If you’re flying: The Mankato City Center Hotel is approximately 5 miles southwest of Mankato Regional Airport. A complimentary airport shuttle is available.

If you’re driving: The Mankato City Center Hotel is approximately 80 miles southwest of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area.

From the Twin Cities: Take Hwy. 169 south and exit at ramp marked “Downtown – North Mankato – Mankato.” At the stoplight, turn left onto Belgrade Ave. Follow Belgrade Ave. across the river; stay in the rightmost lane and turn right onto 2nd Street (it’s the first right turn right off the bridge). Travel one block on 2nd Street and turn right onto Main Street. Hotel is on the left-hand side of Main Street.

From the south: Take Hwy. 169 north to Riverfront Drive/MN 66 exit and turn right onto S. Riverfront Drive/MN 66. Turn right at East Main Street.

If you won’t find anywhere else

By attending this year’s AirTAP Fall Forum, you’ll gain knowledge relevant to your job and creative solutions to meet its challenges. And the relationships you forge with other airport professionals can help you throughout the year.

What you’ll learn:

• How results from a recent rates and charges study can help you make informed decisions for your airport.

• Tips for forming mutual aid agreements with your city or county to share equipment and staff.

• Maintenance techniques during a tour of Mankato Regional Airport.

• Strategies to better maintain control of your airport’s airspace.

• Ideas for using social media, e-mail, and online marketing to benefit your airport.

— and much more from your colleagues and experts in Minnesota aviation!

You’ll also take home a comprehensive resource notebook that includes reference materials for all sessions.

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Thursday, September 27

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
Registration/Breakfast/Networking

9:00 – 9:40 a.m.  
Welcome and Icebreaker

Sponsors: Presenters: Chris Roy, director, MnDOT Office of Aeronautics; Shaun Germlus, Range Regional Airport, AirportAdmin, and Minnesota Council of Airports; Federal Aviation Administration representative; Jim Grothaus, AirTAP/Center for Transportation Studies.

This opening session, you’ll have a chance to meet each other as well as hear from MnDOT, the FAA, and MCOA.

9:40 – 10:45 a.m.  
Rates and Charges

This session will highlight a recent study conducted by AirTAP and MCOA that can help prepare you to make informed and economically smart decisions for safe and efficient operation. Kimberly Kenville of the University of North Dakota and Shaun Germlus will provide a 45’ overview and then dive into the rates and charges study.

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.  
Break

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.  
Concrete Pavement Rehabilitation

The Mankato Airport has one of the few concrete runways in the state. This session will provide an overview of what will be covered during the technical tours at the airport later in the day. In this session, led by Matt Zeller with the MN Concrete Pavement Association and Dan Frennstorm with the Aggregate Ready Mix Association, you’ll learn about the benefits of using concrete and how to maintain it.

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  
An Airport’s Evolution: The Story of the Mankato Airport

At this third annual “Airport’s Evolution” session, learn how the Mankato Airport evolved and what’s new in the field. MNSU Assistant Professor Tom Peterson will discuss what the program offers students and what’s new in the field.

1:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Mankato Airport Walking Tour

Join us for a walking tour of the Mankato Airport and get practical instruction on inspections, concrete pavement maintenance, and ag spraying.

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.  
Conversation with Jeff Hamiel

Always a crowd pleaser, this session with the MAC executive director is one you don’t want to miss. Hamiel will share his thoughts on general aviation in this engaging session that will give you a chance to ask questions and discuss current issues.

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Networking Reception

6:00 p.m.  
Dinner on your own

Friday, September 28

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.  
Buffet Breakfast

8:15 – 8:45 a.m.  
Airport Jeopardy!

Have breakfast and join us for an exciting game of Airport Jeopardy! Do you have what it takes to be a successful contestant? Come find out.

8:45 – 9:45 a.m.  
Airport Mutual Aid Agreements

How can an airport work with local organizations to assist with maintenance and operations? Hear how to partner with your city or county to optimize resources and share equipment and staff for better operations.

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.  
MNSU Aviation Program (NEW)

Hear how the aviation management program at Minnesota State University, Mankato trains and educates students for successful aviation careers. MNSU Assistant Professor Tom Peterson will discuss what the program offers students and what’s new in the field.

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.  
Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Land Acquisition

Maintaining airspace around your airport may be a challenge in the face of development pressures. Hear from a panel of airport managers about how they responded to that challenge and get ideas for how to maintain control in light of conflicting local priorities.

11:30 a.m. – Noon  
Jet Blast: Using Electronic Communications and Social Networking to Promote Your Airport

Ever wondered how your airport could benefit from social media, e-mail, or online marketing? Owatonna Airport did, and now you can find it on Facebook. Come learn about cost-effective marketing strategies for small airports and resources and guidebooks available. You’ll leave with ideas for marketing your airport to the local aviation community.

 Noon – 12:45 p.m.  
Lunch

12:45 – 1:15 p.m.  
Using GIS for Inspections and Identifying Obstructions

The FAA uses GIS to identify obstructions at your airport. Other tools are also available to enhance the information and help with taking inventory of all the elements at your airport.

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.  
Plowing Strategies

Plowing at an airport presents a variety of unusual constraints not found on the local streets. Learn how to educate city and airport maintenance staff on plowing, where to store snow, and how to implement guidelines for maintaining a safe airport. Also hear how to develop a snow and ice control plan to educate new users and airport maintenance staff.

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.  
Wrap-up and evaluations

Annual Conference Schedule:

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.  
Registration/Breakfast/Networking

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
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