

# 2022 Annual Report





# Greetings

## We are pleased to present the Metropolitan Airports Commission's (MAC) 2022 Annual Report.

The past year will be remembered as a year travelers returned to the air, with more than 31.2 million individuals passing through Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) — a 24% increase over 2021. At year's end, MSP had 193 active routes, including 13 new routes from Sun Country, Delta, Allegiant and Air Canada. Additionally, strategic investments in our general aviation airport system supported healthy operations and increased private development to serve our regional flying community.

This past year also brought the return of many in-person business gatherings. For the first time in three years, nearly 400 Minnesota leaders across the business, public and social sectors gathered at our State of the Airport Luncheon to celebrate MSP's role in our state. We were also honored to host the Airports Council International — North America Annual Conference & Exhibition at the Minneapolis Convention Center in September, welcoming more than 2,000 attendees and 114 airport CEOs.

In December, the MAC finalized a new, five-year enterprise strategic plan that aligns the organization under a single purpose statement:

*“To provide exceptional airport experiences so Minnesota thrives.”*

This aspirational plan will guide us in achieving new levels of excellence at MSP and our six reliever airports.

As we prepared to publish this report, MSP was once again named the Best Airport in North America for 2022 by the Airports Council International, making it the sixth time MSP has received the title in the past seven years. Based on passenger surveys, the award reflects our long-standing commitment to customer service which was instrumental in developing the MAC's new strategic plan and will remain at the heart of our operations.

Aviation's continued recovery proves that a world-class airport system delivering exceptional airport experiences is critical to the success of our region. The MAC's 2022 Annual Report captures our accomplishments and highlights how aviation drives economic growth to support a prosperous Minnesota.

Sincerely,



*Rick King*  
**Rick King**  
Board Chair



*Brian Ryks*  
**Brian Ryks**  
Executive Director and CEO



Baggage Claim  
Ground Transportation



Baggage Claim



Ground Transportation



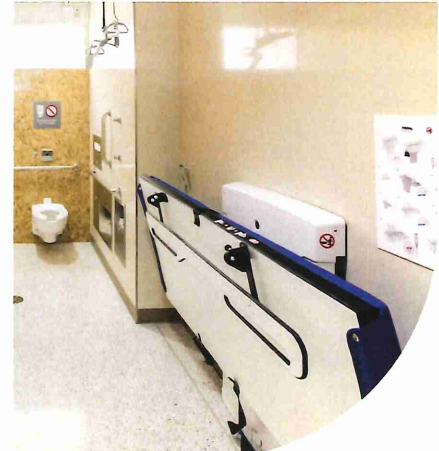
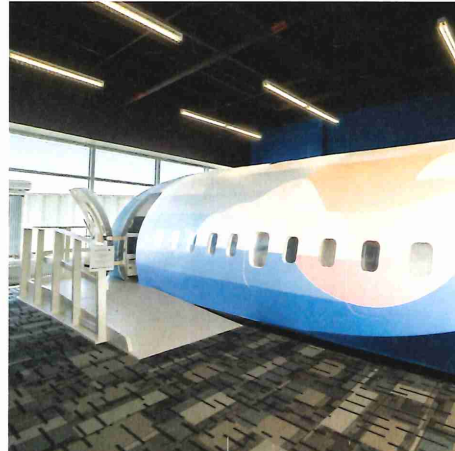
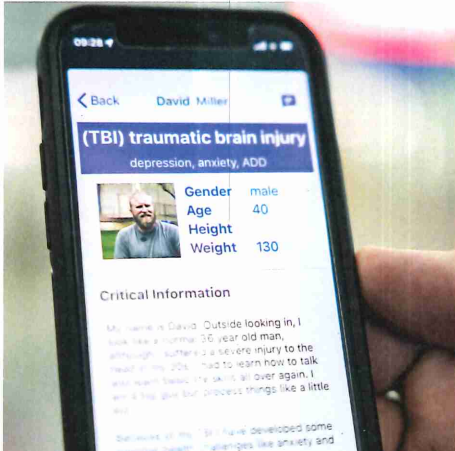
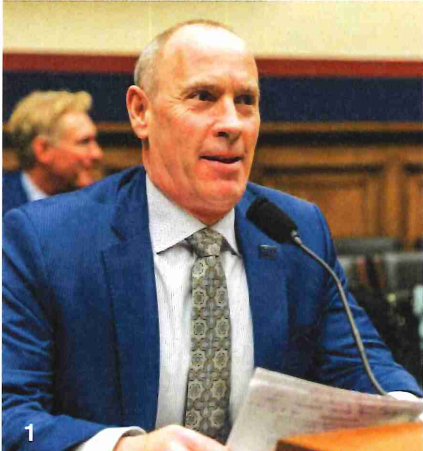
State of Minnesota



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# Thinking Forward. Rising Above.

