

# Fiscal Year 2022-23 Capital Construction Request

## Transportation Automated Weather Observing Stations

### PROGRAM PLAN STATUS

2023-001

Approved Program Plan

No

Date Approved:

### PRIORITY NUMBERS

Prioritized By	Priority
CDOT	1 of 1
OSPB	Not Prioritized

Not recommended for funding.

### PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS AND REQUEST INFORMATION

Fund Source	Prior Approp.	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	Future Requests	Total Costs
CCF	\$0	\$450,000	\$0	\$0	\$450,000
CF	\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>

### ITEMIZED COST INFORMATION

Cost Item	Prior Approp.	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	Future Requests	Total Cost
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$750,000
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contingency	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>

### PROJECT STATUS

This is a new, never-before-requested project.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION / SCOPE OF WORK

The Department of Transportation (CDOT) is requesting a combination of state funds and cash funds spending authority to install three new automated weather observing stations (AWOS). These units collect a variety of weather and climate data for airports, other aviation uses, and the National Weather System. The project will install one unit at the Creede/Mineral County Airport, and two at off-airport locations along the I-70 and I-76 corridors. The project will close coverage gaps in southwest Colorado and between airports on the eastern plains to improve safety and accessibility for the aviation industry. Costs are estimated based on recent AWOS installations.

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## Transportation *Automated Weather Observing Stations*

### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

CDOT planned to fund the Creede/Mineral County Airport AWOS unit in 2022. However, pandemic-related revenue impacts have postponed the project. This project will restore the planned timeline to close the coverage gap at this airport. The other two sites were identified in the Division of Aeronautics' 2020 Aviation System Plan. Helicopter emergency medical service providers noted that the lack of adequate weather information for those areas at times prevented them from undertaking missions. If this project is not funded, the service coverage gaps will persist until resources are identified in coming years.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

In Colorado, 50 public use airports have AWOS units. Most are owned by the airport sponsor; some are owned by the Federal Aviation Administration. CDOT's Division of Aeronautics owns and operates 13 AWOS units that are installed on strategic high mountain peaks and passes to provide aviators and the National Weather Service with weather information at higher altitudes. These sites are typically co-located with existing public communications infrastructure and are maintained through an interagency partnership with the Office of Information Technology. According to the department, AWOS data are also used by non-aviation entities, including the agricultural community, climatologists, wildland firefighters, and the media.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

	Start Date	Completion Date
Design	July 2022	September 2022
Construction	September 2022	March 2023
Equipment	September 2022	March 2023
Occupancy	May 2023	

### SOURCE OF CASH FUNDS

The source of state cash funds for this project is the Discretionary Aviation Grant Program, which is funded from aviation fuel tax revenue, and the local funding match is from Mineral County.

### OPERATING BUDGET

The project is expected to increase state operating costs; the division makes a maximum of \$10,000 available annually to assist with an airport's AWOS maintenance costs.

### STAFF QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

All responses have been incorporated into the project write-up.