

Colorado Springs Airport
“Small but Mighty”
2023 Annual Report

A Year of Unprecedented Growth

Letter from the Director

2023 marked a remarkable year for the Colorado Springs Airport, achieving unprecedented success on all fronts. The recognition as one of Gazette's Best Workplaces for the third consecutive year underscores our team's unwavering commitment and passion for serving the community.

As the year concludes, we take pride in experiencing one of the most substantial increases in air traffic in more than two decades, with an estimated total of 2.3 million passengers—the highest since the year 2000. This surge not only reflects heightened travel but also an expansion of air service options at COS. Welcoming Sun Country and Avelo Airlines to the COS roster and witnessing our existing airline partners introduce new service, such as Delta Air Lines' additions to Atlanta and Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Southwest's initiation of service to Long Beach, highlights the growth and diversification of our offerings. Southwest Airlines also announced they will begin daily service to Baltimore/Washington in June of 2024, which is a huge win for our community.

Regarding our terminal infrastructure, significant strides were made with the completion of the TSA Queuing area expansion in fall 2023, enhancing our capacity to handle increased traffic through the checkpoint. Our ongoing project, ElevateCOS, commencing in September, is our three-year commitment to modernize the concourse, update aging terminal infrastructure, and prioritize accessibility and sustainability to enhance the overall passenger experience.

The development at Peak Innovation Park also continued to gain momentum, featuring extensive infrastructure enhancements and ongoing negotiations with several companies. The acquisition of over 562 acres of additional land in 2023 brings the total acreage of the business park to an impressive 2162, signifying sustained growth and expansion.

In the past year, Peterson Space Force Base and other military installations in the Pikes Peak region received significant assistance, including a \$15 million investment to improve infrastructure, particularly to Taxiway B in addressing a 20-year issue to enhance safety and reduce runway incursion risks. Additionally, Colorado Springs Airport played a crucial role in supporting the President and the United States Air Force Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team, highlighting our commitment to national security and facilitating key military operations.

Several noteworthy developments have taken place in the general aviation sector, as well, with Sierra Nevada Corporation initiating a remodel project at their Aviation Way facility, set for completion in 2024. Cutter Aviation successfully concluded their ramp rehabilitation project, while jetCenters of Colorado completed a new entryway and ADA ramp, entering phase two for further enhancements. jetCenters has also prioritized technological advancements, implementing new software for improved customer experiences and organizational growth. Additionally, COS Owners have commenced the construction of a new 24,000 square foot hangar development.

As a vital economic driver in the community, our success is rooted in the support and partnerships fostered within our city. Looking ahead to 2024, we are optimistic that the upward trajectory of our airport will persist, and we eagerly anticipate your continued involvement in the journey ahead.

Greg Phillips, AAE Director of Aviation

Air Service

In 2023, COS experienced a historic year in terms of traffic, with enplanements reaching the highest levels since 1999.

- 1,179,108 enplanements
- 2,347,008 total passengers
- 1,452,583 seats (outbound)
- 81.2% average load factor
- Busiest day of 2023: Nov 26, 2023 (Sunday): 4,966 TSA pax through checkpoint

Nonstop Routes:

- *Atlanta (ATL)*
- *Chicago (MDW & ORD)*
- *Dallas/Ft. Worth (DFW & DAL)*
- *Denver (DEN)*
- *Houston (IAH)*
- *Los Angeles/Hollywood-Burbank (BUR)*
- *Las Vegas (LAS)*
- *Long Beach (LGB)*
- *Los Angeles (LAX)*
- *Minneapolis/ St. Paul (MSP)*
- *Phoenix (PHX)*
- *Salt Lake City (SLC)*
- *Seasonal*
 - *San Antonio (SAT)*
 - *San Diego (SAN)*
 - *Houston Hobby (HOU)*
 - *Houston Hobby (HOU) becomes regular weekend scheduled service starting January 2024*

COS proudly featured flights with the following airlines in 2023:

- *American, Avelo Delta, Southwest, Sun Country and United*

Financials

Operating Revenues and Expenses

2023 Revenues = \$26.1 M

2023 Expenses = \$21.7 M

COVID Related Grants

BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) - \$4.4M

Other Grants

FAA Grants (Projects) – \$9.4M

CDOT Crack Seal \$10K

Intern Grant – \$22K

K-9 & LEO - \$264K

Celebrations

- 2023 Gazette Best Workplaces (for three consecutive years)
- Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) recertification
- Winner of Airports Council International (ACI) Excellence in Airport Marketing, Communications and Customer Experience award for Overall Marketing Program -small airports.
- Over 1,200 volunteer hours
- 38 Ambassadors and 17 Paws 4 COS volunteers.
- 6 Passenger engagement events
- 7 Flight of the Month celebrations
- 5 Inaugural celebrations

Business Development

In 2023, COS witnessed robust development marked by multiple construction projects, negotiations, and expansions.

Terminal

- i. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) queuing area expanded to accommodate increased traffic levels.
- ii. Began multi—year terminal modernization project, ElevateCOS which will include updating aging infrastructure for the concourse and increased sustainability and accessibility.
- iii. Completion of Taxiway Bravo rehabilitation including pond water quality improvements
- iv. Installation of stand-alone Oversize Baggage Handling System for increased through-put and capacity
- v. Overflow parking lot to accommodate rise in traffic built
- vi. SSP America was awarded the Food and Beverage Concession contract which includes the development of nine new food and beverage concepts slated to begin construction in 2024.
- vii. The Hudson Group, awarded the Retail Concession contract in 2022, began designing and planning construction for their three new retail concepts also slated to begin construction in 2024. The pre-security retail store was demolished, and barricades were installed in preparation for *The Atrium* retail concept to be constructed.