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) is committed to making Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) as accessible as possible so that everyone can experience the joy of air travel. How the MAC is helping to make that a reality was shared on a national stage in November as Brian Ryks, CEO of the MAC, was invited to testify on behalf of Airports Council International-North America before the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee.

**In his remarks, Ryks highlighted the many ways the MAC is making travel through MSP easier and more equitable, including these long-standing initiatives:**

- Navigating MSP, which was featured in August 2022 on PBS News Weekend.
- The airport's participation in national and international programs like the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program.
- The adoption of technologies that make it easier for travelers with sight and hearing impairments to navigate the airport and receive important information, such as Aira interpreting and visual paging.

## **Vitals App**

Building upon the MAC's history of using technology to improve customer experience, MSP Airport became the first airport in the country to begin using the Vitals app through a partnership that launched in June. The app communicates for passengers when they are unable to provide more information regarding their mental and physical health.

The app works by allowing a person or caregiver to voluntarily share critical health information with law enforcement officials, such as medical conditions, visible and invisible intellectual and developmental conditions or disabilities, memory loss and mental health challenges. This supports airport police officers in initiating less stressful interactions with vulnerable passengers or visitors.

Using Bluetooth technology, if a police officer comes within a set number of feet of someone signed up for the service, the officer is notified on their mobile device and provided the person's health information. The officer can then use this health information to make informed decisions, if interaction is needed.

## **Travel Confidently MSP Education Center**

The MAC launched another first for the airport industry in May 2022 — the Travel Confidently MSP Education Center. Its centerpiece is a former airline training cabin with aircraft seats, which were donated by Delta Air Lines, fitted out by the MAC and wrapped in custom artwork through the Arts@MSP program.

The Center offers a trial run — an essential pre-flight experience — through the Navigating MSP Program to travelers with autism and other challenges who could benefit from practice to become more comfortable with flying. The program is also open to service dogs and their owners to become familiar with the surroundings of an aircraft cabin. Public safety professionals, such as the airport police and fire departments and airline support crews, also use the center to train in a realistic setting.

## **Adult Changing Tables**

The MAC is making it easier for caregivers to safely attend to the needs of adults and older children.

Adult changing tables, with their large ergonomic tabletops, safety guards and adjustable heights, are beginning to show up in public spaces around the world. Knowing how challenging it can be for caregivers to travel without these available, the MAC incorporated them into three restrooms in 2022 as part of MSP's multi-year restroom remodeling program.

# Travelers Return

In the airport industry, 2022 will be remembered as the year travelers returned to the air as concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic eased.

## Passengers and Operations

More than 31.2 million people passed through Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) in 2022, representing a year-over-year increase of 24%. It is also 79% of the number of passengers who passed through MSP in 2019, the last full year before the pandemic drastically impacted air travel at MSP.

The number of aircraft operations at MSP Airport increased by 2% over 2021 as airlines flew larger aircraft — which offer more seats per flight — to meet traveler demand.

MSP Airport offers direct flights to 145 destinations worldwide, an increase of 6% over 2021. Much of the reason for MSP's strong uptick is its two major airline partners: Delta Air Lines and Sun Country Airlines. MSP is Delta's second-largest hub. And Sun Country, Minnesota's hometown airline, has increased air service offerings by more than 60% over the past five years. Both airlines added new direct routes from MSP in 2022, along with Air Canada and Allegiant.

## Inaugural Routes and Resumption of Service Celebrations







Map for illustration purposes only, not a geographical marker.

Notable **resumed** routes in 2022 include direct service to Seoul, South Korea and London, England by Delta and to Frankfurt, Germany by Condor Airlines.

Notable **new service** routes include the Grand Cayman Islands by Sun Country and Montreal, Canada by Air Canada.

There are many more to come next year. Twenty new direct destinations **were announced** in 2022 that will launch in 2023, three of which have never been offered out of MSP — Melbourne, Florida; Atlantic City, New Jersey; and Wilmington, North Carolina — all by Sun Country Airlines

12  
new direct flight  
destinations added  
in 2022

# 1962 Meets 2022

In 2022, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) marked the 60th anniversary of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's (MSP) Terminal 1. The original building, with its open plan, long-span concrete shell and signature folded plate ("wavy") roof, was heralded in 1962 as a landmark event that would modernize the travel experience.

Originally designed to accommodate 1.8 million passengers annually, Terminal 1 has undergone numerous renovations and additions over the past six decades. The building has grown by more than 2.4 million square feet and now accommodates tens of millions of passengers annually.

