

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE  
UNTIL 11:00 A.M., EDT

JULY 12, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1976

The President is signing into law today the Airport and Airway Development Act Amendments of 1976 (H.R. 9771) which extends through 1980 the program for improvement of the Nation's public airports and airway facilities.

BACKGROUND

In March, 1975, the President sent to Congress a bill to extend through fiscal year 1980 the programs authorized by the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970. In addition to an extension of the basic programs, the following new initiatives were recommended:

- Extension of eligibility to projects for noise suppression, land purchase and public use terminal development, thus enhancing the flexibility of State and local officials to use Federal assistance to meet their highest priority needs.
- Simplification of the process of approving grants through use of consolidated capital development planning, to reduce Federal red tape.
- Transfer of the general aviation airport grant program to the States to improve coordination of transportation project development and to permit project decisionmaking by elected officials closer to the local scene.
- Use of Airport and Airway Trust Fund annual revenue not needed for capital improvements to finance the cost of maintaining air navigation facilities in a safe and efficient fashion, thus shifting some of the burden of total federal aviation expenditures from the general taxpayer, who has been bearing two-thirds of those expenditures, to the aviation users.
- Promotion of sound airport project planning by providing a multi-year program with the bulk of the funds distributed by a predictable formula.

H.R. 9771 does extend the important Airway and Airport development programs and incorporates many of the new policy principles recommended by the President, although not to the extent recommended in the Administration's proposals.

more

HIGHLIGHTS OF H.R. 9771A. Airport Development Program

- Extends grant eligibility to noise suppression equipment and barriers, land acquisition for environmental purposes, development of public use areas in terminals, and snow removal equipment.
- Changes distribution formula to more closely relate funding to air passenger activity, but provides minimum grants to assist small airports. At least one-third of air carrier grant funds will remain as discretionary programs.
- Increases Federal share to 90% of project cost for small airports through 1978 (80% for 1979 and 1980) and 75% for large airports, throughout the life of the bill.
- Provides for four State demonstration programs designed to transfer general aviation airport grant decisionmaking from the Federal Government to State elected officials.
- Decreases complexity of grant procedures by allowing the Secretary of Transportation to accept certification that the sponsor will comply with statutory and administrative requirements. Permits approval of multi-project applications from sponsors.

B. Other Key Provisions

- Allows use of Trust Fund revenues for field maintenance of the airway capital facilities authorized by other sections of this bill.
- Continues funding for Federal Aviation Administration facilities and equipment improvements through 1980.
- Increases flexibility on determining requirements for emergency services at small airports.
- Requires studies on conversion of private airports to public use, land banking for future airports, feasibility of establishing major new airports, and soundproofing of public buildings.

C. Funding Levels

The attached contains the authorized yearly funding for the program provided by H.R. 9771.

more

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1976  
AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND

FY 1976-1980 Authorizations for Major Programs  
(dollars in millions)

	<u>1976/TQ<sup>1/</sup></u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Air Carrier Airport Development	435	440	465	495	525
General Aviation Airport Development	65	70	75	80	85
Facilities and Equipment Improvements	312.50	250	250	250	250
Maintenance of Air Navigation Facilities	--0--	250	275	300	325
Planning	15	15	15	15	15
R&D	<u>109.35</u>	<u>85.4</u>	<u>50<sup>2/</sup></u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
	936.85	1110.4	1130	1190	1250

1/ 1976/TQ authorizations include the period from July 1, 1975 to September 30, 1976.

2/ Amounts for 1978, 1979, 1980 are minimum authorizations.

# # # #