

**761—710.5 (328) State airport improvement funds.**

**710.5(1) Applicant eligibility.** A governmental subdivision owning or establishing a public airport is eligible to apply to the department for state airport improvement funds.

**710.5(2) Project eligibility and funding.**

*a.* An airport improvement project must benefit and be accessible to the public.

*b.* Airport projects may include, but are not limited to: runway, taxiway, and apron surfaces; lighting and navigational aids; obstruction removal; grading, drainage, and surfacing airfield surfaces and protection areas; signage, security access control and lighting; planning; and other airport enhancements. A project that involves airfield infrastructure shall comply with the airport master plan or airport layout plan as adopted by the governmental subdivision.

*c.* The department establishes the maximum percentage of state share of eligible projects. The department may annually set a maximum dollar amount per award. Funding criteria are included in application instructions provided to airport sponsors.

**710.5(3) Application for funding.**

*a.* The department shall make available the application instructions and forms to each publicly owned airport in Iowa. A complete application will include all materials identified in the annual application instructions.

*b.* Project applications shall be submitted to the department by the due date specified in the instructions.

*c.* Immediate safety enhancement project applications may be submitted at any time during the year to the department according to instructions that are part of the application form.

*d.* The department shall make available applications for special projects to all eligible airports. Airport sponsors shall submit applications for special projects to the department as specified in the application instructions.

**710.5(4) Review and approval.** The department shall review each completed application and evaluate the impact of the project on the aviation system considering the following factors: state system plan airport roles, goals and objectives; justification provided in the application; ability to enhance aeronautical activity for the airport and system; local participation; and multijurisdictional support of the airport. The department shall recommend projects to the transportation commission for approval. The commission is responsible for approving the projects to be funded.

**710.5(5) Project administration.**

*a.* After a project has been approved by the commission, the department shall enter into an agreement with the airport sponsor that specifies the responsibilities of the sponsor.

*b.* The agreement shall specify the amount of state funds, the contract period, and the responsibilities for project planning, development, and the payment process.

*c.* The department may inspect the improvement for compliance with the agreement and may audit all project costs incurred.

**710.5(6) Contract payments.**

*a.* Payments to the airport sponsor for eligible project costs shall be made on a cost reimbursement basis.

*b.* Engineering fees are an eligible project expense and shall be reimbursed in compliance with the agreement.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 328.