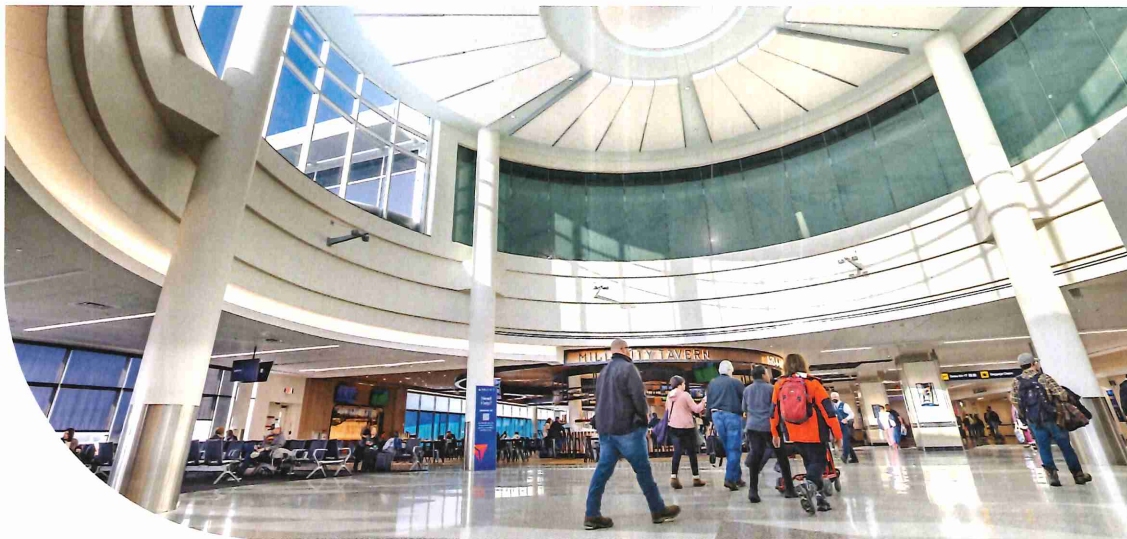
## Concourse G Improvements

In May 2022, the beautifully remodeled and

expanded space between Gates G17 and G22 opened to the public, offering passengers spacious, light-filled corridors, expanded gate seating and restrooms, and a new nursing mother's room.

**Among other amenities, more than 500 square feet of public art space was designed into the project, including:**

- The art glass mosaics that can be viewed from both inside and outside the two new restrooms.
- A 16-case art gallery that houses rotating temporary exhibitions curated by the airport's Arts@MSP program.
- Infrastructure to install a large, suspended artwork in 2024 from the ceiling of a new two-story rotunda.



**Passengers are also enjoying new dining options offered in this area, including:**

- Starbucks coffee shop, with expansive views of the airfield.
- Poppy's Bagels, with fresh, healthy options, that transforms every day at 10:30 a.m. into Custom Burgers for lunch and dinner.
- Cibo Express Gourmet Market.
- A new local concept — Crisp & Green, which opened its first street-side location in Minnesota in 2016.

To top it off, Delta Air Lines will open its luxurious new Sky Club in April 2023 — its third at MSP.



## Departures and Arrivals Get a Makeover

Renovation of MSP's Terminal 1 Departures and Arrivals levels began in 2015 as part of a multi-year project to expand and modernize these spaces to accommodate future passengers growth. The project was programmed in stages to accommodate passengers. In 2022, work continued on both levels and included the addition of an adult changing table in one of the new restrooms on the Arrivals level. The project is expected to be completed in 2025.

## A Sustainable Foundation

Airports don't typically choose to renovate 60-year-old terminals. But it was important

to the MAC from both an operational and sustainability standpoint to reuse Terminal 1's original building shell. This key decision will extend the building's life another 50-plus years, an astonishing feat and the most sustainable decision the MAC could have made when evaluating how to update the airport's facilities.

## Dining and Shopping for a New Generation

It's not unusual for passengers to arrive early at MSP to treat themselves to a special meal or snack or indulge in a pre-trip purchase. In 2022, MSP introduced several new concepts that have found their own following.



a Caribou Coffee shop on the Arrivals level at Terminal 1, which opened in December – just in time for the cold weather months.



## A look back at how far we've come

# 2016

### Security Checkpoints



Before



After



Scan the QR code to see more before and after images online.

# Setting our Sights on Sustainability

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has a longstanding commitment to creating a sustainable future. **The MAC furthered this commitment in 2020 by setting the following 2030 goals:**

- Reduce Minneapolis-St. Paul International (MSP) Airport's greenhouse gas emissions by 80%.
- Reduce MSP Airport's water usage per passenger by 15%.
- Divert 75% of MSP Airport's waste away from landfills.
- Achieve a MAC employee engagement sustainability score of 85.

In 2022, MAC staff and airport stakeholders worked toward reaching these goals through a variety of means.

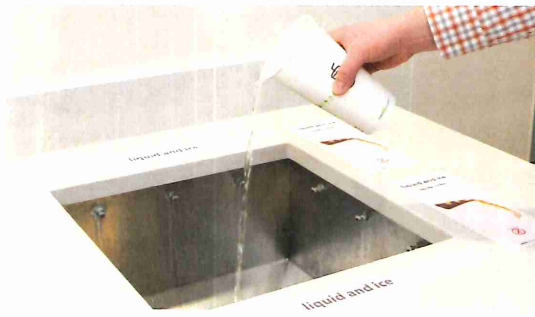
## Energy and CO2 Reduction

Following a successful pilot in 2021, the MAC began optimizing indoor air temperatures to reduce energy usage at MSP Airport during different times of the day and throughout the year. The building automation system is now programmed to automatically promote sustainable and efficient facility management — a change that is anticipated to deliver 5% of the reduction needed to meet the MAC's emissions goal.

