



# PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



SUMMER 2020



# THANK YOU!

Alaska's Passenger & Cargo Carriers  
Are Keeping Alaska Moving



## Message from DC Binder:



Hello Alaska! Summer begins this year with a very different feel than past years, and I can't overexpress my appreciation for how all aspects of our aviation community have pulled together to get through this challenging time. Alaska's aviation system is vital to Alaskans' life, health and safety and provides vital access to 82% of our communities located off the road system. COVID-19 has brought significant disruption to the aviation industry and yet provided an opportunity for federal, state, and local partners to unite like never before.

Alaska's passenger and cargo carriers have kept our state moving and we can't thank them enough, and how fitting that Governor Mike Dunleavy proclaimed May as Aviation Appreciation Month! We have never been more thankful for how the industry has quickly stepped in to add new routes and adjust operations to ensure essential service to Alaskans. Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport also continues to play a vital role in not only the State's, but the national and world economies, supporting a boost in air cargo volumes that has made ANC the nation's and world's busiest airport several days this spring.

The department has been working closely with our federal TSA and FAA partners to quickly respond and support changes to new air service needs. New service to Cold Bay required TSA security screening and a huge team effort ensured the community and surrounding areas are now receiving 737 service. In addition, early service has

begun for Dillingham and King Salmon to meet increased passenger travel needs.

Aviation continues to be a bright spot for the State as federal funding provides a much-needed boost to the State and local economies. The FAA recently awarded \$102 million to the department's annual airport improvement program (AIP) with an additional \$124 million from the CARES Act awarded to all eligible airports across the state to mitigate impacts of the coronavirus to airport operations. With summer construction season upon us, I encourage you to review this issue's project map to familiarize with the significant infrastructure improvements taking place around the state.

Finally, as Alaska sees some dramatic shifts in air carrier operations statewide the Aviation Advisory Board will be bringing rural leaders, air carriers, and aviation stakeholder groups together to discuss the future of aviation in Alaska. The primary focus will be on ensuring that aviation remains sustainable, safe, and able to continue meeting the essential needs of Alaskans. Please watch for opportunities to be involved in these discussions as we need your input to *Keep Alaska Moving!*

Fly Safe Alaska,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Binder".

John Binder  
Deputy Commissioner



### **Cold Bay welcomes Alaska Airlines!**

Residents of Cold Bay, Unalaska, and other Aleutian communities now have scheduled passenger service. Thank you ASA for filling the void!

# ANC - World's Busiest Airport

ANC became the busiest airport in the world as pandemic supplies and daily essentials were flowing through this airport at a tremendous pace in April. Ground and flight support businesses have been working around-the-clock to ensure cargo planes full of protective gear, medical supplies and daily essentials continue to arrive on time.



## Samaritan's Purse Airlifts Medical Supplies to Alaska



Samaritan's Purse landed at ANC with over 8 tons of donated critical medical supplies for the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The supplies were then delivered to rural areas of the state through the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

## World's Largest Airplane Lands at ANC



The [Antonov 225](#) - landed at ANC enroute from China to Canada with medical supplies. Airplane geeks gathered around the airport to see the one-of-a-kind airplane. The plane stopped in Fairbanks on its return flight much to the delight of a crowd of onlookers.

# TSA Travel Tips

## Traveling During the COVID-19 Pandemic



TSA works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local health departments to monitor local situations as well as the health and safety of employees and the traveling public. If you choose to fly, or are getting ready to fly in the near future, read what TSA is doing to keep you, your family, and your community safe.

### Your Health is Paramount

First and foremost, travelers who believe they may have been in contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 should consult with their healthcare provider.

If you choose to fly, follow the guidance issued by the [CDC](#) and practice good hygiene, such as washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. We recommend travelers do this before and after the security screening process. You may wear a face covering if you choose, but you should be prepared to adjust your mask so that a TSA officer can visually confirm your identity during the checkpoint screening process.

