



## The journey

*By Amy Surdam, Aeronautics Administrator*

I've been the Aeronautics Administrator for about a month and am learning vast amounts of information about airports, air service and all that is aeronautics. The folks in this industry are kind, patient, professional and experts in their field.

To better orient myself with the intricacies of this role and how the aeronautics world affects economic development in Wyoming, I have started a tour and will be visiting all of the 40 airports in our great state.

I'd like to share my experiences with you through this blog.

### **First Stop: Laramie Regional Airport**

Although I went to the University of Wyoming for both my undergraduate and graduate degrees, I had never had the privilege of visiting the Laramie Regional Airport until March 2017.

Jack Skinner is the airport manager and a very kind, gentle soul. He was instrumental in the recent completion of the beautiful General Aviation (GA) terminal. This GA facility was funded with lots of private donations and about \$800,000 of WYDOT funds to total \$2 million. It is truly the gateway into Laramie when traveling via the sky. The interior finishes mirror that of



Aeronautics Administrator Amy Surdam sits down with Laramie Regional Airport Regional Manager Jack Skinner during a visit to the airport March 14. Surdam plans to visit and tour all 40 airports in the state as a part of orienting herself to the industry in Wyoming.

the Rochelle Gateway Center from the reclaimed snow fence trim and paneling to the light fixtures crafted by Frontier Iron Works in Buffalo, WY.

The recent apron reconstruction was just recognized by Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association for its Excellence in

Concrete Paving Award.

In 2018 the 150-foot-wide, 8,500-foot-long runway will be resurfaced.

Also on the forefront is a remodeled and expanded passenger terminal. This remodel and expansion will accommodate a larger TSA screening area and passenger holding area. The

**Read more inside**

# On the horizon:

- The Cheyenne Regional Airport will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for its new terminal at 9 a.m. April 25 near the airport administration building.
- The construction portion of the group pavement maintenance (crack seal) project is scheduled to begin during the middle of May.
- The Aeronautics Commission will meet on May 2 and 3 in Cheyenne. The meeting will include the swearing in of the new members and training. For more information or to join by telephone, please contact the commission secretary at (307) 777-3952, email [katie.pfister@wyo.gov](mailto:katie.pfister@wyo.gov)



Features of the \$2 million general aviation terminal in Laramie were intended to mirror the Rochelle Gateway Center, with reclaimed snow fence trim and paneling and light fixtures crafted by Frontier Iron Works in Buffalo.

## From the front

need for larger holding areas is an outcome of the industry transition to jets that carry 50 or more passengers.

Laramie is one of the two Wyoming airports (Cody is the other) that receives Essential Air Service (EAS) funding from the federal government. Laramie receives a little more than \$2 million a year. This funding helps Laramie's airport ensure two flights a day during the business week and one flight a day on the weekend on United Express operated by SkyWest Airlines. In 2012, Laramie only had 7,065 enplanements. With the switch to SkyWest and the reliable service that came with it, Laramie has seen a steady increase in enplanements

over the last several years (12,402 in 2013 now up to 14,979 in 2016). As you might be aware, President Trump has proposed a new budget, which would eliminate all EAS funding in the nation. It goes without saying that if the EAS program were eliminated, this would have a large impact on Laramie Regional Airport and could potentially cause a loss of air service.

According to an economic impact study funded by WYDOT in 2013, Laramie's Regional Airport economic annual impact on the region is more than \$20 million. This is an incredible impact to the region. Preserving and enhancing Laramie's Regional Airport and Air Service will be vital for this community moving forward.

# Welcome our new commissioners

## Welcome Commissioners:

Please join us in welcoming our three new commission members, including Mr. Chuck Brown of Wheatland, representing district 1, Mr. Bruce McCormack of Cody, representing district 4, and Dr. Sigsbee Duck of Rock Springs, representing the district at large.

## Additional Commission Information:

If you wish to view the Commission's impending schedule for 2017, or to download business meeting information, please visit: <https://goo.gl/ZvewZ8>

# What's up?



WYDOT Air Service Program Manager Sheri Taylor was selected to serve on the US DOT group “Improving Air Service to Small Communities,” which will examine obstacles to attracting and maintaining air service in small communities.

## Taylor selected to serve on “Improving Air Service to Small Communities”

Sheri Taylor, WYDOT Air Service program manager, was selected to serve on a working group (WG) for the US DOT titled “Improving Air Service to Small Communities”. Senator Thune (SD) wrote this WG into statute in 2016. There are 25 members participating in this group from small airports, regional airlines, Air Line Pilots Association, Regional Airline Association and state agencies (DOTs), that are tasked with submitting a report to the secretary of transportation no later than June. This report will then be forwarded to the Senate Transportation Committee that will be working on FAA reauthorization in 2017.