To accelerate achieving its emissions reduction goal, in 2022 the MAC also invested in replacing old lighting units with energy-saving LED bulbs. Since 2014, the MAC has been updating lighting on roadways and other exterior areas with LEDs as well. The new LEDs are 40% more efficient than older bulbs. LED lighting also provides better light quality, which can have the bonus of enhancing people's airport experience. In 2023, the MAC will begin replacing MSP Airport's indoor terminal lights.

## Waste Diversion

From August to November, the MAC conducted a pilot project to test how compaction technology could reduce paper towel waste in select Terminal 1 restrooms. Through the successful pilot, MAC identified that installing this technology across all MSP restrooms could eliminate up to 10% of all airport waste. The MAC has also installed liquid diversion stations for passengers to use, eliminating heavy liquid waste from the trash in public areas.



Our thanks go out to MSP's food and beverage concessionaires for their ongoing participation in the MAC's waste recycling program, which continues to earn national recognition in the airport industry while contributing to the organization's waste diversion goals.

## Water Conservation

In 2022, the MAC and MSP Airport stakeholders took steps to reduce water consumption, including these four initiatives:

- Installing faucet aerators in restrooms across the airport campus, which reduces water flow from 2.2 gallons per minute to 1 gallon or less per minute.
- Deploying a smart, sensor-based system that reduces irrigation water use by 25% or more.
- Completing a water use inventory that revealed 10% of the water used at MSP comes from vehicle washing. In response — and to support the MAC's water conservation goal and replace aging systems — Hertz, Avis/Budget and Enterprise overhauled their quick turnaround car wash reuse systems. The new systems are expected to reduce water usage in car wash operations by up to 50%.
- Evaluating the MSP Airport Fire Department's non-emergency water use to identify conservation opportunities.



## Climate Resilience Planning

The MAC's Executive Sustainability Committee recently completed a climate resiliency planning process to ensure MSP Airport is prepared for and responding to climate changes, especially changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. The MAC will apply what it learned during this process when planning and designing future initiatives and infrastructure. The MAC's general aviation airports will engage in the same planning process in 2023.



## Airport Carbon Accreditation Certification

MSP Airport was one of 41 airports recognized in September by the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) organization for its ongoing commitment to managing and reducing its carbon dioxide emissions. Since 2017, MSP has been certified at "Level 2" by the ACA, meaning the airport has provided evidence of effective carbon management procedures while achieving reduction targets.









# Community Connections

Connecting with people across Minnesota and those who live near the Metropolitan Airports Commission's (MAC) airports is a priority for the organization. It is also integral to the MAC's purpose: **to provide exceptional airport experiences so Minnesota thrives.**

The MAC connects with and supports both its airport and off-airport communities through a variety of means, including educational and public engagement opportunities.

The MAC continued its 40-year partnership with the Airport Foundation MSP in 2022, including its arts and culture program. Every year, this program brings nearly 1,000 musical performances and hundreds of local and regional artworks to Minneapolis-St. Paul International (MSP) Airport.

One such exhibit is the popular annual MSP Creates: The Airport Community Art Show, which, in 2022, featured 165 artworks created by 127 airport employees or their family members. The exhibit is made possible by the National Arts Program and is celebrated as one of the many ways MSP's community members engage with each other and travelers.

## Other art exhibitions in 2022 included:

- Artwork by children in grades 3 through 6, depicting their relationship with the Mississippi River through the National Park Service's Big River Art program.

- Seasonally themed Art Quilts from the Minnesota Chapter of Studio Art Quilt Associates, entitled Seasons.
- A collection of paintings, entitled "Winds of Change," by Dr. Umbreen Hasan. Painted during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Hasan created them to evoke positivity and hope during a time of isolation and unpredictability.

## Workforce English

Another MAC-sponsored airport community outreach program is MSP's Workforce English classes, which resumed in 2022 after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This free program helps airport employees — many of whom are recent immigrants to the United States — learn English to become more confident in their interactions with customers, communicate effectively with their managers and expand their opportunities for career growth. The classes also provide instruction on basic computer skills.

The program is taught onsite and virtually through St. Paul Public Schools' Adult Basic Education Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning. Volunteers from the Airport Foundation MSP serve as teaching assistants.

## MSP Airport Fire and Police in the Community

Fire and police departments across the United States have a long history of engagement in their communities. The MSP Airport Fire and Police departments are no exception.

Both departments participated in a variety of events in 2022, including Air Expo, Girls in Aviation Day, Experience MSP and Night to Unite.

