1.0 Introduction

1.1 Plan Overview

The Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030 is a component of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) continuous aviation system planning process. This plan provides an inventory and evaluation of the Wisconsin Airport System's 98 airports and an implementation plan to meet the goals and objectives established for this plan. A key component of this plan was the development of a Geographic Informational System (GIS) database of the Wisconsin Airport System. This database allows BOA to continuously assess and monitor various system-wide conditions and performance-related measures. In addition, it allows for the uniform evaluation of various improvements implemented as part of airport planning and programming cycles.

The findings of this plan culminate with an implementation plan, which outlines recommended facilities and services on a system-wide level. The implementation plan is based on an airport report card. The report card scores how airports, individually and as a system, are meeting established system goals and measures, and how they provide the typical facility and service attributes for their classification.

The most recent system plan, Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020, was published in 2000 and no longer accurately represents the facilities, activity levels and services provided by the Wisconsin Airport System. In addition, the airport classification system was recently updated in 2010 and is presented in a report titled Wisconsin State Airport System Plan, Airport Classification Review and Update. In this report, the airports were evaluated and re-classified based on airport and economic activity, accessibility and airport facilities. As part of this Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030, the classification system was reanalyzed using current data and revised accordingly. In addition, the facility and service attributes (FSAs) developed as part of the Airport Classification Review and Update were also reviewed and revised. Results of this analysis are located in the classification chapter.

1.1.1 Plan Purpose and Objectives

The primary purpose of this plan is to establish a vision, develop and evaluate system goals for the Wisconsin Airport System, and provide a framework to meet current and future needs for the preservation and enhancement of the airport system.

The primary plan objectives for this plan are as follows:

- Improve safety of Wisconsin airports
- Obtain a current inventory of the facilities and services of each airport in the system
- Establish airport system goals, performance measures and benchmarks
- Identify system and airport specific deficiencies, as well as adequacies and surpluses in the system
- Identify potential overlaps or gaps in the system
- Address the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) departure from ground based navigational aids to a satellite based system and how it will affect Wisconsin
- Develop cost alternatives to meet system goals and benchmarks
- Establish a framework for future investments

- Conduct a system-plan environmental evaluation of the results of the system plan
- Develop a method to monitor progress of system goals

1.1.2   Plan Value

This plan documents BOA's vision for the Wisconsin Airport System including system-wide and individual airport performance. The consolidation of data and performance reports will allow BOA to assess the system, identify needs and track trends. The analysis provided by this plan can be continuously tracked at the system-wide and individual airport levels.

This plan will also help BOA to identify airport improvement projects with the potential to receive federal and state funds and serve as a bridge between a sponsor-initiated Airport Master Plan and the federal National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) report. Recommendations from this plan may aid in updating the NPIAS database, as approved by the FAA.

The implementation of any specific improvement identified in this plan remains the responsibility of local airport sponsors, and the projects identified do not constitute a commitment of either state or federal funding. The approval and project justification of local master planning efforts, environmental review processes and funding approvals remain a sponsor responsibility.

Local airport sponsors can use findings from this plan as a guide for local airport planning. Using the guidance provided in this plan, airport sponsors will be able to better compare airport facilities on a classification-wide and system-wide basis, measure an individual airport's performance relative to its classification using an airport report card and assess the actions and programming costs necessary to meet the goals and typical facility and service attributes for their airport. This plan, when combined with local master planning efforts, can help airport sponsors complete more thorough near- and long-term planning efforts, help guide their airport development programs and help meet the needs of existing and future users.
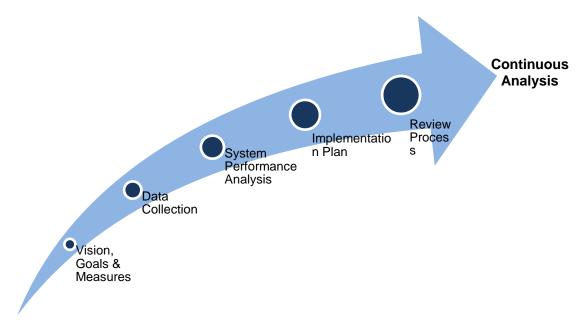
1.2   Plan Method and Process