### Clean Checkpoints

TSA has issued guidance to frontline employees to conduct routine cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and security screening

equipment at the TSA security checkpoint. TSA is also taking additional efforts to clean bins.

### ID Changes

If your driver's license or state-issued ID expired on or after March 1, 2020, you may still use it as acceptable identification at the checkpoint. TSA will accept expired driver's licenses or state-issued ID a year after expiration or 60 days after the duration of the emergency, whichever is longer. The Department of Homeland Security is extending the REAL ID enforcement deadline by a year.

**AK REAL ID Got Yours?**

Alaska residents will soon need one of the following forms of ID to fly on commercial airlines or visit a military base or other federal property:

- Alaska Real ID compliant driver's license or state ID
- A currently approved compliant ID like a passport, military ID, federally recognized tribal issued ID card with a photo, or others. For all accepted IDs, visit: [dhs.gov/real-id](https://dhs.gov/real-id)

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Jan. 2, 2019 – Alaska Real IDs become available  
Oct. 1, 2021 – Federally Compliant IDs become required to fly commercially

**What is a Real ID?**  
It's a driver's license or state ID that meets a higher standard required by federal law.

**Is it Mandatory?**  
No. Your regular Alaska driver's license or state ID will still be valid for all other identification purposes except flying or visiting federal properties.

Turn over for more information and tips →





In an effort to curtail vandalism at Alaska’s state owned and operated rural airports, the department sent a letter and flyers to numerous communities asking for assistance with keeping their airport safe and free of vandalism. DOT&PF stresses the importance of operational runway lights especially during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. During bad weather and night operations it is impossible for airplanes to use a runway without lights. This can affect flights into your airport for loved ones and food supplies.



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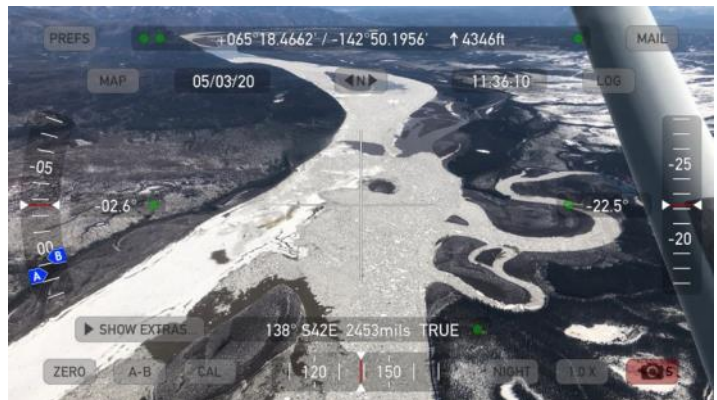


## OPERATION RIVER WATCH

### ALASKA PILOTS ASSIST WITH FLOOD PREDICTIONS

Article courtesy of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)

With limited means to monitor hazardous river conditions in Alaska, the National Weather Service is calling on general aviation pilots to lend a helping hand—or wing. The NWS is encouraging pilots who are able to adhere to travel restrictions to conduct flights in support of the River Watch Program, which relies on villagers and aircraft to provide reports of ice conditions in the area. In the past, PIREPs from pilots during River Watch flights have proven to be beneficial in informing the NWS of dangerous conditions. For example, spring 2009 breakup along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers resulted in the most destructive flooding in decades, but thanks to NWS warnings, which were issued partly from observational information gathered from pilots, communities made preparations to deal with high water and major flooding.



River ice on the Yukon River, looking upstream, at the mouth of the Charlie River. Ice floes are accumulating as they encounter solid ice that hasn't started to move yet. Photos like this, taken with the smartphone using the Theodolite app (or other programs that capture GPS location), are emailed to the National Weather Service to help hydrologists monitor possible flooding risks.