## The police department also:

- Regularly hosts Coffee with a Cop events at MSP Airport where they interact with airport employees and travelers. The national program aims to bring police officers and members of the public together through informal discussions in a casual atmosphere.
- Engaged with residents and tenants who attended the Discover Flying Cloud event in October in Eden Prairie.
- Participated in numerous opportunities to honor United States service people through the department's Honor Guard program, including the Peace Officers Memorial Day program at Minnesota's state capitol grounds.



14

students celebrated their graduation from the Workforce English class of 2022 on January 17, 2023

## MSP Airport Welcomes Thousands of Visitors

MSP Airport is an integral part of Minnesota and its Twin Cities community. That's why every year the MAC works closely with destination marketing organizations, chambers of commerce, the business community and nonprofit organizations to ensure visitors to the region are warmly welcomed from the moment they step into MSP's terminals.

In 2022, the MAC was honored and thrilled to participate in several national events, including co-hosting the Airports Council International — North America Annual Conference with Meet Minneapolis in September. The event brought more than 2,000 airport and aviation professionals to the Twin Cities region. Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian provided a keynote on the second day in a fireside chat with MAC CEO Brian Ryks.

The NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament in March was another 2022 highlight — thousands of fans traveled through MSP on their way to watch teams compete for the national title.



**2,000+**  
airport and aviation professionals visited the Twin Cities for several national events

## MSP State of the Airport Annual Luncheon

The MAC and the Airport Foundation MSP co-host an annual State of the Airport luncheon, which took place in 2022 on Sept. 30 after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event offers an opportunity for the MAC to take a look back while also sharing upcoming initiatives with the community and promoting the tremendous value MSP Airport brings to the region. This year's luncheon featured a message from Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and a keynote presentation by Sun Country Airlines CEO Jude Bricker.

## MSP Airport Long-Term Planning

Speaking of looking forward, progress on the MSP Airport 2040 Long-Term Plan continued in 2022 after a pause in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the MAC held two public events — one virtually in April and one in-person in August — for the public to learn more about how the MAC is planning for MSP's future and addressing the needs of local and global travelers. The public process is expected to wrap up in the second quarter of 2023.



**7,000+**  
fans traveled through MSP for the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament

## MSP Noise Oversight Committee Marks 20 Years of Collaboration

Ensuring opportunities for the public to learn about and comment on airport operations topics is deeply important to the MAC. Several channels are available for the public to provide their input and connect with airport staff online, in person and by phone.

One channel is the MSP Noise Oversight Committee, which was established 20 years ago to address aircraft noise issues associated with MSP Airport. Made up of equal numbers of industry and community members, this groundbreaking MAC advisory group meets every other month and boasts a long list of accomplishments every year, including supporting the MAC's 2022 recommendation to extend the duration of its noise mitigation program through the year 2032.

In 2022, the committee held four public listening sessions to discuss topics such as the noise mitigation program, ground noise, nighttime activities, and the number and types of operations per runway.

## General Aviation Airport Advisory Commissions

Five of the six MAC general aviation airports have established community and industry advisory commissions: St. Paul Downtown, Flying Cloud, Airlake, Anoka-County Blaine and Lake Elmo.

The commissions generally meet two to three times per year and bring MAC staff, airport tenants and airport neighbors together to discuss airport development, aircraft operations and noise concerns.





# General Aviation Airports

Over the past five years, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has invested more than \$50 million to provide a safe, efficient and modern general aviation airport system, including last year's opening of a new, realigned and extended runway at Lake Elmo Airport. The investments are paying off, spurring more private investment in infrastructure and services at the MAC's six general aviation airports.

Tenants constructed 12 airport hangars across the MAC's general aviation airport system in 2022, including a 10,000-square-foot facility built by Lake Elmo Aero at Lake Elmo Airport and a 25,000-square-foot corporate aircraft facility built by Aloft Aviation at Airlake Airport that will open in 2023.

While overall operations fell by 3% system-wide over 2021, three of the six airports experienced an increase in operations in 2022, supported in part by a continued

rebound in corporate general aviation activity. The airport's flight training schools, charter operators, maintenance companies, fixed-base operators and avionics firms also report they are busier than ever.

Through the MAC's strategic investments, the reliever airports are well-positioned for continued growth in support of the strong demand for general aviation services throughout the system.



**\$50M** invested to provide a safe, efficient and modern general aviation system



**12** tenant-constructed airport hangars across the MAC's general aviation airport system in 2022

Airport	2021	2022	2021-2022 Change
Airlake (LVN)	36,259	38,268	5.54%
Anoka County-Blaine (ANE)	74,657	65,688	-12.01%
Crystal (MIC)	37,845	42,592	12.54%
Flying Cloud (FCM)	131,593	122,281	-7.08%
Lake Elmo (21D)	32,645	32,189	-1.40%
St. Paul Downtown (STP)	39,196	41,592	4.90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>352,195</b>	<b>342,136</b>	<b>-2.86%</b>





### Tenant Profile: Laura Herrmann

General aviation pilots are often engrained in the communities from which they fly. Meet Laura Herrmann, who has been flying for more than 20 years after completing her pilot training at Flying Cloud Airport.

