



Update on Los Alamos Airport (KLAM) & a Plan to Increase Access, Utilization, and Civic Connection

Presentation to the Transportation Board

June 5, 2025

Airport Manager – Gary Goddard

About Me

- BA in Cultural Anthropology
- Worked in architecture, art and design for 25 years
- MS in Renewable Energy Systems engineering
- Building Automation Systems engineer at LANL for 14 years
- Pilot - Certification in 2019, member of Pajarito Flying Club





Los Alamos Airport Background & Highlights

- Built by Atomic Energy Commission in 1947 to serve LANL
 - “Military mid-century design” terminal building
- In October 1996, Los Alamos County assumed operating control of the airport from DOE
- Development costs supported by NMDOT and FAA grants, including:
 - Newly built fuel farm with jet fuel
 - New hangar construction – 2025 - 2026
- Currently 50 based aircraft, 3500 operations
- Commercial flights periodically up until 2016

A Challenging Airport



- High Altitude
- Turbulent rotor
- One way in/one way out
- Restricted area to south
- 6 accidents in last 20 yrs.



The Airport Supports:



Firefighting Operations

Providing critical infrastructure for forest fire response and wildland management



Medical Operations

Supporting Classic air medical transport services for emergency response



Educational Programs

Hosting Experimental Aircraft Association and Civil Air Patrol youth initiatives



Tourism

Partnering with New Mexico Pilot Association to promote Los Alamos as a destination



Regional Transportation

Serving as an access gateway to Los Alamos and surrounding areas





Challenges to Aviation in Los Alamos

Aging Pilot Demographics

Our pilot community is growing older

Loss of Flying Club

The absence of an entry point for new pilots impacts community interest in aviation

No Aircraft Rentals

Lack of rental planes and primary training options hinders new pilot development

Increasing Cost of Aviation

Costs of the certification process and airplane ownership are steadily increasing

Maintenance Gap

No on-field mechanic creates logistical challenges for aircraft owners

Limited Services

Neighboring facilities offer more amenities: FBO, Car Rentals, Commercial Air Service

2006



2014



2017

Note:
Commercial
Service ceased in
2016



2023



Attachment A

Community Engagement

Special Events



Host annual Airport Open House showcasing local aviation, seasonal Santa Fly-in for family engagement, and regular EAA Young Eagles flights and workshops introducing youth to aviation

Aviation Engagement

Develop and help support a companion flight form that matches pilots with community members who would like to experience flight

Facility Utilization



Offer terminal use for local events, evaluate repurposing areas for community projects, and develop branded merchandise promoting airport identity

Visitor Services

Establish rental car service for community and incoming pilots, enhancing convenience and supporting tourism goals

Terminal Interior Enhancement



Lighting Modernization

Replace outdated fluorescent fixtures with energy-efficient mid-century LED pendant lighting



Utility Improvements

Install kitchenette and utility sink for visitor and staff convenience



Access Control and Entry Upgrade

Implement energy efficient entry and smart locks for secure facility management



Interior Finish Upgrades

Replace over time some of the existing furniture, fixtures and finishes

Terminal Net-Zero Demonstration Project



Energy Audit

Comprehensive assessment of current energy usage patterns and identification of efficiency opportunities in terminal operations



Renewable Energy Implementation

Possible repurposing of PV panels from the Los Alamos Power Pool landfill array for installation on the terminal roof to generate clean electricity for operations



HVAC Modernization

Replacement of conventional heating systems with efficient heat pumps to eliminate natural gas consumption and utilize daytime solar for cooling



Smart Building Controls

Implementation of automated systems for window shades, lighting, and access control to optimize energy usage

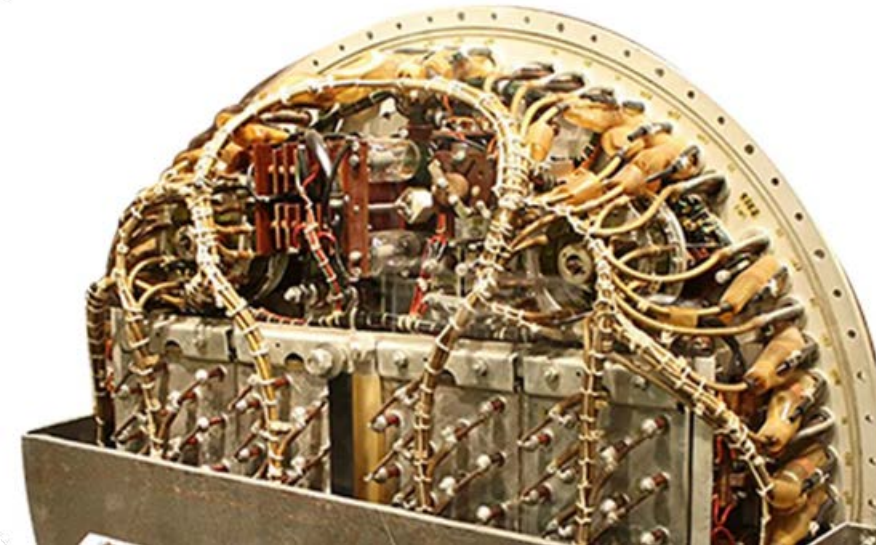


Tourism Gateway Development



Local Art Showcase

Feature a curated gallery of aerial photography highlighting local landscapes and geological features from a pilot's perspective.



Heritage Exhibition

Display aviation artifacts and historical memorabilia connecting visitors to Los Alamos' scientific and aeronautical legacy.



Adventure Launch Point

Provide trailhead information and maps of hiking paths accessible from the airport, enabling seamless transition from air travel to outdoor exploration.

Offer details about regional skiing, mountain biking, and wilderness experiences to encourage extended stays in the area. **LOS ALAMOS**

Aviation Activity Support



Flying Club Development

Support local flying club initiatives

- Low-cost entry for new pilots
- Shared aircraft ownership
- Training and mentorship
- Community aviation events



Medical & Emergency Services

Enhanced medical helicopter operations

- New refueling infrastructure
- 3600 sq. ft. maintenance hangar
- Future crew rest facilities



Firefighting Support

Expanded wildfire response capabilities

- Operational refueling infrastructure
- Equipment staging areas
- AARF truck training facilities
- 6,000-foot runway access

Partner Organizations



Experimental Aircraft Association

Conducts Young Eagle flights introducing youth to aviation. Hosts workshops where young people build and learn about aircraft



New Mexico Pilots Association

Promotes regional airstrips and flight tourism across New Mexico. Connects pilots with unique aviation destinations



Civil Air Patrol

Performs critical rescue operations. Develops youth through cadet programs focusing on aviation leadership



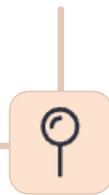
Mobile Mechanics

Certified mechanics provide essential maintenance for based aircraft

Airfield Infrastructure Development

Planning Phase - Now

Complete Invitation for Bid process and award for T-hangar construction and Taxiway F development



Taxiway F Development - Design Phase 2025/2026

Demo existing hangars on west side; Design new road access and west area development



T-Hangar Construction - Fall 2025

Build new T-hangar facilities to accommodate based aircraft



Taxiway F Development – Construction Phase - Summer 2027

Construct new access road, commercial box hangars and rental T-hangars



Implementation Goals

70+

Based Aircraft Capacity

At completion of Airport Master Plan

90%

Renewable Energy

Target for terminal operations by 2027

75%

GHG Reduction

Contribution to County's 2030 emissions goal

1000+

Annual Visitors

Projected tourism impact through gateway enhancements

Questions?