Peak Innovation Park

- viii. Construction commenced on a new 100,000 square foot warehouse building which will be occupied by a fortune 500 company (anticipated to be completed May 2024)
- ix. Airport acquired 287 acres of land in 2023 but will be purchasing a total of 562 acres over the next 5 years increasing the footprint of Peak Innovation Park to 2,162 acres.
- x. Land use study was completed for future aviation planning and conceptual design for the east side of the airport
- xi. CDOT Land Acquisition, located north of the Airport by PSFB. The land adjoins property currently owned by the Airport and will be advantageous for development.
- xii. *All of this could not have been possible without our partner Urban Frontier, the Airport's master developer of Peak Innovation Park*

West Side

The west side of our airport houses general aviation fixed-base operators (FBOs), flight schools, and hangars for charter and corporate airlines.

- a. New hangar construction commenced for an 8,875 square foot building consisting of hangar, offices, emergency medical crew quarters, and ambulance bay. This development will support emergency advanced life support medical air service provided by REACH Air Medical and advanced life support ambulance services provided by UC Health.
- b. COS Owners Association at 905 Aviation Way is building their last hangar unit on the property. Construction for the 24K hangar should be completed by the summer of 2024.

Number of operations: 101,237

Peterson

The objective of the Space Base Delta 1 mission is to oversee the operations of Peterson Space Force Base, Schriever Space Force Base, and Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station. It also facilitates the activities of the U.S. Space Force and collaborates with 10 Space Deltas for mission fulfillment. While its main focus is on space-related endeavors, Peterson Space Force Base maintains a crucial role in providing airport rescue firefighting (ARFF) and emergency services for the Colorado Springs Airport. Additionally, it supports USDA wildlife services as part of its installation support mission, making it the primary tenant on Airport property.

Number of operations: 20,149

Safety and Operations

- 54 aircraft precautionary incidents
 - 149 medicals
 - 435 diverted aircraft (including 28 international diversions).
- 35.9" of snow on 32 different days.
 - Most in one event – 10.2"
 - 8th snowiest winter since 1999
- Acquired 2 new snowplows (MB5s) for snow operations
- Improved ADA accessible parking in lots by replacing all signage to meet code as well as restriped all parking spots and chevrons to identify the spots as ADA
- Continued multiple jet bridge upgrade projects to include
 - Floor replacements
 - Safety railings installed on the top of the jet bridges
 - Inverter upgraded
- Over 3,500 badges issued in 2023
- Badge holders cumulatively underwent approximately 2616 hours of training in the badging office for 2023

Connected to the Community

We are grateful for our many community partnerships.

- City of Colorado Springs
- Colorado College Hockey
- Colorado Ski Country USA
- Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC
- Colorado State Fair
- Membership in the following Community Chambers:
 - Black Chamber
 - Castle Rock Chamber
 - Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation
 - Hispanic Chamber
 - Pueblo Chamber
 - Southern Colorado Woman's Chamber
 - Tri-Lakes Chamber
 - Woodland Park Chamber
- Downtown Partnership
- Monarch Mountain
- Olympic City USA
- Pikes Peak America's Mountain
- Pikes Peak International Hillclimb
- Pikes Peak Marathon and Ascent
- Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo
- Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreational Alliance
- Rocky Mountain PBS Simple Gift Series
- Rocky Mountain Vibes
- Switchbacks FC
- The Broadmoor Hotel
- Colorado Springs Sports Corp.
- Rocky Mountain Vibes
- United States Air Force Academy, Association of Graduates
- VisitCOS

Commission and Task Force members

In addition to offering a special thanks to Mayor Yemi Mobolade and his leadership team, we'd like to thank the following members of our Airport Advisory Commission and The Regional Air Service Task Force.

The 2023 Airport Advisory Commission:

John Buckley III | Chairman

Michelle Ruehl | Vice Chairman

Mark Volcheff | Commissioner

Danny Mientka | Commissioner

Al Peterson | Commissioner

George Mentz Esq | Commissioner

John Eastman | Commissioner

Dan Roehrs | Alternate Commissioner

Dave Elliott | Meadow Lake Airport Liaison

County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf | Liaison Commissioner

County Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez Jr. | Liaison Commissioner

Randy Helms | City Council Representative

Brian Risley | City Council Representative

The 2023 Regional Air Service Task Force:

William J. Hybl Chairman | Executive Chairman El Pomar Foundation

Pam Shockley-Zalabak | Vice-Chair | Chancellor Emerita at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Kyle Hybl | Member | President and CEO El Pomar Foundation

Jack Damioli | Member | President & CEO of The Broadmoor Hotel

Mike Cafasso | Member | CEO, St. Mary Corwin Medical Center

Dick Celeste | Former President of Colorado College, Governor of Ohio, and US Ambassador to India

Doug Price | Member | President and CEO Visit Colorado Springs

Johnna Reeder Kleymeyer | Member | President and CEO of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

GEN (R) Ed Eberhart | Member | USAF, Retired

Jeffrey Shaw | Member | President and CEO of the Pueblo Economic Development Corp.

Megan Leatham | Member | President and CEO of Colorado Springs Sports Corp.

Ex Officio:

Yemi Mobolade | Mayor, City of Colorado Springs

Greg Phillips, AAE MBA | Director of Aviation, COS Airport

Other:

Steve Bartolin | Chairman of the Broadmoor Hotel & Resort

Dave Palenchar | Chair, El Pomar Foundation

Staff Support:

Keri Herling

Fall in Love with Colorado's Small Airport
FlyCOS.com