She is the FAAS Team lead representative for the area and was named the 2022 National FAA Safety Team Representative. An active member of numerous aviation groups around the metropolitan area, Herrmann is also an adjunct faculty member in aviation at Minnesota State University — Mankato. She was selected as the 2021 Flying Cloud Airport Aircraft Operator of the Year.

Laura is also active in animal rescue flying, having welcomed one cat, two goats and more than 200 rescue dogs to her Cessna 182 Skylane.



Here's what Laura has to say about her airport community:



I appreciate the Flying Cloud community for its commitment to continuing education. Safety is very important to us here, which is why I volunteer to host, organize, moderate and find the presenters for our weekly safety webinars.



# LVN Airlake Airport

Located just south of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area in Lakeville, Airlake Airport (LVN) mostly serves recreational fliers. The airport is also well-suited for business aviation, particularly for the many local businesses nearby.

Like other airports in the MAC's general aviation airport system, LVN enjoys an active and engaged aviation community. In 2022, seven new hangars were constructed at the airport.

One of the new hangars was built by commercial operator Aloft Aviation. The new

25,000-square-foot corporate aircraft facility will open in 2023.

## Community Engagement

LVN and the MAC maintained a visible presence in the Lakeville community. In July, the MAC joined Aloft Aviation as sponsors of the 10th annual Lion's Fly-in Breakfast, part of the City of Lakeville's Pan-o-Prog (short for "panorama of progress") event.

The LVN Advisory Commission, re-established by the MAC in late 2021, met four times in its first full year of existence.

The group is comprised of appointed airport users and representatives from the communities that surround the airport and brings together MAC staff, tenants and neighbors to discuss airport development, aircraft operations and noise concerns.

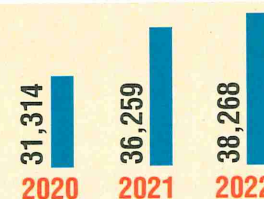
## Aircraft Operations

LVN was one of three airports in the MAC's general aviation system to experience an increase in operations in 2022 with more than 38,000 takeoffs and landings.



## AIRLAKE (LVN)

**38,268** operations



**5.54%**  
Change  
'21 to '22

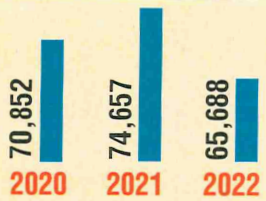
**139**  
based aircraft





# ANOKA COUNTY-BLAINE (ANE)

**65,688** operations



**-12.01%**  
Change  
'21 to '22

**360**  
based aircraft



## ANE Anoka County-Blaine Airport

Anoka County-Blaine Airport (ANE), located north of the Twin Cities metro area, is home to the most diverse aircraft fleet in the MAC's general aviation airport system. A variety of vintage, experimental, recreational and corporate aircraft are based at ANE.

While operations at ANE Airport decreased by 12% compared to 2021, it continues to be the second-busiest general aviation airport in the MAC's system, with more than 65,000 operations in 2022. It was also home base for the Goodyear Blimp again this year during the 3M Open, which was held in July at the PGA's tournament players club golf course in Blaine.

A decrease in operations doesn't equate to a decrease in tenant engagement, however. The local Chapter 237 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) was very active with its Aviation Explorer Post program in 2022, holding regular meetings and events throughout the year. The program encourages youth aged 14 – 20 interested in aviation to learn more about flying and the various types of aviation careers.



**2nd**

busiest general aviation airport  
in the MAC's system



# MIC Crystal Airport

Crystal Airport (MIC) is located just northwest of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area in the city of Crystal. Many thriving businesses call the airport home, including a busy flight school, a nationally recognized aircraft parts and maintenance facility, and a nationally known propeller repair and overhaul facility. It also has the only turf runway within the metro area.

## Aircraft Operations and Infrastructure

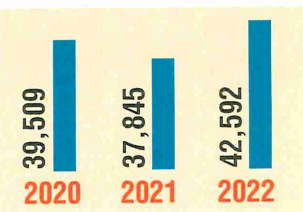
An active tenant population and successful flight school contributed to Crystal Airport's 12.54% increase in operations in 2022 - the largest within the MAC's general aviation airport system.

The MAC also continued to invest in the airport by bringing sewer and water utilities to the airport's north side, which allows for additional hangar development and future growth.