The group is looking at several items such as obstacles to attracting and

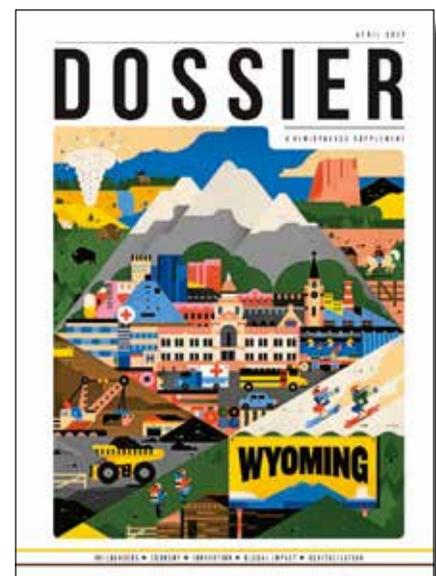
maintaining air service into small communities, and developing recommendations for maintaining and improving service for Congress. The group is investigating mechanisms such as the Essential Air Service and the Small Community Air Service Development Programs, as well as identifying solutions for the pilot shortage, funding shortages, air carrier issues and innovative strategies that have established public private partnerships for air service.

We look forward to sharing the report with you in the near future!

## State magazine to be inserted in “Hemispheres”

The “Dossier: Wyoming” magazine will be in every seat pocket of every United domestic and international flight as an insert into “Hemispheres” magazine for April. The

magazine is very well done, and a great opportunity to positively tell Wyoming’s economic development story by a third-party media source. Read the magazine at <https://goo.gl/TZBWTy>.





Aeronautics Division | 200 E. 8th Ave. | Cheyenne, WY 82003 | (307) 777-3952

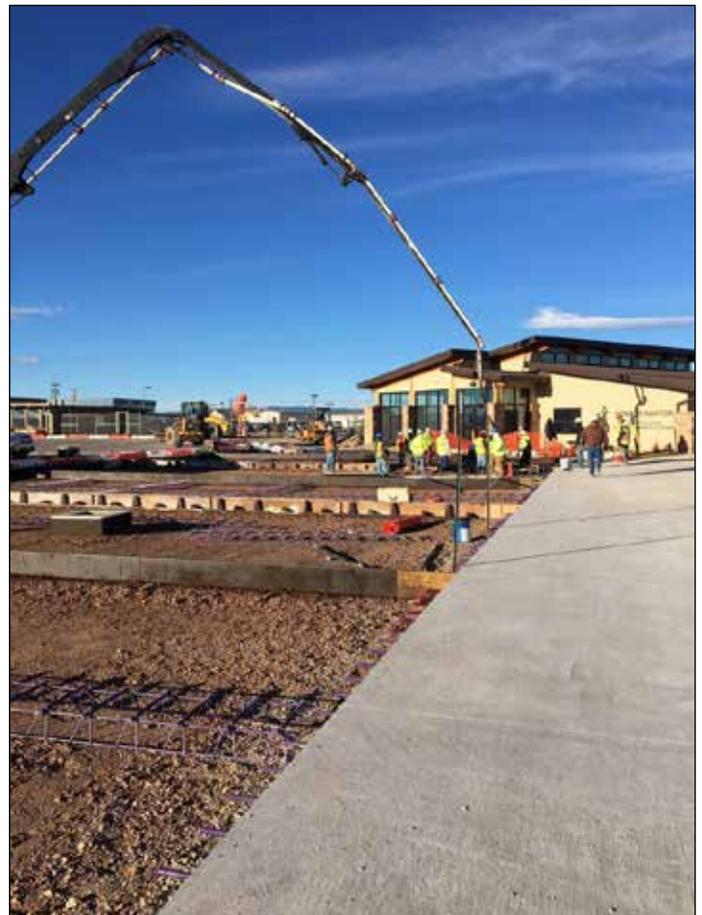
## Flying high



Laramie Regional Airport Regional Manager Jack Skinner (left to right) and WYDOT Aeronautics Division Engineering & Construction Program Manager Brian Olsen meet with members of the engineering team from Jviation.

- An apron reconstruction project completed recently at the Laramie Regional Airport was awarded with an Excellence in Concrete Paving Award by the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association.

The project included complete reconstruction of portions of the main apron and was funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, WYDOT and the Laramie Regional Airport. The project will help ensure a safe operating environment



for commercial and business aircraft at the airport. The project was designed and managed by Jviation of Denver, Colorado.