

FACT SHEET – NEEDS BY MODE

AVIATION



CONNECTIONS TO LRTP GOALS

E Economic Vitality & Freight Movement

M Multimodal Mobility, Reliability & Accessibility

S Safety & Security for All Users

West Virginia's 7 commercial service airports and 34 public use airports play a vital role in the State's economy, providing employment opportunities and essential services to local communities and businesses. As highlighted in the 2018 West Virginia State Freight Plan, the State has identified the need for expanding reasonably sized airports across the state to promote development. Investments such as terminal expansion improved access can increase freight and passenger volumes.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Multiple MPO representatives noted that aviation was the most important non-highway issue for their community's economic future

There is an emphasis on the need for smooth intermodal connections between highway/rail modes and airports to support freight movement

Historically, about 90% of airport projects are funded by the FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP)



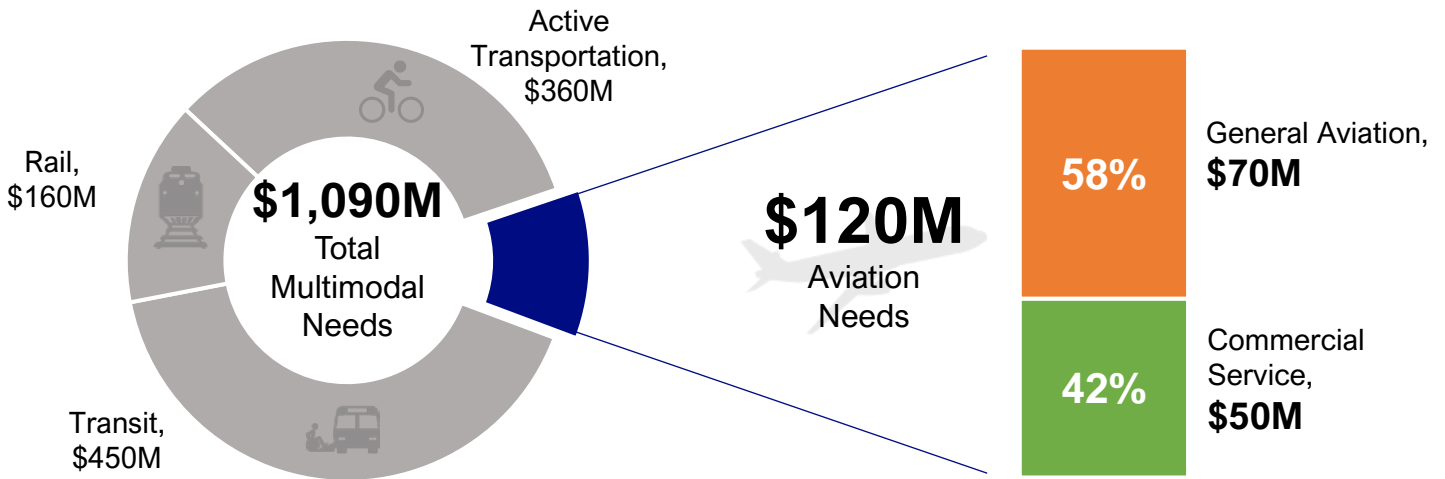
To forecast aviation needs, projects were primarily gathered from the FAA AIP Grants for West Virginia projects and the WVAC 2020 and 2019 Annual Reports. The 2018 WV State Freight Plan also provided one project associated an airport runway extension. All projects were then inflated/deflated to the year 2020 to display all costs in current-year dollars.

FORECASTING METHOD

Sources considered: [FAA AIP Grant Detail Reports](#) as of 9/24/2020, [WVAC 2020](#) and 2019 Annual Reports, and the [2018 WV State Freight Plan](#)

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OPPORTUNITIES

Track and implement strategic, site specific opportunities to expand or modernize aviation and aeronautical infrastructure or partnerships through findings of the on-going West Virginia Aviation Economic Impact Study.

TRENDS AND EMERGING NEEDS

Beyond the short-term decline in demand due to COVID-19, West Virginia airports are expected to see annual increases in passenger and freight volumes. Unmet infrastructure needs could hinder the state's aviation industry from remaining competitive, including expanding unmanned aerial system (UAS) opportunities.

SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM FORECASTS



- Continue to support the six main goals and objectives identified in the 2019 West Virginia Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Commission Annual report
- Continue to implement construction projects to meet future passenger and freight demands such as the expansion of Yeager Airport
- Research opportunities and emerging technologies for repurposing airport infrastructure to service UAS and future urban air mobility