Who We Are

Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration (MDOT MAA) goals are to meet the air service needs of Maryland and to promote safety and security, environmental stewardship and economic development. The Office of Regional Aviation Assistance (ORAA) carries out these goals by fostering, developing and regulating aeronautical activities within the State. ORAA recommends policies governing aeronautical activity, manages State financial and technical assistance grant programs, and licenses and regulates Maryland's airports. There are 130 airports in the State, including 34 public-use facilities with three offering scheduled commercial air carrier service.

MDOT MAA participates in:

- Airport Safety Compliance Program
- Airport Improvement Programs
- Airport Briefings
- Industry Safety Seminars
- Regional Conferences and Fly-ins

Materials for distribution:

- Maryland Aeronautical Charts
- Maryland Airport Directories
- Recreational UAS Guidance flyer
- Maryland Airport Radio Frequency Cards
- Airport Website & Email Listing links

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Office of Regional Aviation Assistance

P.O. Box 8766, BWI Airport, MD 21240-0766

www.MarylandRegionalAviation.aero

410-859-7751 / CDorman@mdot.state.md.us

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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Office of Regional Aviation Assistance

Management and Design Assistance

ORAA provides management assistance to all airport owners by:

- Surveying proposed landing areas
- Conducting traffic counts
- Evaluating obstructions
- Offering aviation advice and direction

ORAA provides assistance to airports and local governments to:

- Preserve and improve existing airports
- Plan new facilities to meet future needs
- Expand services at existing facilities

Airport Programs

Inspection and Licensing

ORAA conducts annual inspections and issues Airport Operating Licenses to public-use and private-use facilities. State and federal regulations are used to establish standards by which the airports can be measured. Inspection results are disseminated to pilots through federal flight publications. This provides a level of standardization for Maryland's public-use airports, and subsequently, a better understanding of the conditions that can be expected at each airport.

Airport Safety Equipment Loans

ORAA assists airports by lending them equipment, including rotating beacons, ground-to-air radios, windsocks, low frequency radio navigation transmitters, runway lights and communication radios. This program ensures an airport maintains the level of equipment needed to operate safely, regardless of the airport owner's ability to provide it.

Aviation Safety

ORAA promotes aviation safety in cooperation with the Federal, local and industry groups through safety/accident prevention seminars and tall structure airspace reviews. ORAA also publishes and distributes aeronautical charts, airport directories, radio frequency cards and other pocket-sized aids that can be used in flight planning and navigation. As necessary, ORAA issues safety alerts and important aviation announcements to pilot associations and airport operators. MDOT MAA supports safe integration of all National Airspace System users to include manned operations and unmanned operations.

Aerospace Education

The State supports aviation education and career awareness in Maryland through teacher workshops, student-teacher fly-ins, aviation art contests and visits to schools. ORAA staff provide general aviation briefings and presentations at public meetings, seminars, air shows, flying clubs, pilot association meetings and other aviation-related events.

Grant Programs

In FY 2024, under the authority of the Secretary of Transportation, MDOT MAA allocated $2.8 million for new safety projects. During this period, the federal government contributed $30 million and local airport owners contributed $4.31 million.*

Airport Improvement Program

AIP provides federal funding through grants to public-use airports meeting specific needs.

Projects Include:

- Runway, Taxiway, & Ramp Repair & Upgrade
- Airfield Lighting Systems Repair & Upgrade
- Tree & Obstacle Removal

If an airport meets the program criteria, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will cover 90% of the costs, and the State and airport each contribute 5% of the total project cost.

Maryland Assistance to Private Airports

MAPA provides financial grants to airports that are open to the public, but are privately owned and not eligible for federal aid.

Projects Include:

- Runway and taxiway improvements
- Navigational aids
- Airport safety-related projects

Under this program, the State provides 90% of the funding and the airport owner contributes the remaining 10%. MAPA eligible projects compete for the same funds in the Statewide Aviation Grant program.

*Excludes funding for Baltimore/Washington International Marshall Airport and Martin State Airport