Flytrex Inc.	Apex, NC	Providing business-to-consumer autonomous delivery service for retailers and quick-service restaurants in suburban areas.
Matternet	Mountain View, CA	Providing FAA type-certified UAS to UPS Flight Forward to support Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist.
Novant Health Inc.	Winston-Salem, NC	Exploring ways to expand medical drone delivery operations using small UAS and larger UAS platforms.
Skydio Inc.	Redwood City, CA	Providing small UAS equipment and operational support for NCDOT infrastructure inspections.
Spirent	Holmdel, NJ	Providing position, navigation and timing expertise and services capable of predicting and assuring GPS accuracy for UAS traffic management.
Spright	Gilbert, AZ	Delivering medical supplies and healthcare products for business clients in North Carolina and pursuing a Federal Aviation Regulations Part 135 (air carrier) operator certification.
UPS Flight Forward Inc.	Fishersville, KY	Operating Federal Aviation Regulations Part 135 drone delivery operations at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, flying time- and temperature-sensitive payloads to multiple locations on the hospital campus.
WakeMed	Raleigh, NC	Exploring ways to expand medical drone delivery operations using small UAS and larger UAS platforms.
Xwing	San Francisco, CA	Conducting large UAS cargo delivery operations in support of UPS Flight Forward and NCDOT and pursuing a supplemental type certificate for their optionally piloted aircraft.
Zipline International Inc.	Half Moon Bay, CA	Conducting BVLOS UAS delivery operations in partnership with health systems and other healthcare partners in North Carolina.

MANNED FLIGHT OPERATIONS

The Division of Aviation's Flight Operations team provides flight services for passenger and photogrammetry missions of state agency personnel conducting state business.

The following table shows the total number of trips and flight hours by each manned aircraft owned by the Department of Transportation, subtotaled by agency, fees charged to each agency and total cost of providing services to each agency.

NCDOT Aviation Aircraft Flights, Charges and Costs

Agency	Trips	Flight Hours	Fees Charged to Agency*	Total Cost of Services to NCDOT
Passenger Service Aircraft (King Air B200)				
N.C. Department of Agriculture	4	12.20	\$11,840	\$21,960
N.C. Department of Commerce	12	23.15	\$24,780	\$41,670
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality	3	4.90	\$5,880	\$8,820
N.C. Governor's Office	3	5.85	\$7,020	\$10,530
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services	10	14.25	\$12,100	\$25,650
N.C. Department of Information Technology	1	5.50	\$7,037	\$9,900
N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	3	3.43	\$4,116	\$6,174
N.C. Department of Public Safety	10	15.80	\$15,480	\$28,440
N.C. Department of Revenue	1	2.60	\$3,120	\$4,680
N.C. Department of Transportation	22	78.85	\$141,930**	\$141,930
N.C. State University	6	17.10	\$20,520	\$30,780
UNC - Medical Air	1	1.70	\$2,040	\$3,060
Cooper for North Carolina	7	6.88	\$20,908	\$12,384
Maintenance, Test & Training Flights	11	8.10	\$14,580**	\$14,580
Passenger Service Aircraft Subtotal	94	200.31	\$291,351	\$360,558
Photogrammetry Service Aircraft (King Air C90)				
NCDOT Photogrammetry Service	49	120.20	\$234,390**	\$234,390
Maintenance, Test & Training Flights	2	4.20	\$8,190**	\$8,190
Photogrammetry Service Aircraft Subtotals	51	124.40	\$242,580	\$242,580
Total for Both Services	145	324.71	\$533,931	\$603,138

* Agencies outside NCDOT are charged the direct operating costs associated with their flights.

** NCDOT incurs all costs associated with its flights, which include the direct operating costs and the fixed (overhead) costs it incurs to run the flight department.

SAFETY AND EDUCATION

The Division of Aviation's safety and education programs are designed to support a safe and vibrant air transportation system and build the talent pipeline for our aviation workforce.

In FY 2022, our safety and education programs focused on seven areas to improve the operations of public airports, support the use of drones by NCDOT and other government agencies and inspire the next generation of talent for our state's aviation sectors.

The following table provides a summary of activities related to safety and education, including total expenditures, number and description of programs and the number of participants for fiscal year 2022. (Note: Wildlife hazard programs are reported for the federal fiscal year of Oct. 1, 2021-Sept. 30, 2022).

Program	Total Expenditures	Number of Programs	Description	Number of Participants
Airport Leadership and Management Program <i>*Cost is the total annual contract amount for the North Carolina Airport Technical Assistance Program (NC AirTAP), which helps N.C. airports improve the safety, quality and efficiency of their operations and increase the use of new aviation materials and technology.</i>	\$173,473*	4	North Carolina Airport Technical Assistance Program (NC AirTAP) aims to improve financial and operational management of the state's publicly funded airports.	182
Airport Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Training <i>**Cost is the total annual USDA contract amount for five trainings and 21 airport site assessments.</i>	\$78,114**	5	Training, assessments and mitigation provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service Wildlife Services under an annual contract that runs on the federal fiscal year schedule of Oct. 1-Sept. 30.	48
State Capital and Infrastructure Fund Grantee Training	\$0	2	Training on how to claim these legislatively directed funds and how to track expenditures, report and maintain documentation required to comply with state law.	147
Government Agency Drone Operator Certification Preparation Training	\$9,500	1	We help personnel prepare for their Part 107 Remote Pilot Certification test to encourage use of drones that increase operational efficiencies, improve safety and reduce costs.	2,303
Government Agency Drone Training and Demonstrations	\$3,000	8	We demonstrate, train and assist other government agencies, upon request, to use drones for operations that increase safety and efficiency and lower costs.	1,079
STEM Events	\$0	29	We demonstrate, educate, and participate in science and technology events that expose and inspire North Carolina residents, particularly young people, to pursue careers in the aviation industry.	2,495

Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academies <i>***Reimbursement of expenses up to \$3,000 per academy will be paid to airports in FY 2023 for academies hosted in summer 2022.</i>	\$0***	1	Weeklong summer academies expose youth to a variety of high-demand aviation careers to inspire the next generation of talent. For summer 2022, one camp was held in June (reported here for FY 22). Five others were held in July and August and will be reported in the FY 2023 annual report.	30
Total	\$264,087	50		6,284