



# NEWSLETTER

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## 65TH WI AVIATION CONFERENCE

The Wisconsin Aviation Conference (WAC) is back. The 2021 event will be held October 17-19 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. Early registration ends on August 15, so do not delay! Register [HERE](#).

The WAC planning committee is in the final stages of putting together a spectacular conference lineup. Check out the [current conference agenda page](#) on the WAMA website for updates. Speed dating with the FAA Chicago ADO will return this year, but space is limited. Please email [director@wama.org](mailto:director@wama.org) as soon as possible to reserve your time slot.

And get your passport ready. This year's conference attendees participating in the WAC Passport Program will have the opportunity to win prizes by visiting our conference exhibitors.

Thanks to the host city, Sheboygan, WAC 2021 will be an exceptional conference for all attendees and an excellent opportunity to reconnect in person with friends and colleagues!

**Note:** If you haven't paid your 2021 WAMA membership dues yet, it is not too late to do so and receive discounted registration for this year's conference. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR WAC GOLF AND TRAP SHOOTING

The WAC 2021 golf outing will be held at [Quit Qui Oc golf course](#), a half mile from Osthoff Resort. The golf event is a shotgun start at 12:00 pm.

Trap shooting will be held at the [Sheboygan Falls Conversation Club](#) located near the Sheboygan County Memorial Airport. The Conservation Club is about 13 miles from the Osthoff resort. Trap shooting begins at 1:00 pm.

***Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the sporting events.***

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register for either sporting event.

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## CALL FOR WAC SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

The Wisconsin Aviation Conference is only possible because of the support of our sponsors and exhibitors. On behalf of the Wisconsin Airport Management Association and the WAC planning committee, please consider joining us again as a sponsor and/or exhibitor in 2021.

EXHIBITORS - Please register by August 15 to receive the early bird rate [HERE](#).

SPONSORS - Sponsorship options can be found [HERE](#).

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## WAMA AWARDS

The Wisconsin Airport Management Association is seeking nominations for the 2021 WAMA Aviation Awards. To nominate a person, submit your recommendation through our easy online award nomination form [HERE](#).

Your nomination must be submitted before August 13, 2021. Award winners will be recognized at the 2021 Wisconsin Aviation Conference.

Nominees can be submitted for the following awards:

- [Distinguished Service Award](#) - Awarded to the persons who have made an outstanding contribution to aviation.
- [Blue Light Award](#) - Awarded to persons in the media who have distinguished themselves by their excellent reporting on Wisconsin Aviation.
- [Person of the Year Award](#) - Awarded to persons who have distinguished themselves in Wisconsin Aviation during the past calendar year.
- [Lifetime Service Award](#) - Awarded to persons who have devoted themselves to promoting and serving Wisconsin aviation for at least ten years.
- [Airport Engineering Award](#) - Awarded to persons who have made significant professional contributions in the airport engineering or architecture fields in Wisconsin.

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## WITTMAN AIRPORT ANNOUNCES TERMINAL GRAND OPENING

Wittman Regional Airport is proud to announce the grand opening of a new General Aviation Terminal Facility, serving as the aerial gateway to Oshkosh, Winnebago County, and the Fox Valley Region. At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30th, officials and project staff held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new terminal. This event was well attended by many airport tenants, businesses, and community leaders.



The General Aviation Terminal's primary use is to accommodate transient air traffic traveling in and out of Oshkosh and the greater Fox Valley. The facility is a single-story, 12,500 square foot building. In addition to serving general aviation air traffic, the new terminal also provides space for Basler Flight Service, airport administrative offices, rental car, and meeting rooms available to the general public. The new facility replaces both the existing commercial service passenger terminal built in 1971 and the former General Aviation terminal built in 1958.

Construction of the new facility began in July 2020. Despite the pandemic, the \$5.5M project has been completed on time and under budget. This addition to the airport will greatly modernize aviation services and reduce operating and maintenance costs. The new facility has also opened in time for the return of EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, which is set to be held at Wittman Regional Airport from July 26th to August 1st.

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## THE EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR THE RETURN OF AIRVENTURE

Dick Knapinski, EAA director of communications, joined TDA Executive Director Debby Jackson on a recent TDA On The Go podcast. EAA AirVenture, described as the closest thing America has to a national airshow, returns to Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh July 26 through August 1 after a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

The greatly anticipated return of AirVenture will include new features and attractions in addition to safety-minded COVID protocols. This year's event will salute aviation's vital role in assisting humanitarian efforts around the globe, commemorate the 75th anniversary (plus one) of the end of World War II, feature the aircraft and personnel of the Air Force's specialized mission group, and much more. Knapinski also talks about how Whitman Regional Airport has evolved to become an essential piece of Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure.

New in 2021, all kids 18 and under are admitted free, with support from Boeing. As Knapinski pointed out, this makes the event more affordable for families to come and enjoy the fun.

Aviation fans from around the world are ready to return to Wisconsin. "The wait is over. Come on back to Oshkosh for EAA AirVenture," Knapinski enthused.

Listen to the episode [HERE](#).

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## BIPARTISAN FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT REACHED, WORK REMAINS

Last month, President Biden and a bipartisan group of 21 Senators announced support for an infrastructure framework calling for \$579 billion in spending above current baseline levels. Over eight years, the framework outlines \$1.2 trillion in baseline and new spending.

Below is a comparison of proposed new transportation spending (in billions) under the bipartisan agreement versus the Biden Administration's American Jobs Plan (AJP).

Transportation Infrastructure	Original Biden AJP	Bipartisan Senate Framework	Difference
Roads (incl. Highway Safety Improvement Program), Bridges, Major Projects	\$167	\$109	-\$58
Passenger & Freight Rail	80	66	-14
Public Transit	85	49	-36
Airports	25	25	0
Ports & Waterways	17	16	-1
EV Charging Network	15	7.5	-7.5
Electric Buses	25	7.5	-17.5
Safety (Excluding HSIP)	12	11	-1
Reconnecting Communities	25	1	-24
Infrastructure Financing	0	20	20
<b>Total Transportation</b>	<b>\$451</b>	<b>\$312</b>	<b>-\$139</b>

Beyond transportation, the framework includes billions in above-baseline spending for other "hard" infrastructure: \$73 billion for power, \$65 billion for broadband, \$55 billion for water, \$47 billion to improve infrastructure resilience, \$21 billion for environmental remediation, and \$5 billion for western water storage.

According to a White House [fact sheet](#), the bipartisan framework is paid for "through a combination of closing the tax gap, redirecting unspent emergency relief

funds, targeted corporate user fees, and the macroeconomic impact of infrastructure investment.”

There is work to be done drafting the legislation and garnering the necessary support for the plan and how to pay for it in a narrowly divided House and Senate. However, supporters hope Congress will continue bipartisan efforts and make significant progress before the August congressional recess.

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## **WAMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEPS DOWN, TDA HELPING OUT**

The WAMA board and Lisa Maroney could not come to mutually agreeable terms to extend her contract as the organization’s executive director for another year. WAMA wishes Lisa the best of luck in her future endeavors!

The Transportation Development Association (TDA) has generously agreed to step in to assist WAMA through at least the end of the year. TDA is a fifty-year-old multi-modal transportation advocacy group, and TDA staff brings a wealth of organizational know-how. TDA will assist WAMA through the upcoming Wisconsin Aviation Conference, and then the WAMA board will evaluate long-term options.

As always, continue to reach WAMA through the [director@wiama.org](mailto:director@wiama.org) email address.

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