## CRYSTAL (MIC)

42,592 operations



12.54%  
Change  
'21 to '22

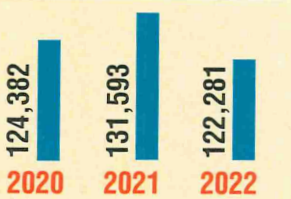
156  
based aircraft





## FLYING CLOUD (FCM)

122,281 operations



**-7.08%**  
Change  
'21 to '22

362  
based aircraft



## FCM Flying Cloud Airport

Flying Cloud Airport has been part of the Metropolitan Airports Commission's (MAC) general aviation airport system for 75 years, during which the airport has matured into a bustling and thriving economic generator. Businesses appreciate both the proximity to the Twin Cities and the airport's infrastructure, which help them safely and efficiently run their businesses.

### Preparing for the Future

The MAC continued in 2022 to plan for the airport's future through the year 2040 as part of a long-term planning process. Slated for completion in 2023, the process will result in recommendations to improve the airport's infrastructure, ensuring it can continue to serve both the community and the businesses that rely on it for their success.

An important part of the process is gathering input from people who live in the surrounding

communities and those who use or conduct business at the airport. Where possible, provided the numerous factors at play, the plan will reflect the input received.

To help accomplish that, the MAC held two public events in 2022, one in June and another in October. Collectively, more than 350 people attended these events, where they learned more about how the airport operates, asked questions and provided their perspectives about its future.

Two Stakeholder Advisory Panel meetings were also held in 2022 — one in April and another in October — as part of the planning process. The panel consists of airport tenants and representatives from local communities, regional businesses and tourism associations. Panel members have a direct stake in the plan recommendations and provide subject matter expertise to the MAC as it considers its options for future improvements.

### Airport Businesses Taking Off

Like many industries, aviation continued to face labor shortages in 2022. Multiple businesses located at Flying Cloud Airport took steps to invest in the next generation of aviation employees.

Flying Cloud Airport is home to four flight schools. Doing its part to address the nationwide pilot shortage — and accommodate the growing number of students interested in learning to fly — one of these schools, AV8, completed the construction of a new hangar and made improvements to a second in 2022.

Meanwhile, FlyWise, a full-service aircraft maintenance company, began making plans in 2022 to offer educational services to a new generation of aviation maintenance professionals.

The MAC, through its airports, is proud to support these and all its aviation businesses in the work they do to preserve and grow the nation's pool of skilled pilots and aircraft maintenance professionals.

# 21D Lake Elmo Airport

Located between the city of St. Paul to the west and the St. Croix River to the east, Lake Elmo Airport (21D) is convenient for both business and leisure flying. While 21D experiences the fewest operations of the MAC's general aviation airports, it is still one of the top 10 busiest airports in Minnesota.

## Airfield and Tenant Improvements

After seven years of studies, planning and construction, Lake Elmo Airport's new Runway 14/32 opened in July 2022.

The new 3,500-foot runway is part of a multi-year project that includes new instrument approach technology, lights, signage and other safety improvements, including 650 additional feet of runway pavement, to enhance operational capability. The airfield improvements at Lake Elmo Airport represent a \$23.9 million investment in this vital public asset. Federal and state grants committed funds for nearly 75% of the project. The remaining airfield improvements are scheduled for completion in 2023.

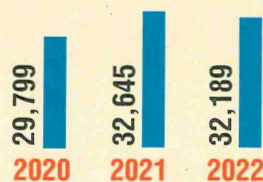
The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) isn't the only entity investing in this airport. Lake Elmo Aero, the airport's one commercial operator, constructed and opened a 10,000-foot facility in 2022, knowing the demand for aircraft hangar space remains high.

In addition, three individual tenants constructed hangars in 2022.



## LAKE ELMO (21D)

**32,189** operations



**-1.40%**  
Change  
'21 to '22

**186**  
based aircraft





# ST. PAUL DOWNTOWN (STP)

41,592 operations



4.90%  
Change  
'21 to '22

92  
based aircraft



## STP St. Paul Downtown Airport

Located along the Mississippi River and just south of downtown St. Paul, the St. Paul Downtown Airport (STP) generates a vibrancy all its own. A popular base for corporate aircraft due to its location and for having the longest runway — 6,941 feet — in the MAC general aviation airport system, the airport also offers charter services, has two fixed-base operators, a U.S. Customs facility and is home to the highly popular Holman's Table restaurant.

### Aircraft Operations

In 2022, the airport experienced an almost 5% growth in operations over 2021. The increase was mainly due to the continued uptick in private corporate flights, which in 2022 exceeded the pre-pandemic operations of 2019.

### International Flights Welcome

General aviation airports don't often require a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) presence, but international flights are a daily occurrence at St. Paul Downtown Airport.

Minnesota's proximity to the Canadian border is one reason, but STP is increasingly welcoming flights from across the world. Advancements in corporate aircraft design — coupled with STP's runway length and U.S. customs facility — means aircraft originating from around the world, including as far away as Tokyo, are landing there.

In 2022, the MAC and CBP began planning for a new customs facility at STP. The MAC will construct and outfit the space for use by the agency.

# About the MAC

The Minnesota Legislature created the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) in 1943 to promote the efficient, safe handling of air commerce and to develop the full potential of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area as an aviation center.

