

MANKATO REGIONAL AIRPORT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

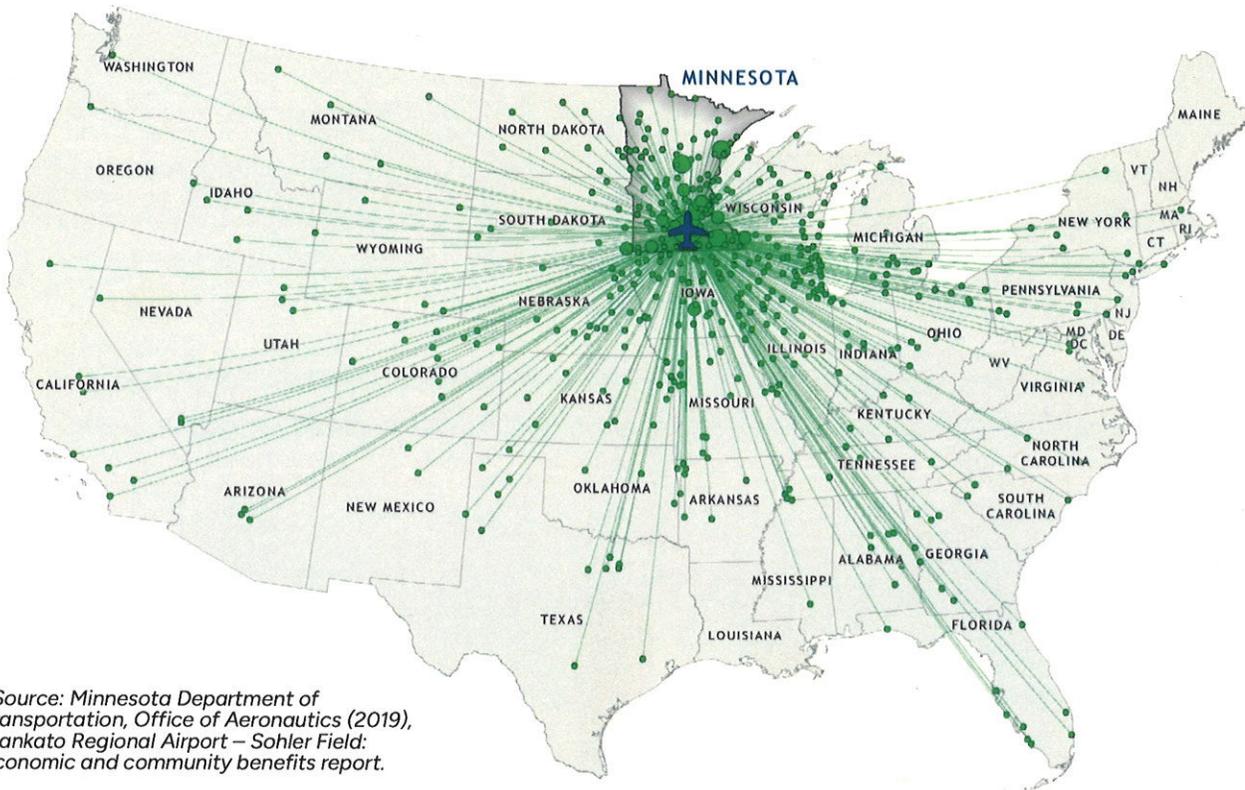
PRIORITY #1

TOTAL COST: \$25,302,000

City of Mankato seeks **\$1,265,100** (5% of total project cost)