Photo by Tom George

Read full article here: [AOPA](#)

# DOT&PF Airport Projects

## USDOT Awards \$102M to Alaska's Airports

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded over \$102 million in airport and infrastructure grants to Alaska's airports. The total includes approximately \$72.2 million in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants and an additional \$29.9 million in Supplemental Discretionary grants. FAA's AIP funding is essential to our nation's aviation infrastructure development.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities oversees 239 airports, 10 ferries serving 35 communities, more than 5,600 miles of highway and 776 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to **"Keep Alaska Moving** through service and infrastructure."





## Awards

### **ANC Recognized with Balchen/Post Award *Airport Has Never Closed Due to Snow***

Snow removal crews at ANC won the Honorable Mention [Balchen/Post Award](#) for excellence in snow and ice control.

ANC leads the world in snow removal and de-icing capabilities. The five-time winner of the Balchen Post Award for Large Airport Snow Removal Programs, is proud of its record of never closing due to snowfall.

“The award is a reflection of the dedication and determination of the team of more than 100 Airfield Maintenance, Equipment Maintenance, Airfield Electricians, and Operations employees,” said Jim Szczesniak, Airport Manager. “Our airline customers expect ANC to keep the airfield safe during the most challenging of conditions. The ANC snow crews met the challenge and this award recognizes them as among the world’s elite snow fighters.”



### **Fairbanks International Airport Operator’s Council Awards 2020 Scholarship to Judson Scott!**



The Fairbank International Airport Operator’s Council announced Judson Scott as their 2020 scholarship recipient. Judson is currently enrolled at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, in his second semester of the Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) Technician Program.

After completing the A&P Certification he plans to work under an Inspection Authorized A&P Technician maintaining small to medium size aircraft. As a pilot, Judson will continue to work toward his commercial, instrument, and multi-engine ratings. He earned his private pilot’s certificate in 2004 and is married with three kids. Judson has lived in Alaska for 21 years. He originally relocated to Alaska in 1999 to pursue a career in aviation. After 15 years of working as both a Correctional Officer and a Probation Officer, as well as a Farm Superintendent he will finally accomplish his lifelong passion of working in aviation.

The AOC was thrilled to award this \$2,000 scholarship to Judson to aid him in making his dream a reality.

Read the full article and learn more about AOC at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/FairbanksAOC/>

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation* by *Governor Mike Dunleavy*

WHEREAS, aviation is an integral and essential part of the Alaskan way of life. Eighty-two percent of Alaska's communities are inaccessible by road and rely heavily on aviation to provide all-season access for commerce, transportation, emergency medical services, shipment of goods, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, access to aviation connects families and friends from communities all over Alaska, and provides much needed transportation in everyday life and during times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, with more pilots and aircraft per capita than anywhere else in the world, Alaskans appreciate the value and importance of aviation and the industry annually contributes \$3.8 billion to Alaska's economy and generates over 35,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage consistently ranks as one of the busiest airports in the nation for cargo throughput, making Alaska an important link in the import and export of goods; and

WHEREAS, the strategic location of our state makes us a significant national asset for military operations anywhere in the world and is the home of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Bryant Airfield, Ladd Army Airfield at Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force Base, Allen Army Airfield, and the Alaska Air National Guard. Alaska will also be the new home for two F-35 fighter squadrons coming soon; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has a significant and vested interest in the continued vitality of aviation, aircraft manufacturing, flight schools, community airports, aviation organizations, and tourism across our Great State; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's unique reliance on general aviation is manifested in the expertise and commitment of our pilots and in the numerous flight-training programs dedicated to teaching the next generation of pilots. All across our Great State, our pilots and ground crews continue to keep us all connected.


NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike Dunleavy, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim May 2020 as:

### *Aviation Appreciation Month*

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to celebrate aviation as a unique resource in our state and to recognize the achievements of those who make aviation possible in the Last Frontier.

Dated: May 1, 2020



  
*Mike Dunleavy, Governor*  
who has also authorized the  
seal of the State of Alaska to  
be affixed to this proclamation.