As a public corporation of the state, the MAC generates the revenues it needs to operate through rents and user fees, not general tax appropriations. Bonding and financing authority — along with MAC-generated cash and state and federal aviation grants and fees — fund capital investments in the MAC's seven-airport system. The organization maintains an AA-minus senior bond rating, among the highest of any U.S. airport operator.

The organization is governed by a 15-member policy board. The MAC board establishes policies and ordinances and provides financial oversight, including approving budgets and large expenditures.

Minnesota's Governor appoints the board chair and 12 commissioners, eight representing metropolitan districts and four representing Greater Minnesota.

The mayors of Minneapolis and Saint Paul are commissioners but may appoint a representative to serve in their place. The chair and mayoral appointees serve at the will of the elected officials who appoint them.

All other commissioners serve staggered four-year terms, providing continuity when administrations change.

Patti Gartland, who represents outstate Minnesota, was the one commissioner reappointed in 2022.

## Board Members



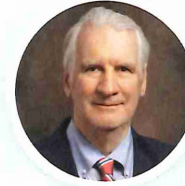
**Rick King**  
Commission Chair



**Carl Crimmins**  
District A



**Braj Agrawal**  
District B



**James Lawrence**  
District C



**Timothy Baylor**  
District D



**James Deal**  
District E



**Rodney Skoog**  
District F



**Richard Ginsberg**  
District G



**Yodit Bizen**  
District H



**Leili Fatehi**  
City of Minneapolis



**Ikram Koliso**  
City of Saint Paul



**Patti Gartland**  
Outstate St. Cloud



**Donald Monaco**  
Outstate Duluth



**Dixie Hoard**  
Outstate Thief River Falls

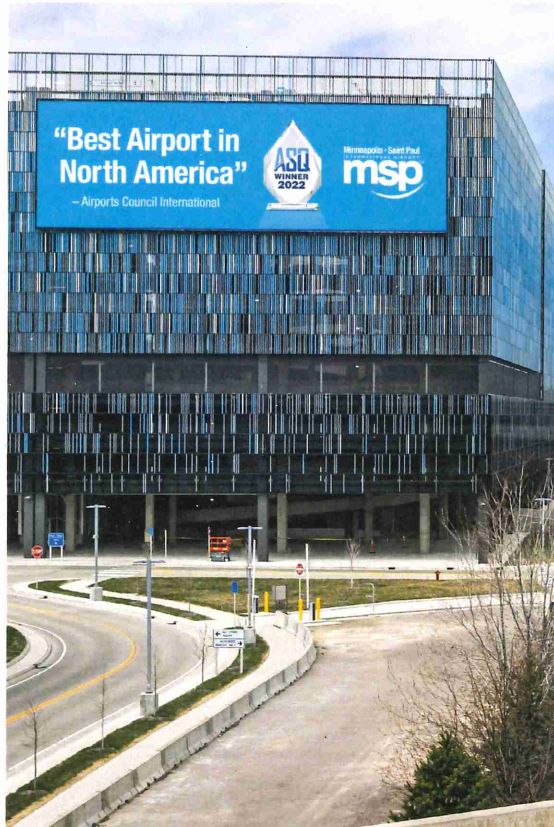


**Randy Schubring**  
Outstate Rochester



## Notable actions the board took in 2022

- Approving the MAC's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, which includes the MAC's new purpose statement — *To provide exceptional airport experiences so Minnesota thrives* (November 2022).
- Approving extending the duration of MSP's noise mitigation program (April 2022). This new 2025-2032 noise mitigation program will provide continuity to an initiative that has existed since 1992 and provided sound mitigation improvements to more than 15,000 single- and multi-family homes in neighborhoods near the airport at a cost of \$510 million.



## Senior Leadership Team



**Brian Ryks**  
Executive Director  
Chief Executive Officer



**Roy Fuhrmann**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Tim Simon**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Eduardo Valencia**  
Chief Information Officer



**Cameron Boyd**  
General Counsel



**Mitch Kilian**  
Governmental Affairs



**Naomi Pesky**  
Strategy & Stakeholder  
Engagement



**Scott Zaczowski**  
Internal Audit



**Kathy Megarry**  
Human Resources  
& Labor Relations



**Chad Leque**  
Management &  
Operations



**Bridget Rief**  
Planning &  
Development



**Finance & Revenue  
Development**  
Vacant

As of February 2023

## 2022 Awards

Every year, the MAC receives numerous awards for its work across a variety of disciplines, such as financial management, construction projects, airport concessions, winter operations and excellence in customer service.

In early 2022, Airports Council International (ACI-NA) named MSP Airport the Best Airport in North America for 2021 — the fifth time MSP

received the title in six years. The ACI-NA's Airport Service Quality program scores airports based on customer surveys asking passengers to rank their experience across 34 satisfaction indicators.



Scan to view or download 2022 operational data  
within the online appendix



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