Minnesota Airports Conference
April 20–22, 2016
Madden’s on Gull Lake, Brainerd, MN
Town Hall Conference Center

Plan to attend the 2016 Minnesota Airports Conference in Brainerd! The conference is brought to you by the Minnesota Council of Airports and the Minnesota Department of Transportation and is facilitated by the Airport Technical Assistance Program (AirTAP).

Conference highlights:
• Experts in aviation and aerospace fields sharing their experiences in general assembly presentations, workshops, and open forums
• Technical and safety presentations
• Airport tour
• Industry trade show
• Awards and recognition program
• Networking opportunities
• The Minnesota Council of Airports annual meeting

The Minnesota Airports Conference focuses on airport management, operations, and maintenance but is open to anyone interested in aviation.

More details are available at:
www.airtap.umn.edu/events/airportsconference/2016

Costs for this event are reimbursable through the MnDOT Aeronautics maintenance and operations funds policy.

For more information, call Julie Schmitz at 612-624-4754.
Minnesota Airports Conference  •  Program Agenda

Wednesday, April 20, 2016
8:00–11:00 a.m.  Vendor setup and registration
9:15–9:30 a.m.  Board buses to East Gull Lake Airport
9:45–10:45 a.m.  turbulence Tour/Technical Session  Join Scott Hoffmann (Madden’s), Eric Rudinghen (Wilmar), Larry Lund (Sleepy Eye), John Ostrow (MAC), and Al Schumacher (USDA) for a walking tour focused on turf strip maintenance and other related GA airport maintenance best practices.
10:00–11:00 a.m.  Commercial Service Airports Meeting
11:00 a.m.  Exhibit hall opens
11:00–11:55 a.m.  Concurrent Sessions  Air Service Development Challenges and Emerging Trends Impacting Non-hub Airports  Join Mike Mooney (Sixel), Faye Malarkey (FAA), and Bill Swelbar (InterVista) in a discussion of emerging trends and challenges facing regional or non-hub airports.
Technology, Social Media & Public Engagement for Small Airports  Hear from Natalie Peterson (DLH) and Sara Rudolf (MnDOT) about creative ways to employ technology and social media and how to effectively reach your target audience by working with the community.
Noon–1:00 p.m.  Opening luncheon with “Hoot” Gibson  Hear from naval aviator, astronaut, aviation accident investigator, and air race pilot Robert “Hoot” Gibson as he shares experiences and insights from his storied career.
1:00–2:00 p.m.  FAA Update  Hear an update from the Dakota-Minnesota ADO representative Andy Peak and Great Lakes Administrator Barry Cooper on funding and policy topics at the FAA.
2:00–3:00 p.m.  MnDOT Update  Join MnDOT Aeronautics director Cassandra Iackson as she shares the latest funding and policy topics at MnDOT.
3:00–4:00 p.m.  Networking with colleagues and exhibitors
3:00–3:45 p.m.  Airport Liability and Risk Management  Pick up tips from Hoot Gibson on airport risk management best practices and airport liability topics.
4:00–5:00 p.m.  MnDOT Annual Meeting
5:15–8:00 p.m.  Social mixer with hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, and live music
Thursday, April 21, 2016
7:30–8:30 a.m.  Breakfast and exhibit hall open  Exhibits will be open throughout the day to allow more time to visit vendors and network.
7:30–8:30 a.m.  MnDOT Breakfast board meeting
8:30–9:30 a.m.  Concurrent Sessions  Airlane Pilot Shortage Discussion  Hear from industry leaders Mike Mooney (Sixel), Faye Malarkey (FAA), and Bill Swelbar (InterVista) about this challenge to sustainable air service in regional centers.
Your Community’s Front Door: Is Your Airport “Minnesota Nice”?  Does your airport provide a positive and lasting impression on visitors? Learn what matters most to pilots and passengers and hear about cost-effective strategies for improvements.
9:30–10:15 a.m.  Networking with colleagues and exhibitors
10:15 a.m.–11:30 a.m.  Minimum Standards 101  Hear from Pablo Nuesch (Spiegel & McDermid Law), John DeCoster (Trillion Aviation), and Evan Wilson (MAC) about why minimum standards are an important regulatory tool in an airport manager’s toolkit.
11:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m.  Awards Luncheon  Join us as we recognize scholarship recipients and those receiving awards for excellence in aviation.
1:15–2:15 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions  Retail Fuel vs. Self Fuel  Get advice from industry professionals Pablo Nuesch (Spiegel & McDermid Law), John DeCoster (Trillion Aviation), and Evan Wilson (MAC) on the difference between and correct application of retail vs. self fuel.
Emerging Technology to Administer and Maintain Small Airports  Learn how to administer and maintain your airport.
Airport Career Panel  Learn about career options available in aviation! Meet aviation professionals Rachel Obermoller (MnDOT), Jake Martin (FAA), Jacque Gamet (SEH), and Joe Hedrick ( Thief River Falls) and learn about their education, daily work experience, and the road they took to their current position.
2:15–3:15 p.m.  Airport Sustainability  Sustainability can be a pathway to saving money and protecting the environment. Learn about simple ways you can make your airport sustainable from Tricia Faninato (TKOA), Tiffany Finley (MSP), and Josh Fitzpatrick (FAA).
3:15–4:00 p.m.  Networking, visit vendors, and ice cream social
4:00–5:00 p.m.  Airport Lease/Development Agreements  Learn best practices in structuring leases and developing agreements from John DeCoster (Trillion Aviation), Chris Smith (League of Minnesota Cities), and Greg Reigel (Reigel Law Firm and the League of Minnesota Cities).
6:00–6:30 p.m.  BBQ Mixer with MnVikings and Twins players  Enjoy a BBQ buffet and meet Minnesota Vikings player Adam Thielen and former Minnesota Twin Jack Morris.
Friday, April 22, 2016
7:00–8:00 a.m.  Breakfast
8:00–9:00 a.m.  State of the Airport Business with Jeff Hamiel  Hear what’s happening on Minnesota’s aviation scene from the MAC executive director in this engaging and popular session.
8:30–9:30 a.m.  UAVs—What Does the Airport Manager Need to Know?  Hear from Jon Beck (Northland) about the types of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operations, current state and federal laws, requirements for flying UAVs legally, coordinating with UAV operators, and options for use that may threaten an airport.
9:30–10:30 a.m.  Airport Zoning Update  During development of the 2012 State Aviation System Plan, stakeholders asked MnDOT to begin a process to review airport safety zoning requirements. Come hear an update on this and the proposed legislative changes from speakers Ryan Gaug (MnDOT), Shaun Germolus (MCOA), and Neil Ralston (MAC).
10:30–11:00 a.m.  Conference wrap-up and prize drawing

Don’t miss this year’s meet-and-greet with Minnesota sports pros!

Adam Thielen, Minnesota Vikings wide receiver, and Jack Morris, winning pitcher for the Minnesota Twins in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series, will be sharing their experiences and views on the persistence and work ethic that drove their careers at the 2016 Minnesota Airports Conference in Brainerd. This will be an opportunity for conference participants to meet and hear from two native Minnesotans who have excelled in professional sports.

Hear astronaut ‘Hoot’ Gibson speak at opening luncheon

Robert “Hoot” Gibson—naval aviator, astronaut, aviation crash investigator, and air race pilot—will speak at the opening luncheon about his tour of duty in the Navy, his experience piloting aircraft, his life as an astronaut, and his current career as an aviation expert witness.