The main components of this plan include an inventory of the airport system, a system performance analysis and an implementation plan. The inventory component of the plan was completed using a bottom-up approach, by compiling a database for each individual airport's facility, activity and service attributes. The inventory documents the facilities and services at each airport and assesses their condition – thereby providing a more cohesive understanding and consistency to aviation planning in the state. A top-down approach was used for the system performance analysis and implementation plan, which identifies and assesses airport needs from a system-wide perspective.

A summary of the plan process is outlined in **Chart 1-1.**

Chart 1-1
Plan Process

Continuous Analysis

Review Process

Implementation Plan

System Performance Analysis

Data Collection

Vision, Goals & Measures

1.2.2 Public Participation

BOA developed a Public Participation Plan for this plan, which contains a detailed outline of consultations with state and federal agencies, regional planning organizations, federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin and the general public. A copy of the plan is included in **Appendix A**.

As part of the public participation process, a stakeholder group comprised of active members of the aviation community, governmental agencies and regional/metropolitan planning commissions was formed to review this plan. A list of stakeholder group members is included in **Appendix A.** In addition, several public informational sessions and public hearings were held. Summary documentation of all public participation efforts for this plan is included in **Appendix A**.

1.3 Wisconsin Airport System Vision

In an effort to define a vision for this plan and the Wisconsin Airport System, a workgroup of BOA staff reviewed the vision statement of WisDOT Connections 2030, Wisconsin's long-range multimodal transportation plan.

The Connections 2030 Vision is as follows:

> *WisDOT envisions an integrated multimodal transportation system that maximizes the safe and efficient movement of people and products throughout the state, enhancing economic productivity and the quality of Wisconsin's communities while minimizing the impacts to the natural environment.*

In an effort to define a vision statement for this plan and the Wisconsin Airport System, the workgroup identified the following major system components and important concepts:

- Effective and efficient
- Gateway
- Accessible
- Safe and secure
- Technology and innovation
- Economic benefit

- Quality of life
- Future focus
- Meeting a diversity of needs
- Environmental stewardship
- Collaborative

In considering these major components, the workgroup developed the following vision statement for the Wisconsin Airport System:

> *System Vision Statement*
> *The Wisconsin State Airport System is a gateway to the world that responsibly and effectively meets the state's business, passenger, freight and recreational air transportation needs while enhancing the economic vitality of Wisconsin communities.*

1.4 System Goals

Wisconsin's long-range multi-modal transportation plan, Connections 2030, identifies seven themes that the BOA workgroup developed as goals for the Wisconsin Airport System. The themes identified in Connections 2030 include:

- Preserve and maintain Wisconsin's transportation system
- Promote transportation safety
- Foster Wisconsin's economic growth
- Provide mobility and transportation choice
- Promote transportation efficiencies
- Preserve Wisconsin's quality of life
- Promote transportation security

The workgroup also identified and evaluated major aviation trends and the strengths and weaknesses of the system. Using the themes outlined in the Connections 2030 and the Wisconsin Airport System vision statement as guides, the BOA workgroup established five system goals for this plan. The goals are as follows:

- Provide a safe and secure aviation system for users and the general public
- Support a system of airports that is readily accessible from the ground and the air
- Provide airport infrastructure to attract business supporting economic growth

- Provide a system of airports that meets existing and future needs
- Provide a system of airports that addresses community and environmental compatibility

The Wisconsin Airport System's vision and goals were carefully considered and applied throughout this plan. Specific target performance measurements were established to assess the effectiveness of the existing system, along with typical facility and service attributes for each airport classification. To evaluate the performance of individual airports and the entire system, an inventory of existing airport facilities and services, activity levels, major users, etc. was completed. The remaining chapters of this plan provide inventory data, activity forecasts, system and airport performance measures, reasons for decisions, and an implementation plan to meet the vision and goals of this plan.