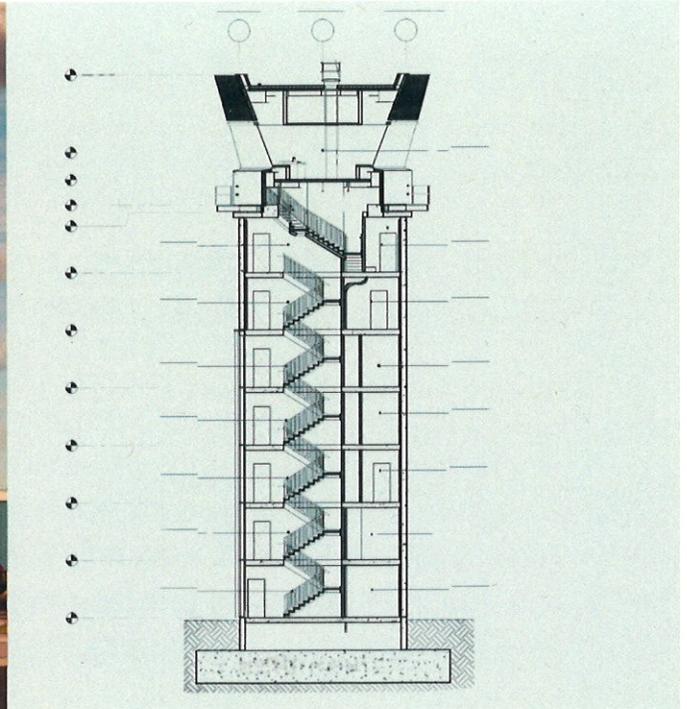
The Mankato Regional Airport (MKT) is the **second busiest airport in Minnesota** after Minneapolis–Saint Paul International (MSP), with more than 126,000 operations annually.

With heavy traffic from business aviation, medical flights, and Minnesota State University - Mankato's aviation program - an air traffic control tower would play a critical role in ensuring the safety of all users.



**Source: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics (2019), Mankato Regional Airport – Sohler Field: Economic and community benefits report.*





AIRPORT OVERVIEW

The Mankato Regional Airport (Sohler Field), owned and operated by the City of Mankato, supports general aviation, charter flights, business aviation, and military/government operations. Established in 1970 on 1,000 acres, it features Runway 15/33 (6,600 × 100 ft), accommodating small and regional jets. The 15,500 sq. ft. Terminal Building, reconstructed in 1997 and remodeled in 2020, serves the public.

The airport is primarily used for flight training, business travel, charter services, and recreation, with about 100 based aircraft, including single- and multi-engine planes, jets, and helicopters.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Management and Business Tenants: 160 FTE jobs; \$19.9 million in economic activity
- General aviation visitor spending: 54 FTE jobs; \$3.9 million in economic activity

(Source: Minnesota 2019 Statewide Airport Economic Impact Study)

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Eight-story tower with functional design:**
 - Floors 1–5: Mechanical, electrical, fire suppression, offices, FAA equipment, and building systems
 - Floor 6: Staff training room and storage
 - Floor 7: Employee breakroom and restroom
 - Floor 8: 550 Ft. cab with maintenance access
- **Relocated airport beacon** to the tower roof with hatch access
- **Site improvements:** Rerouted North Airport Road, secure FAA-required fencing, and staff parking within the secure area
- **Infrastructure upgrades:** Sewer, water, electrical, fiber communications, and full backup generator for tower operations

PROJECT TIMELINE

Date	Phase	Milestone
July 18, 2025	1	45% Design Submittal (Phase 1) – <i>PAUSED, Pending Part 2 funding</i>
Mid-September 2025	1	Design Restarts (<i>Contingent on funding and Notice to Proceed from City of Mankato</i>)
Late November 2025	2	70% Design Submittal
Mid-February 2026	2	100% Design Submittal
Early April 2026	2	Final Design Completion
April 19, 2027	2	FAA Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) completed; Tower fully operational within five years of FAA acceptance letter (April 19, 2022)



Current status: Design at 35%; next review at 45% pending FAA grant approval.

Estimated Project Cost

Category	Budget
Construction	\$18,089,000
Design Contingency	\$2,713,000
Equipment	\$1,500,000
Engineering	\$3,000,000
Total Cost	\$25,302,000

Proposed Project Funding

Source	Budget
FAA (95%)	\$24,036,900
State (5%)	\$1,265,100
Total Funding	\$25,302,000

