

CEDAR CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2026

A regular meeting of the Cedar City Regional Airport Board was held on Thursday, August 13th, 2026, at 8:00 AM in the Cedar City Regional Airport Conference Room located at 2560 West Aviation Way, Cedar City, Utah.

PRESENT:

John Appel, Chair
Jeff Frehner, Member
Mark Leavitt, Member
Mike Bleak, Member
Waldo Galan, Councilman
Tyler Galetka, Airport Manager
Ryan Marshall, Public Works Director
Anna Hernandez, PW Executive Assistant

Michael Bryant – Airport Ops
J.J. McGuire - FBO
Chris Cox, SUU

ABSENT

Kim Ellis, Member
Maria Twitchell, Member

PHONE-IN

Amy LeFevre - Visitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Galan moved motion to accept, Frehner seconded, and all I's were in favor that the minutes from July 9th meeting be approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- SkyWest – No representation. Galetka; Enplanements are slightly up year-over-year. A recent St. George closure shifted passengers to Cedar City, with TSA seeing about 100 extra people.

De-icing preparations are underway, the new truck had issues, but the old truck is available as a backup from St. George.

- Ardurra – No representation. Galetka; Ardurra's contract has ended. An RFQ is being created, and they are expected to participate in future RFPs.
- TSA – No representation. Their staffing remains short, with another staff member having left this month.
- BLM – No representation.
- FBO – McGuire; This has been a record-breaking fire season. In a seven-day period (late July to August), 200,000 gallons of jet fuel were sold, and on one day, 46,000 gallons were delivered. This activity has increased revenue for the city.

The Cedar City tanker base is understood to have the largest coverage area in the U.S., including Southern Nevada, parts of Arizona and Colorado.

Fuel and Vehicle updates; To increase capacity, the FBO will acquire a refurbished 2,200-gallon Ford and another 5,000-gallon truck, adding 7,200-gallons of mobile fuel storage.

- SUU – Cox; The semester is wrapping up. September 2nd will start again.

On September 3rd, Delta Fire will install sprinklers in SUU offices. The sale of some hangars is being considered after future move.

- Woolpert – No representation.
- Open Forum – Bleak; Bleak and Twitchell visited the St. George tower project with Layton Construction. Layton and the St. George airport manager Dustin have figured out the funding process and are willing to help. Their tower withstood a recent lightning strike due to over a million dollars in grounding and was funded with no out-of-pocket costs for the city.

Funding strategy and challenges; The primary obstacle is funding, not FAA approval, which requires a local match. State-level funding from the general fund is recommended over the restricted account to avoid impacting other airports' projects. The initial design and environmental studies are estimated at \$1-1.5 million. Using federal funds for this is risky, as they must be repaid if the project isn't completed. Equipment costs are also significant, estimated at around \$2.5 million. It was clarified that acceptance into the contract tower program does not guarantee federal funding for a new tower. Applications have been submitted.

Proposed Plan of Action; There was strong agreement on the need for the tower due to safety concerns. A proposal was made to invite Dustin and a representative from Layton Construction to speak to the board. The group agreed on the need for a unified push from the airport board, city council and county. Proactively funding the design and environmental work to create a "shovel-ready" project was suggested. The timing is crucial as state legislative sessions are beginning.

*Action Item: Schedule a meeting with Dustin (St. George airport manager) and Layton Construction representative and have them attend at the next meeting if possible.

Data and Lobbying Efforts; The airport has 160 safety reports from this year to build a case. A suggestion was made to analyze money spent on temporary towers to justify a permanent one. St. George's success was partly attributed to their city attorney lobbying at the Capitol. The group agreed that showing Representative Celeste the urgency of the situation is crucial before she leaves the district around September 1st.

Leavitt to contact James Leavitt to follow up on visit from Representative Celeste.

A lobbyist is already funded (by SUU) to represent the aviation program in D.C. and at the state legislature. Begin focused lobbying efforts with state and federal representatives.

Open Forum – Appel; Inquiry status on airport board vacancy. A position on the airport board remains vacant, the status is the mayor is working on it.

