

Saint George Regional Airport Control Tower

[Edit Request](#)

Requester Information

Legislator: Owens, Derrin R.

Creation Date: 2024-01-16

Submission Date: 2024-01-19

Section 1: Request Details

Description:

St. George is home to the largest regional airline in the world, SkyWest Airlines. Increased regional air traffic has led to a conflict between commercial and general aviation causing safety concerns. The airport authority was approved for the F.A.A. contract tower program, requiring the airport to build a tower within 5 years of approval (2027). Once the tower is completed, the F.A.A. will staff and operate the tower. With only three years remaining, we are requesting \$15 million to construct the tower.

Legislative designee contact information:

- Name: Shawn Guzman
 - Organization: Saint George City
 - Position: City Attorney
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Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

	One-time	Ongoing
Personnel Services	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
In-State Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Out-of-state Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Technology Purchases	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$15,000,000.00	\$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Expenditure Total		

One-time 2024
\$0.00

One-time 2025
\$15,000,000.00

Ongoing 2025
\$0.00

Funding Sources:

General Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$15,000,000.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2024
\$0.00

One-time 2025
\$15,000,000.00

Ongoing 2025
\$0.00

Should unused funding be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year?

Yes

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled

Project can be split up between two fiscal years, with \$7.5 million each year.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Economy
Tourism and Recreation

Agency:

670 / Commerce

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding

- Local Government
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Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit from this request (who is the target audience)?

SkyWest is headquartered in St. George and is the second largest carrier out of the SLC International Airport, and is the only carrier in Southern Utah. SkyWest employs 3,000 people in Utah, providing jobs and contributing to the economy statewide. The tower will improve SkyWest's ability to increase air service in and out the St. George Regional Airport. In addition, a tower will allow for the increased general aviation demand due to the many major recreational events such as the IronMan, PGA, and event overflow from Las Vegas. The traveling public will largely benefit from increased safety, efficiency, and additional commercial airline service in Southern Utah. The additional commercial service will benefit multiple counties, their residents, and tourists through easier access to and from Southern Utah, instead of traveling to Las Vegas to connect to the major airline hubs. Increasing safety and efficiency is key to retaining SkyWest's headquarters in St. George.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

Currently, all air traffic in and out of the St. George Regional Airport is controlled by the air traffic control in Los Angeles, which causes delays and potential conflicts for aircraft in and out of the airport. The tower will increase the safety and efficiency of commercial and general aviation flights coming in and out of the St. George Regional Airport. Due to the increase in safety and efficiency, airlines will have the opportunity to

expand their service to Southern Utah. With the increase in major events being held in southern Utah and Las Vegas, there is a great need for a tower to accommodate the additional flights.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

Upon completion and implementation of the tower, there will be a significant increase in safety and efficiency. This increase will allow for more commercial and general aviation flights in and out of the St. George Regional Airport. Additionally, it will allow for SkyWest to expand their operations and headquarters in Utah.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language

Previous State Funding