



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

New Mexico Aviation Division

TIRS Committee Briefing

Hobbs, NM

September 11, 2026

FY27 Rural Air Service Enhancement + HB2 Airport
Investment



AVIATION DIVISION | WHAT WE DO



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
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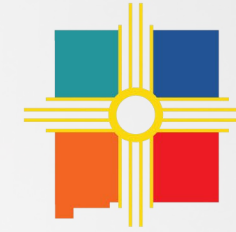
STATEWIDE AIRPORT SUPPORT

- Administer state aviation grants and capital investments
- Partner with airport sponsors on safety, compliance and project delivery
- Support rural commercial air service through RASE
- Coordinate with FAA, local governments and aviation stakeholders

CURRENT PRIORITIES

- Protect and modernize New Mexico's airport infrastructure
- Improve access and connectivity for rural communities
- Strengthen sponsor support, accountability and long-term sustainability
- Advance aviation safety, education and workforce development

FY27 Rural Air Service Enhancement (RASE) | CONNECTING RURAL NEW MEXICO



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RASE provides start-up support for air service that connects rural communities to key regional and national hubs.

ACCESS

Improves reliable access to the national air transportation system.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Supports business travel, tourism, workforce mobility and community development.

SUSTAINABILITY

Uses local match, performance expectations and a path toward long-term route viability.

RASE Investment SINCE FY2022: \$79,000,000

FY27 awards prioritize strategic connections while supporting high-demand, economically beneficial, and operationally feasible connections

FY27 RASE AWARDS AT A GLANCE

\$18.5 MILLION
State Investment



8
Airports

Across New Mexico
receiving support



10
Routes

To major markets
across the U.S.



**Stronger
Communities**

Supporting jobs, tourism,
and economic growth

Connecting New Mexico communities to
key regional and national destinations



\$18.5 MILLION
STATEWIDE AIR SERVICE INVESTMENT



Connecting New Mexico communities to key regional and national destinations



8 AIRPORTS
Across New Mexico
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10 ROUTES
To major markets
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**STRONGER
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Supporting jobs, tourism,
and economic growth



SMART INVESTMENT
Enhancing connectivity
and opportunity for
New Mexicans

STATE INVESTMENT BY ROUTE				
✈️ AIRPORT		COMMUNITY	💰 STATE INVESTMENT	📍 ROUTE (DESTINATION)
FMN	FOUR CORNERS REGIONAL AIRPORT	Farmington	\$2,525,000	DEN Denver
HOB	LEA COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT	Hobbs	\$2,250,000	DAL Dallas
LRU	LAS CRUCES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	Las Cruces	\$1,775,000	PHX Phoenix
SRR	SIERRA BLANCA REGIONAL AIRPORT	Ruidoso	\$1,500,000	DEN Denver
SKX	TAOS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	Taos	\$1,400,000	AUS Austin
		Taos	\$2,000,000	CLD Carlsbad, CA
		Taos	\$1,250,000	DAL Dallas
		Taos	\$1,150,000	DEN Denver
GUP	GALLUP MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	Gallup	\$1,800,000	PHX Phoenix
AXX	ANGEL FIRE AIRPORT	Colfax County	\$850,000	ABQ Albuquerque
ROW	ROSWELL AIR CENTER	Roswell	\$2,000,000	DEN Denver
TOTAL STATE INVESTMENT			\$18,500,000	



11th route: Las Cruces to Phoenix planned route: award committed

HB2 | \$55 MILLION INVESTED IN NEW MEXICO AIRPORTS

A one-time, two year capital investment translated into statewide airport projects focused on safety, preservation and modernization.



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\$55M

HB2
INVESTMENT

\$54,133,647

EXPENDED AS
OF JULY 1, 2026

74

PROJECTS

HB2 | PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Roswell Air Center

\$9,070,478
HB2

Extend Taxiway C in preparation of hosting the Roswell Air Races. Constructed TXY L which allows firefighting fighting aircraft to safely get to the slurry loading pads

Sierra Blanca Regional

\$3,970,770
HB2

Parallel TXY B increased the safety for airport operators as the crosswind runway provides the FAA required crosswind coverage for this airport.

Hobbs – Lea County Regional

\$1,800,000
HB2

ARFF Truck and Signage and Wayfinding.

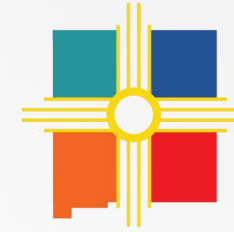
Clovis Regional

\$4,056,551
HB2

New Terminal

Suggested mix: pavement/safety • NAVAID or operational improvement • facility/equipment modernization

AVIATION INVESTMENT | CONNECTIVITY + INFRASTRUCTURE



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
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Two complementary investments. One statewide aviation system.

RASE

Connects rural communities to the broader air transportation network.

Investments Like HB2

Protects and improves the airport infrastructure that makes those connections possible.
Allows for infrastructure development for emerging technologies.

New Mexico Aviation Division • Safe, connected, sustainable aviation for communities statewide

NEW MEXICO: A LABORATORY FOR THE FUTURE OF AVIATION



New Mexico combines defense test infrastructure, university R&D and aviation assets in one statewide ecosystem.

DEFENSE + TESTING

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE

- DoD's largest fully instrumented open-air range
- Controlled airspace and extensive test infrastructure
- Testing of unmanned systems, sensors and advanced technologies
- Access for government, university and industry customers

RESEARCH + WORKFORCE

NMSU + NEW MEXICO TECH

- NMSU operates an FAA-approved UAS Test Site
- 15,000+ sq. mi. of coordinated UAS airspace
- Research in BVLOS, detect-and-avoid, cybersecurity and autonomy
- NM Tech: UAV testing at Playas and autonomous systems research

AVIATION + INFRASTRUCTURE

STATEWIDE OPPORTUNITY

- Public-use airports and remote operating environments
- Las Cruces UAS facilities and Spaceport partnerships
- Potential demonstration and deployment locations
- State coordination connecting airports, EDNM, Spaceport America, FAA, universities, tribal authorities and federal partners to research and industry

AAM • UAS • Autonomous Systems • Emerging Aviation Technology

RESEARCH → TEST → DEMONSTRATE → COMMERCIALIZE

The opportunity is to keep more of the innovation, investment and jobs in New Mexico.

Sources: U.S. Army White Sands Test Center; FAA UAS Test Sites; NMSU Physical Science Laboratory; New Mexico Tech Playas Research.

TURNING AVIATION TECHNOLOGY INTO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



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Position New Mexico not only as a place to test technology — but as a place to build the businesses around it.

1

RESEARCH

Universities • labs
Autonomy • sensors
Advanced aircraft

2

TEST

Ranges • airspace
Flight test • validation
Real-world
environments

3

INTEGRATE

NAS integration
Demonstration
Operational use cases

4

GROW

Business recruitment
Manufacturing
Supply chain

5

JOBS

Engineering
Operations •
maintenance
Data • cybersecurity

THE DIVISION'S ROLE

Connect aviation infrastructure, airport sponsors, federal partners, universities and private industry — helping create the conditions for emerging aviation companies to test, demonstrate, locate and grow in New Mexico.

FROM TESTING GROUND TO BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM

SAFE. CONNECTED. READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT.



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
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New Mexico's aviation investments connect communities today while building the infrastructure and opportunity for tomorrow.

CONNECT

Rural communities
to opportunity

INVEST

In safe, resilient
airport infrastructure

INNOVATE

Turn New Mexico's
assets into new business

Research here. Test here. Demonstrate here. Build here.

Thank you for your continued investment in aviation across New Mexico.

QUESTIONS?