*Action Item: Galetka to follow up with the mayor regarding board vacancy.

Also, Appel; AOPA Fly-in Event, with the changes with AOPA (Aircraft Owner & Pilot Association) and the airport. The airport was previously in line to host an AOPA fly-in event. The group discussed re-engaging with AOPA, noting it would require significant hangar space, office space, and facilities.

AIRPORT UPDATE

- Project Report
 - Snow Removal Equipment Shop Project – Airport still working to construct equipment shop office, is planned for construction next month.
 - Terminal Office Expansion Wall – A wall will be built for security after an unauthorized person used the aviation radio. Will be paid out of the Operational budget.
 - Runoff and Irrigation Ditch Cleanup - A shout out to the Streets department, who came out and cleared out all the ditches for the flood channels on the south end of the airport as well as the west end.
 - Taxiway A Safety Area Work – The Streets department also graded an area near Taxiway Alpha to mitigate water ponding.
 - Runway 2/20 Pavement Maintenance – No updates.
 - Airport CCTV Expansion – Request for Proposals (RFP) – An RFP will be issued on August 14, 2026, using the Capitol funds received this year. This is to expand and upgrade the CCTV system to the Hanwha system used by the police department, with a goal to complete the transition by the end of September. It will be taking over the badging process.
 - Airport Terminal Vending - Request for Proposals (RFP) – An RFP will be issued on August 13, 2026, for terminal vending machines. Request for food, and snack combo, either single machine or two separate machines. Required to have a credit card reader.

- Terminal Gate Area Concessions – A Keurig machine has been installed in the secure area, offering free coffee to passengers. K-pods to be shipped monthly, cost estimate on monthly basis to be evaluated.
- Aviation Way Street Signs - The airport is awaiting quotes from Cache Valley Electric for new Aviation Way sign brackets.
- Leakage Study – The airport consultant for the leakage study has not provided any updates and is unresponsive. The team is considering new firms and will decide on the direction after discussing this with the mayor.
- Record-Breaking Fire Season – Over 2.29 million gallons of fire retardant have been dispensed this season, surpassing previous records.

At its peak, nine aircraft were operating in a load-and-return pattern.

The apron has insufficient space, limiting parking to five aircraft and forcing tankers to be sent to other airports for overnight parking. This also prevented Super Scoopers from being based there this year. The base will be pressured to seek funding for apron expansion, and parking maps will be created to optimize space.

- Staff Update – Roman, a staff member is leaving on August 14th. A new part-time position is being hired to manage the Safety Management System. Hiring a part-time position to handle the Safety Management system that is due to the FAA by 2027.
- SUU Football Charter Season – Eight charters are scheduled for the upcoming season. Breeze has inquired about handling at least one.
- Airport Fly-In Dates - Local Fly-in Event Planning; A fly-in event is being planned for October 3rd, a date without football charter conflicts. Pledges have been made for three planes to provide rides, and it was suggested to contact the National Guard about a KC-135 static display and recruiting booth. The Civil Air Patrol will be involved.
- East Apron Marking Design Proposal – The east apron is scheduled for reconstruction next year to accommodate National Guard helicopters. Three design proposals for helicopter parking markings were reviewed on the screen.

Appel moved motion, Leavitt seconded and all I's were in favor and was passed to select Design Group 1, which preserves the most tie-down spots for small aircraft, subject to FAA approval. This plan is contingent on the FAA approving a downsized runway safety area.

- Airport Planning Consultant – Request for Qualifications (RFQ) – An RFQ for an airport planning consultant will be advertised starting August 17th for two weeks. A review committee will be formed to evaluate proposals around September 3rd.
- Airline Advisory Committee (AAC) – Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Action Items:
 - TSA GSA Lease Amendment – The GSA (General Service Administration) represents TSA in their lease. There is an amendment adding required federal DEI language to the TSA lease. To be presented as an Addendum.

Frehner moved motion, Bleak seconded and all I's were in favor to approve amendment and will be presented to city council.

As there was nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM.